

POW's With Religious Convictions Held Up Against Red Indoctrination

Washington (NC)—Prisoners who held strong religious views were not among those who were especially vulnerable to the Chinese communist indoctrination in prison camps.

This is the opinion Dr. Harold C. Wolff, head of the Department of Neurology at Cornell University Medical College, gave to a Senate committee.

Dr. Wolff headed a group of 20 civilian and military scientists who over the past two and a half years have studied the methods used by the communists in interrogating and indoctrinating prisoners.

He gave his testimony to the permanent subcommittee on investigations of the Senate's Committee on Government Operations. The testimony that was taken on communist interrogation, indoctrination and exploitation of American military and civilian prisoners has just been published here by the United States Government Printing Office.

Dr. Wolff said his studies have shown that those prisoners who were most amenable to communist indoctrination "were rootless." He said they had "no commitment to home or family or person or church or nation," and were "uncommitted to a worth and value system in many instances."

Committee Chairman John L. McClellan of Arkansas asked Dr. Wolff if he was stating or strongly implying "that those who had a strong religious faith could stand or offer greater resistance to this system or form of indoctrination?"

"Yes, sir," answered Dr. Wolff. "TO FORTIFY our people and the free peoples of the world against this vicious system of destruction and indoctrination of communism," suggested Senator McClellan, "a strong religious faith and conviction is a great bulwark against it."

"That is my opinion, sir," commented Dr. Wolff.

In other testimony, Major Marion R. Panell, an Army intelligence officer who interviewed United Nations prisoners of war, said he was impressed with a group of 22 POW's from Colombia, South America.

"These people were 100 per cent devout Catholics," he said. "From all appearances they did not succumb to the indoctrination and seemed to hold on to their religious beliefs, which I believe certainly was a factor."

He added that he believed that "any person who had a similar belief or held on anything would have resisted equally well."

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Group Recalls Convert Nun, Nazi Victim

New York (NC) — The memory of a Jewess who became a Catholic nun and died in a Nazi concentration camp in 1942 brought more than 500 Catholics to a memorial Mass here to testify that "spiritually we are all Semites."

THE DEATH of Edith Stein, 50 Jewish philosopher and convert to Catholicism, who later became Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, was observed by the Edith Stein Guild, an organization devoted to furthering the beatification of the Carmelite nun and to working among Jewish converts here.

A young Jewish convert, Father Peter F. Jacobs of Washington, D.C., offered the Mass in St. John's Capuchin Church here. Father Daniel U. Hanrahan of St. Alban's, N.Y., preached the sermon.

Describing Edith Stein as a "singularly great and gifted woman," Father Hanrahan recounted the life of the philosopher who brought unhappiness to her family and incurred the distrust of Catholics by her conversion.

"DESPITE THE fact that spiritually we are all Semites," Father Hanrahan said, "the Jewish convert will frequently be looked upon as an apostate and a renegade by other Jews and feel ill at ease among Catholics."

Featured speaker at the breakfast was Dr. Karl Stern, a convert from Judaism and author of "Pillar of Fire." Speaking on "Christian Martyrs in Nazi Germany," Dr. Stern declared that Edith Stein, as a Jew, could not have escaped her martyrdom but accepted it willingly.

Disabled Veterans Vatican City (NC) — Pope Pius XII received in a general audience disabled veterans from nearly all the countries of Europe who were assembled in Rome for their third convention.



Nuns Attend School, Too

Washington, D.C. (NC) — Sister John de Matha, S.S.N.D. of Baltimore, takes a turn at sculpturing here at the Catholic University of America. Nuns from many states have been attending a 6-week summer course at the University. Many of the techniques of art, sculpture, metal working and other crafts learned in the courses, will find their way into classrooms this fall.

Cloisters Have No Room For 'Dour Characters'

New York (RNS) — "Roman Catholic cloisters have no room in them for melancholy or dour characters," a Cistercian abbot warned the sixth annual Institute on Religious and Sacerdotal Vocations sponsored by the Fordham University School of Education here.

"Cheerful and humble lovers and women 'live so close to—that is the type of character Jesus in His Passion," that they can grow in the spirit of are quick to sympathize with prayer in our cloisters of con-suffering humanity.

Nurses Told To Respect Secrecy In Patient Care

Worcester, Mass. (NC) — The obligation of the nurse to keep secret the private matters which come to her attention through the special relationship of nurse with patient was stressed here by Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester.

Bishop Wright spoke at the graduation exercises at St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing.

"YOU MUST keep constantly in mind the professional standards and the professional obligations of your position," he said. "The professional standards are adequately enforced by the various civil and professional agencies. But there are also the ethics of the profession the violation of which is very difficult to pinpoint, so that the agencies can hardly enforce them."

"Usually, however, we need only the sanctions of our conscience to enforce these rules," Bishop Wright declared.

Circus Chaplain Denies End-Of 'Big Top' Era

Boston (RNS) — A Roman Catholic priest here branded as a false prophecy the recent prediction of John Ringling North that "the era of the tented circus is over."

The priest is Father Edward S. Sullivan, who is pastor of All Saints church here and nationally recognized as unofficial chaplain of the circus trail. He is popularly known as the "circus priest."

Father Sullivan said the early closing this year of Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey "big top" is traceable directly to "mismanagement, mediocre acts and a Hollywood approach to 'the greatest show on earth'."

The circus priest said that scanty costumes, a night club atmosphere, strip-tease and vulgarly were characteristics of the Hollywood approach in some recent shows under the big top.

In contrast to this, Father Sullivan said, there are some 20 tent shows on the road which still uphold the earliest traditions of the circuit.

"These 'mud shows' as they'd be called by the 'Colossus of the Roads,'" the priest said, "are the real circuses, the ones still presenting circus as it was in the days of Robert Ringling, the best showman in the North family."

He said the "Circus Fans of America," an organization in which he is an active member, has opposed the "Hollywood approach" in the big top shows for more than five years.

"THERE WILL always be a circus," the chaplain said, "but not if the Hollywood approach to its presentation is allowed to spread. These conditions are bad for the circus as we know it in operation today."

"But the circus is not dead," Father Sullivan stressed, "despite Mr. North's pessimism on the subject, nor is the fabulous and fantastic tented world it represents."

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