

Film Controversy Seen Cloak For Red Gains

It is a matter of record, attested to by numerous issues of the Daily Worker, that the communists are now heating up their assaults on Cardinal Mindszenty as an alleged representative of "clerical fascism." They hope in this fashion to create divisions among Americans along religious lines, thereby bringing about a partial paralysis in what this nation might do on behalf of Hungary.

Its leading editorial of December 18, the Daily Worker showed conspicuously that one of its chief objectives is the protection of the puppet Kadar "government."

In addition, it calls for "a new summit conference" at which the United States would be induced to agree to "the simultaneous withdrawal of all military forces from all foreign lands, as the Soviet Union has often proposed" and "the closing of all military bases on foreign soil." Hence, under the cloak of opposition to a fictitious "clerical fascism," the conspiracy is actually striving to make use of Soviet barbarism in Hungary to bring about Soviet gains across the face of the earth.

It is also a matter of record, from the current pages of the Daily Worker, that the conspiracy has launched an extensive attack, filled with invective, upon Cardinal Spellman.

Without a doubt, the communists are now redoubling their efforts — as ordered by the April, 1946, issue of Political Affairs — to incite the Protestants against the Catholics and the laity against the hierarchy. By that means they plan to bring about such an unhealthy diversion in American thinking as to prevent us from effectively combating Soviet communism.

THE OCCASION for this unrestrained attack on Cardinal Spellman is the condemnation by His Eminence of the moving picture "Baby Doll," which he criticized as "immoral" and "degrading." From the character of the attack, it is obvious that the communists intend to reach far beyond this incident.

Going on for some days, the campaign reached a current climax in the article by David Platt in the Daily Worker of December 19. "I haven't seen

the film," wrote Platt, "but even if it were drenched with twice the sex indicated by the lurid newspaper ads, Spellman's blast would represent a major threat to the freedom of the screen."

These are interesting words, coming from the mouthpiece of that agency which has just been declared again by the Subversive Activities Control Board to be an agent of the Soviet slave power. What concern have the communists with the concept of "freedom?" They twist the word until it stands for license instead of liberty in this country — both in regard to immorality and subversion — in order that by weakening us in our moral fiber and stamina they will be able to forward Soviet slavery, spiritually, intellectually and physically.

It is in the name of "freedom" for the individual that they assail the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its patriotic work in defending the United States. It is by persuading some of us that "freedom" is at stake when the Government seeks to curb the conspiracy and its allies that they have been able to hamper the work of Congressional investigations.

AS IS THEIR custom, the communists are now endeavoring to get this attack on Cardinal Spellman popularized far beyond the confines of the conspiracy. This is made clear by the statement that "public opinion" will be heard from "in protest against the Cardinal's blast." The hope is expressed that this "public opinion," heard "ever more loudly," will help "straighten the spines of the top movie men." The communists are planning by these directives to have their concealed members incite non-communists to enter the lists against the Cardinal and to champion more and more salacious productions for our moral degradation.

Dedicated Americans, both Catholic and non-Catholic, can speak out against this communist scheme. They can take a stand against immorality and subversion in American life, a stand long overdue. They can perhaps add to these activities a campaign for educating Americans once more to the distinction between liberty and license.

Relief Came To Catholic Poland In 1956

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR

Warsaw — (NC) — The year just-ended has brought marvelous relief to Catholic Poland in her sorrows, but the dawn of the new year is far from cloudless.

A general increase of freedom here in recent months has changed the entire atmosphere, according to Poles and foreigners. The change has been so great one can hear people speaking of the "revolution" of last October.

PERHAPS THE most intimately felt change has been the release of thousands of men and women from Polish prisons. Estimates of those released have varied from 30,000 to 70,000.

Additional Polish prisoners have been repatriated from remote Soviet labor camps. About 3,000 persons are reportedly returning here each month. Some of these have been away from Poland for 10 to 12 years.

Since Stalin's death in 1953 an estimated 100,000 Poles have been repatriated from Soviet Russia.

In the Polish prisons no chaplains were allowed. In some Soviet prison camps priests were among the captives.

FOREMOST among the prisoners released in Poland since the October uprisings is His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland.

The Polish Cardinal ranks as the symbol and leader of the Polish people. "He is our pride," one Polish woman told me.

I heard Cardinal Wyszynski preach the sermon at midnight Mass on Christmas. The people, crowded around his pulpit, were standing tightly packed with faces uplifted, their eyes fixed on him.

He preached for 35 minutes and the crowd stood throughout, intent on every word and gesture. Hardly a cough could be heard on the cold night air in the unfinished cathedral.

I saw groups of Polish soldiers at Mass in the cathedral and other churches. A year ago, they were not allowed to attend church.

