



Congress Hears Keating Recall Pope's Long Career

KEATING

The following address honoring the 18th year of the coronation of Pope Pius XII was delivered in Congress on the Pontiff's anniversary (Tuesday, March 12) by Representative Kenneth B. Keating of Rochester:

MR. SPEAKER, today marks the 18th anniversary of the coronation of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. This is an occasion of significance for all men of good faith, and an especially notable day because it follows so closely the birthday of this good and gifted leader.

It was a little over 81 years ago, on March 2, 1876, that a little boy was born in Rome who was destined to bear the resounding name of Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli.

But though, as Father Pacelli, Monsignor Pacelli, Bishop Pacelli, Archbishop Pacelli, and Cardinal Pacelli, this man, through the years, made his name known and loved to an everwidening and increasing throng, it was when he dropped his name that Eugenio Pacelli began his career of world fame and greatness.

HIS YEARS of education, leading to a triple doctorate; his diplomatic missions and negotiations; his outstanding work in Canon Law, in diplomacy, and in the guidance of Vatican foreign policy — all these were but a prelude or preface to the great career he commenced when he accepted, with prayerful humility, the office of Pope, and chose to be called Pius XII.

Pope Pius XII adopted the name Pius, I am sure, for a complex of different reasons. As a Latinist, he was undoubtedly thinking, first and foremost, of the Latin meaning of the word, as applied to Aeneas by Virgil.

In Latin, "pius" is a word of strength and virility, quite different from the softer modern English meaning of "pious."



POPE PIUS XII

To the Romans, it meant a devotion at once patriotic and religious, to family and state and God—a devotion manly and courageous, compounded of honesty, honor, justice, and integrity.

In choosing the name Pius, he must also have been thinking of Pius X, the saintly man whom he knew in his young priesthood, and at whose canonization he was recently privileged to preside, and of Pius XI, his own immediate predecessor, the peace-loving scholar and diplomat under whom he served as Vatican Secretary of State and as Papal Chamberlain or Chamberlain.

But most of all, perhaps, Pius XII chose his name for its atmosphere of simplicity and humility, it is typical both of the ambition and of the achievement of this man.

By his simple and unassuming human quality, he has won love and praise that his office, without these personal qualities, could not have attracted.

His transparent honesty and shining courage have made

him a rallying point for all who seek to defend religion from the attacks of atheistic communism.

WITH A firm courtesy born of a half century of experience in high-level diplomacy, Pope Pius XII checks and counters each move of Communist agents to split or take over Catholic hierarchies in various countries.

But, more than this, Pius XII convinces people, by word and look and action, that he is a man of dedicated spirit, serving God selflessly, and loving each man whose life comes in any way before him.

He is the kind of man who can look at a crowd, and have each man go home convinced that His Holiness has looked directly at him.

Since his early youth he has fervently opposed despotic rule by the state, whether of the Fascist or Communist variety.

He has lived all his life in accordance with the doctrine of Christianity, that part of society is greater than the whole—the individual more than the nation.

For this reason he will keep a crowd or a national delegation waiting while he hears the confession of someone with no more claim on him than the fact of being a sinner, or while he gives his individual blessing to a blind baby or to a cripple.

THE WARMTH of this human relationship, depicted in many a candid camera shot, and in many a traveler's anecdote, has made for Pius XII a circle of friends that easily circles the globe.

He is reputed to be the most accessible Pope there has ever been—and surely it is no coincidence that he is the most widely known and loved.

There is an illuminating series of anecdotes to illustrate the continuity of Vatican world policy Pius IX, when told Garibaldi was marching on Rome.

Former Bus Driver Ordained Priest

New York — (NC) — A life-long ambition was realized when John Joseph Finnegan was ordained to the priesthood by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph M. Perricone in the Church of Sts. Philip and James here. He will serve in the Diocese of El Paso, Texas.

Father Finnegan, born in Brooklyn 42 years ago, served a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Air Force, worked as a bus driver for five years, and was employed by a trust company, before he took up his studies for the priesthood. He studied at the School of St. Philip Neri, Boston; Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md., and Christ the King Seminary, St. Bonaventure, N.Y.

and that he had better start thinking about artillery, is said to have pointed to the silver crucifix on his desk, and said: "That is my artillery." The same crucifix stands today on the desk of Pope Pius XII.

Cardinal Merry del Val, papal secretary of state under Pius X, asked for the secret of Vatican foreign policy, said simply, "The New Testament."

WHEN POPE PIUS XII was told of Josef Stalin's contemptuous inquiry, "How many divisions has the Pope?" he is said to have replied mildly, "You may tell my son Joseph he will meet my divisions in Heaven."

Similarly illustrative, too, of the career of this brave and noble leader of peace is the quotation from St. Augustine that he used to telling effect in 1928, when, as papal nuncio to Berlin, he addressed representatives of the press of all countries and invited them to cooperate in the work of peace.

