

Justice Brennan Challenged On Catholic Faith

Washington, D. C. (NC) — Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., told Congress there is no obligation imposed upon him as a Catholic that would keep him from fulfilling his oath to support the Constitution.

Question of his religion arose in a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee considering his nomination by President Eisenhower to the court. He is sitting on the court now under a recess appointment.

THE QUESTION was read to Brennan by Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, himself a Catholic. O'Mahoney said the question was presented to the committee by Charles Smith of New York, representing the National Liberal League. Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee opposed asking the question.

Replying to the question whether his religion would prevent him from proper functioning as a Justice, Brennan said:

"I am convinced there isn't any obligation imposed upon me by my religion which is superior to the oath which I have taken to support and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States."

Charles Smith of New York, who said he represented the National Liberal League which is devoted to the separation of church and state, voiced his opposition to Brennan's appointment in the following prepared statement:

"THERE IS sufficient similarity between one who follows the Communist party line as determined by the central committee and one who accepts the Pope as infallible in faith and morals to justify excluding Judge Brennan from the Supreme Court. Catholics unite their lives by a method not in harmony with American social principles and therefore should not be appointed to the Supreme Court."

Five Catholics previously have served the "supreme" court. Chief Justice. They were: Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, who served



JUSTICE BRENNAN
No Communist

from 1836 to 1864 and wrote the famous Dred Scott decision; Edward Douglas White, associate Chief Justice from 1910 to 1921; Joseph McKenna, associate justice, 1898 to 1925; Pierce Butler, associate justice, 1925 to 1932; and Frank Murphy, associate justice, 1940 to 1948.

Record Number Of Catholics Now In Congress

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — With 84 Representatives and 11 Senators, Roman Catholic membership in Congress is larger than at any time in the history of the United States. Although the majority of the nation's lawmakers are Protestants, Catholics have the second largest denominational grouping. Methodists have the largest with 18 Senators and 87 Representatives. The figures were reported by the Library of Congress which has completed the first official survey ever undertaken of the religious affiliation of members of Congress.

The survey of the 85th Congress also showed that Presbyterians are the third largest group with 13 Senators and 55 Congressmen. Baptists follow closely with 67, of which 18 are in the Senate and 49 in the House.

Episcopalians are in fifth place with 12 Senators and 48 Congressmen.

FOR THE FIRST time a Hindu is serving in Congress, the Library of Congress reported. He is Rep. D. B. Basu (D., Calif.). Congress also numbers 12 members of the Jewish faith and seven Mormons.

Additional Protestant denominations in Congress are: Congregational, Christian, Christian M., Lutheran, 21; Disciples of Christ, 16.

Also Unitarian, five; Churches of Christ and the Reformed Church in America, four each; Society of Friends, (Quakers), three; Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Church of Christ, Scientists, two each; and the Evangelical Free Church, one.

A spokesman for the Library disclosed that four members of Congress declined to give a religious affiliation. They are Sen. William W. Martin (R., N.D.); Rep. Joseph W. Martin, Jr. (R., Mich.); the House minority leader, Sam Morgan (D., Miss.); and Rep. Samuel W. Cramer (D., Ill.). Another 20 declined to themselves only as Protestants.

THEY HAVE been working at Sacred Heart Cathedral since October. The four months work, they agreed, will be finished within two weeks.

The new altar will be consecrated March 12 to replace the historic white altar which originally stood in the sanctuary of St. Patrick's Cathedral raised in 1937.

The new altar was designed by Deprato Studios of Chicago, church architects and decorators.

Expected craftsmen Ignazio Monti, left, and Alex Salvioni fit marble section into place for Sacred Heart Cathedral's new altar scheduled to be consecrated March 12th. Workers state the new altar will be "one of the best in the country."

With the next section to be put in place.

"After so many years you just know which comes next," said Alex.

ASKED if he would prefer to design the altars, he builds or just carry out the design of



Church In Africa

Catholics in Ghana, the world's newest independent nation, formerly called the Gold Coast, on Africa's west coast, will mark their nation's first Independence Day, March 6, with Mass and prayers. Upper photo shows American Father Clement Hotze of the Divine Word Missionaries, with two young first communicants. In photo right, American Holy Ghost Missionary Sister Helen Hammersmith chats with native mother, one of last year's 108,642 patients in three Catholic clinics in Ghana. (NC Photos).

Two Parishes Adopt Total Coverage Plan

Two pastors announced this week their parishes will adopt the Courier Journal's "total family coverage" plan for the first time.