CHRISTMAS showed that fervor for the faith is still strong in Poland.

Soon after 11 p.m. on Christmas eve, I saw people streaming across Warsaw to the city's many churches for midnight Mass. Ice streets, bitter wind, and swirling snow did not stop them.

Meanwhile, as the year drew to a close, discussions on Catholic questions continued between two bishops, representing the Polish hierarchy, and two government representatives.

Government permission has already been granted for the publishing of four diocesan weekly newspapers. These journals made their first appearance in three years in mid-December.

THE GOVERNMENT now allows each diocese to publish one paper, but religious orders have been refused publishing rights. On Christmas day, Tygodnik Powszechny (Universal Weekly), a Catholic paper of high repute edited by laymen with ecclesiastical approval, made its reappearance in Krakow.

Early reports show that large numbers of parents have formally requested religious instruction for their children in public schools. Under the recent Church-state agreement, such instruction is permitted upon parental request.

THUS, GREAT changes have taken place during Poland's Marian year, which began last Eastertide. This year-long cele-



CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI recently liberated Primate of Poland is shown at opening of the Winter term of the Lublin Catholic University. Lublin University is the only Catholic university functioning in the Communist world, and has in the past been subject to rigorous pressure from the Red regime.

bration commemorates the 300th anniversary of King Casimir's proclamation of the Blessed Virgin as Poland's queen.

But Poland's queen has been often a Mother of Sorrows. And crowds of prayerful Poles, thronging the nation's historic churches, remember that Soviet Russia is still a jealous neighbor.

They remember also that those who hold the ruling power in Poland still profess the principles of atheistic communism.

Italian Communists Losing Ground

Rome — (NC) — Recent local elections in Italy have demonstrated that the Italian Communist party itself might be numbered among the victims of Soviet repression in Hungary.

Communists recently lost ground during the elections held in the Gorizia province just as they suffered heavy losses in the Val d'Aosta and Trento regions in November. They are also having set backs in the ranks of organized labor.

The communist-dominated Italian General Confederation of Labor met a serious defeat during elections held in a Turin factory. The elections resulted in a loss of the communist majority in the plant which the party had held for 11 years.

Communists have likewise lost the majority in all large industrial plants of Milan. There, the 70,000 members of the Confederation of Labor refused to give financial support to the organization.

Canadian Bishop
Vatican City — (RNS) — The Rev. Gerhard Couturier, rector of the Cathedral of Saint Germain in Rimouski, was named Bishop of the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Canada by Pope Pius XII.



75,000 Receive Holy Communion

Congress, Washington — (NC) — As with one voice, 200 priests at the Bolivarian Eucharistic Congress held here, pray in unison, "Domine, non sum dignus," "Lord, I am not worthy," before distributing Holy Communion to 75,000 children. Six South American nations participated in the Congress.

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Worker's Son Celebrates First Mass In Factory

Bologna, Italy — (NC) — A newly ordained priest has celebrated his first solemn Mass in the Rizzoli workshop here with all the plant employees in attendance.

After reading the Gospel the young priest, Father Gianni Vignoli, addressed the plant managers and employees, saying:

"I thank you for the help you have given me to reach the priesthood. I was able to mount

the steps leading to the altar through your work and your sacrifices. My father, as a matter of fact, is one of you. With his work he was able to meet the expenses of my studies at the seminary. I am thankful to him and it is with deep emotion that I kiss his calloused hands. I promise to devote my ministry to you."

Father Vignoli was a student at the Santa Cristina seminary, where young men prepare to serve as chaplains among laborers.

Japanese Convert Builds Chapel

Miyazaki, Japan — (NC) — Thanks to the zeal and generosity of a Japanese convert, a tiny village in the prefecture of Miyazaki finally has its own chapel.

A clerk in the village post office, Miss Fukamizu, became a Catholic 20 years ago.

Her village is eight miles from the nearest church, so she determined to save her money to provide a chapel for the Catholics of her village.

A few weeks ago, the new chapel, built in the garden of her home, was finished and blessed. Miss Fukamizu saved nearly \$1,000 to pay for the chapel.

New Frog Named For Missionary

Lafayette, Ind. — (NC) — A new species of tree frog has been named after a veteran Divine Word missionary from New Guinea by the American Museum of Natural History.

The new species has been officially named "Cophixalus shellyi" after Father Otto G. Shelly, S.V.D., a 42-year-old missionary who assembled a collection of amphibians and reptiles in the Wahgi Valley region of the central New Guinea highlands.

Father Shelly is now enrolled in a three-year course of agriculture at Purdue University here. After completing the course he will take office as director of the Divine Word College of Agriculture and Technology at Banz, New Guinea.

According to Father Shelly, the new species of frog which he discovered is so small that it can fit within the circumference of a nickel.

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