

Red Zone Teachers Flee Godless Drive

Berlin — (RNS) — Ninety per cent of the 126 Soviet Zone school teachers who sought asylum in West Berlin during January did so because of pressure on them to support Communist efforts to wean children from religion, a report here said.

The pressure on the teachers to cooperate in the atheistic campaign was reflected in other reports telling of retaliatory action against educators unwilling to cooperate.

A SECONDARY school director in Quedlinburg was suspended because he refused to discontinue making classrooms available for catechism classes. When members of the teaching staff protested, Communist authorities threatened them with "unpleasant consequences."

An elementary school teacher in East Berlin was denounced as an "enemy of the State" because he declined to encourage his students to take part in youth dedication ceremonies, an atheistic counterpart to Christian Confirmation and First Communion.

A high school teacher in Gera was disciplined and transferred to an elementary school because he denounced the atheistic rites and walked out of a parents meeting called to denounce Church dignitaries who had warned against them.

MARKER REPORTS told of schools at which children were forced to write essays on hotly controversial subjects dealing with relations between the Protestant Churches and the East German regime.

The reports cited also the case of a Dessau woman teacher who was dismissed from her post for writing a Bible verse in an autograph album of one of her pupils. She was told she had "conceded Church and State in an inadmissible way."

Atheist Schools Gain In Poland

Warsaw — (RNS) — The Polish Secular Schools Society organized last year now has 60 schools, all run "strictly without religion," the Warsaw Radio reported. It said the society is "developing rapidly" and already has 1,800 branches throughout the country.

Court Upholds Ban On Atheist Teacher

Miami, Fla. — (RNS) — The right of the University of Miami and the Dade County School Board to deny a 37-year-old self-professed atheist the teaching position in the county's school system was upheld here by the Third District Court of Appeals.

The appellate court's decision declared that the university had a duty to safeguard its young, impressionable minds from new teachers "having attitudes or fanatical ideas such . . . as atheism."

THOMAS C. ROBINSON of Miami had appealed to the high court after the university was granted a summary decree and the case against the school board was dismissed in March of last year by Circuit Judge Grady L. Crawford.

The student had asked the court to permit him to study teaching here after a committee on student teaching at the university refused him the practice teaching course because of his views as a "militant and fanatical atheist."

Mr. Robinson argued that the university had no sufficient or lawful reason for compelling his withdrawal from the internship course.

IN ITS RULING, the appellate court said in part:

"The courts have upheld the validity of a regulation reserving to the university the right to dismiss any student at any time for any reason without divulging its reason, the general purpose of the regulation being recited as one to safeguard ideals of scholarship and moral atmosphere.

"It must not be overlooked that the appellant was a student who was being prepared by the university to become a teacher in the public schools.

"It seems obvious, that the university should consider itself under a duty and obligation not to graduate, and release with the stamp of its academic approval, a new teacher having attitudes or fanatical ideas, such as with reference to atheism, which it imposed on impressionable minds . . . with whom he must come in contact would be calculated to their detriment and injury."



Polio Boy Serves Mass

Belleville, Ill. — (NC) — Letting no handicap stand in the way of his zeal for Scouting and serving Mass, Altar boy Charles E. "Chuck" Wuller, Jr., of Belleville, Ill., receives the coveted Boy Scout "Ad Altare Dei" medal from Bishop Albert R. Zurowskie, of Belleville. Despite a crippling polio attack four years ago, the boy serves regularly at weekday Masses.

Nativity Plays OK For Public Schools

San Rafael, Calif. — (RNS) — A Christmas play depicting the birth of Christ does not violate the constitutional separation of Church and State and may be performed in the public schools, the county attorney ruled here.

A parent, Mrs. Ann Diamond, had complained to the Ross, Calif., school board against a play put on by a grade school last Christmas. Mrs. Diamond said the Nativity play caused her children, who are Jewish, to be

confused about religious matters.

In reply to a request by the school board, Marin County Counsel E. Warren McGuire said the program was "basically a dramatic production of matter reasonably held to be of historical significance."

Mr. McGuire said he relied on rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court and the California attorney general's office for his opinion.

Episcopalians Oppose Private School Taxes

Los Angeles — (NC) — The annual diocesan convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Los Angeles unanimously went on record in opposition to the "current, ill-advised effort to tax nonprofit education" in California.

MORE THAN 750 clerical and lay delegates representing 167 churches approved a resolution which declared:

"Taxation of education at any level . . . clearly violates a tradition, universally honored in America since before the founding of our republic."

The resolution was presented by the Rev. Mr. Kenneth W. Cary, statewide chairman of Protestants United Against Taxing Schools.