Rev. Edward H. Hartmann has enrolled the 180 families of St. Mary of the Assumption parish, Scottsville, as subscribers to the diocesan paper. This total represents an increase of 100 over last year's Scottsville subscribers.

Rev. Stanislaus H. Bialaszewski also reported that 105 families attending the Catholic Chapel at Bradford, and St. Joseph's Church, Campbell, will receive the Courier Journal, for an increase of 44 in these parishes.

Twenty-nine additional parishes reported this week they will continue the "total coverage" plan adopted in previous years.

This brings to fifty-five the number of parishes renewing the plan of sending the diocesan paper to all their families.

Present subscriptions expire with the March 29th issue. New subscriptions registered in the current February circulation campaign will start April 5, according to Elmer Graepelstetter, circulation manager.

RENEWING THE "total family coverage" plan for 1957 and reporting increased totals over last year's parish subscriptions are the following:

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Most Rev. Lawrence B. Casey, rector, 1475 subscriptions for an increase of 87; St. Jerome, East Rochester, Rev. Roy E. Murphy, pastor, 504 (increase 51); St. Rose, Lima, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John M. Ball, pastor, 203 (increase 4); Catholic Chapel, Dryden, Rev. Thomas K.

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Pope Pius Blesses Cheering Americans

Vatican City — (NC) — The cheering of nearly 2,000 United States sailors gathered in St. Peter's square brought Pope Pius XII to the window of his apartment for an unscheduled personal appearance.

The men were from the aircraft carrier Forrestal, anchored in the Naples Bay. The Pontiff blessed the sailors and extended his arms in an affectionate salutation.

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Mothers, Babies Get 'Free Care'

Oklahoma City — (NC) — One hundred and seven mothers and babies received care in the "free care" plan of St. Anthony's hospital during 1956, Sister M. Agnes, administrator, has announced.

The plan was formulated in 1953 and provides free care for mothers who have six young children or more.

Pope To Celebrate Double Anniversary On March 12

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Pius XII will go to St. Peter's basilica on March 12 in full pontifical regalia to attend a special Mass marking the 18th anniversary of his coronation as the 262nd pope.

ON THE SAME DAY, the Pope will celebrate his 81st birthday. His birthday is March 2.

The observance of the anniversaries will be attended by many cardinals and high ranking prelates and by many diplomats accredited to the Holy See.

ORDINARILY, THE OBSERVANCE of the double anniversary is held in the Sistine Chapel. Last year, however, the function was held in St. Peter's to make room for the special delegations sent by many governments, to observe the Holy Father's 80th birthday.

The ceremonies will be held in St. Peter's again this year, in response to numerous requests of the faithful.



Ambassador Meets Pope

Vatican City — (NC) — Newly named U.S. ambassador to Italy, James D. Zellerbach, and his wife, are pictured as they were received in audience at Vatican City, by Pope Pius XII. The Pontiff offered his congratulations to Mr. Zellerbach.

Pontiff Explains Moral Use Of Pain-Killing Drugs

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Pius XII has stated that a dying patient may be given drugs to relieve his pain even if the treatment might result in hastening his life.

But the Pope noted that euthanasia, or so-called mercy killing, is morally unjustifiable, and that therefore no pain-relieving treatment may be given which would be the direct cause of death or which would be administered with the intention of hastening death.

The Pontiff made these points in an address to an audience of close to a thousand physicians and anaesthetists. He told the medical group that the use of drugs and anaesthetics is neither a contradiction of the natural moral order nor of the specific Christian ideal. But he noted that use of drugs or intoxicants to induce unconsciousness solely to gain pleasurable sensations such as drunkenness is not licit.

The Pope took advantage of the presence of the medical people to answer three specific questions which had been put to him by a medical group here last October. The Pontiff gave his answers to these three questions:

• Is there a universal moral obligation to refuse analgesia (the deadening of sensibility to pain) and to accept physical pain in a spirit of faith? "No," said the Pope.

• Is it in accord with the spirit of the Gospel to bring about by means of drugs the loss of consciousness and use of a man's higher faculties? "Yes," said the Pope.

• Is it lawful for the dying and those in danger of death to make use of drugs if there exist medical reasons for their use? May one use drugs even if the lessening of pain is probably accompanied by a shortening of life? "Yes," to both parts, said the Pope.

In answer to the first question, the Pope said there would evidently be a serious obligation to accept physical suffering if one were faced with the inescapable alternative either of enduring

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