"It is more glorious to kill war through words than to kill men through iron, and to obtain peace through peace rather than through war."

Not only Catholics, but all Christians and all men of good will, join in celebrating the coronation of this great and good man.

Most fervently of all, I am sure, believers in God who now live in silence and darkness under Soviet tyranny, knowing the heart of Pius XII, and how it suffers for them, must be calling down God's blessing upon his venerable head.

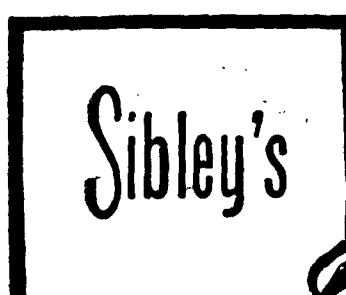
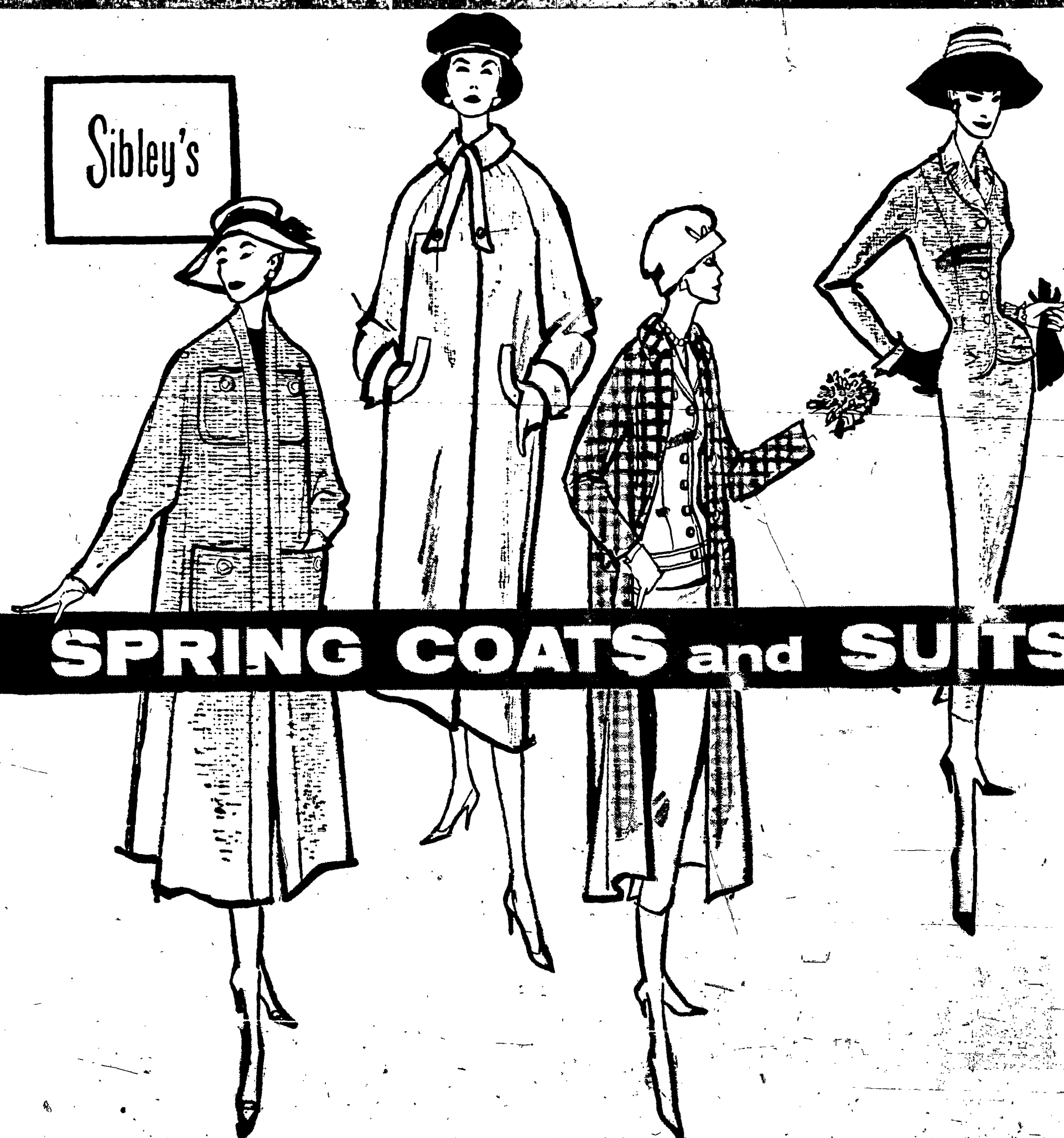


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