THE RESOLUTION describes as "grossly unfair and patently unjust" an initiative constitutional amendment that will appear on November ballot in California. The amendment, it is charged, would "impose mandatory property taxes on all nonprofit schools below collegiate grade, church-sponsored as well as nonsectarian."

Such schools, the resolution stated, "perform a distinct service to the entire community while saving California taxpayers more than \$100 million annually in school operating costs."

Educator Heads School Tax Group

Stockton, Calif. — (NC) — Dr. Tully C. Knowles of Stockton, former president of the College of the Pacific, is chairman of the state campaign committee for Californians for Public Schools, an organization which is working for the reimposition of state taxes on private, non-profit elementary and high schools in California.

The Methodist college which Dr. Knowles headed for many years long has been exempted from state taxes.

Leftist Victor In Argentina

Buenos Aires, Argentina — (NC) — The future status of the Church in Argentina remains vague and undefined with the election of Arturo Frondizi, candidate of the left-wing Intransigent Radical party, to the country's presidency.

Early returns indicated that Mr. Frondizi beat his nearest rival, Ricardo Balbin, the candidate of the People's Radical party, by more than 1,500,000 votes.

MR. FRONDIZI has disclaimed reports that he had the backing of Argentina's Communist and other extreme leftist parties. But observers here feel that there is little doubt that his success was partly due to large Peronist support.

It was reported earlier that former Argentine dictator, Juan Peron, had issued orders from his refuge in the Dominican Republic instructing his followers not to support the government protégé, Ricardo Balbin. This has been interpreted as an implied support of Frondizi, whose party and platform were anti-government.

In last July's elections for the national assembly, more than 2,000,000 blank ballots were cast, the majority of them at the order of Peron who had asked that his supporters boycott the election.

THE MAJOR points of interest to the Church in the election concerned state monopoly of education, absolute separation of Church and state and legalized divorce—all suggested as amendments to the national constitution.

Though Frondizi's party, an offshoot from the anti-clerical liberal People's Radical party, has a great similarity to its mother party and includes many Marxists in its ranks, it is still uncertain precisely what attitude Frondizi will take to the Church once in office.

FRONDIZI HAS repudiated any Marxist support and has frequently voiced his agreement with many of the Church's requests despite protests from his party's leaders.

Observers here are unsure how to interpret this and similar statements made by Frondizi in the face of his own party's traditional anti-clericalism and his largely leftist and Peronist support.

St. Patrick's Marks Record

New York — (NC) — St. Patrick's Cathedral reported the largest one-day attendance in its history at Ash Wednesday services marking the beginning of Lent.

An estimated total of 75,000 persons visited the cathedral for the brief ceremony, which counsels: "Remember, man, thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return."

Last year, the attendance was about 60,000. A spokesman for the cathedral said the increase was attributable to new office buildings in the area and "secretaries, thousands of secretaries."

The throngs at the cathedral reached their height between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. It was estimated that between 40,000 and 50,000 passed through the great bronze doors during the period.

Worshippers Get Free Bus Rides

Buffalo, N. Y. — (RNS) — The Niagara Frontier Transit System is offering "Sunday worshippers" free bus rides to and from church during the Lenten period for the eighth consecutive year.

The free service is provided from the start of Lent through Easter Sunday to worshippers boarding buses on all city routes between 5 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Mexican Communist Says He's Catholic

Mexico City — (NC) — The claim of communist presidential candidate, Miguel Mendoza Lopez, that he is a "very devout Catholic" is not taken seriously by Catholic circles here.

The claim by the communist candidate, who has no chance for election, is regarded as the result of ignorance.

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LENTEN SACRIFICE — MASS OFFERING — SUPPORT FOR A MISSIONARY.

LENT COMES . . . LENT GOES . . . LENT IS SOON FORGOTTEN—and I remain the same. This can be true of all of us unless we make a definite effort to have our spirit of Lenten sacrifice continue through the year. One way of keeping the spirit of penance alive in our souls from Ash Wednesday to Ash Wednesday is to adopt a seminarian or a novice NOW during Lent. Thomas and Joshua wish to enter the Seminary in Alway (India) but each needs \$600 to pay for the necessary expenses. And the situation is the same with Sister Pauline and Sister Lucienne (Lebanon). These young girls are anxious to serve Christ in the religious life but again each must have \$300 to make novitiate preparation possible. Why not adopt a seminarian or a novice NOW as part of your Lenten mortification. You can send the money in any way you wish while your "adopted child" is studying—your Lenten sacrifice will live on through the year while you make the payments—and will continue to live as long as "your child" serves God in a sacred vocation.

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