

Counterspy In Red Ranks Could Not Go To Church

By JOSEPH McLELLAN
(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Boston—"If I had gone to church I wouldn't be here today."

With these words, Armando Penha, 44, of Fairhaven, Mass., summed up the worst part of an eight-year ordeal as an FBI counterspy in the Communist party.



MONSIGNOR FURLONG
Said Secret Masses

Communist activity involved giving up many things, including a well-paying job, Mr. Penha said. But the thing that he missed, the most was the regular practice of his Catholic religion.

A PLOT to assassinate Louis Francis Budenz, former editor of the defunct communist Daily Worker newspaper who returned to the Catholic faith, was disclosed in testimony by Mr. Penha before a special session of the U.S. House of Representatives committee on un-American activities here.

The plot was formulated by a communist group in New Bedford, Mass., after it was announced that Mr. Budenz was scheduled to lecture at a New Bedford high school. Mr. Penha did not disclose the date of the assassination plot.

The counterspy told the Congressional investigators that a New Bedford communist named Roland Bothello "came to me and asked about putting a bomb under the speaker's stand." Mr. Penha characterized Bothello as "one of the most dangerous communists of them all," who has a "pastime of making bombs."

"My hair rose," the witness said. "I knew Budenz very well and couldn't believe my ears when I heard of the plot. I wouldn't have been able to live with myself if it had been executed."

The plot leaders went so far as to prepare a sketch of the high school auditorium, its entrances and exits, the counterspy said.

"They felt that if they could eliminate Budenz, they would have one less person to worry about," Mr. Penha testified. "I

went to the leaders of the movement and, by the grace of God, talked them out of it."

MR. PENHA ALSO told the Congressional investigators that he had been to church "no more than 12 times" in his eight-year service to the FBI. He said he joined the Communist party in early 1950, shortly after Herbert Philbrick of Malden, Mass., disclosed himself publicly as an undercover agent for the FBI among the communists.

He singled out Msgr. Walter J. Furlong of Newton, Mass., former Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Boston, as his chief source of inspiration and guidance during the eight years.

"Without him," Mr. Penha

said, "I could not have succeeded."

In an interview with the N.C.W.C. News Service, Msgr. Furlong recalled a long series of secret meetings with the undercover agent.

MSGR. FURLONG said that, generally Mr. Penha "came and talked things over with me whenever he had a chance." Sometimes they would meet in other places, but generally, when he was sure he was unobserved, Mr. Penha went to the rectory of Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Newton, where Msgr. Furlong is pastor.

"The thing that seemed to weigh most heavily on Mr. Penha's mind was his inability to attend religious services," Msgr. Furlong said. "I would talk it over with him and compare his situation to that of a soldier in time of war. In the middle of a battle a soldier can't always fulfill his religious duties. Of course Mr. Penha's war was a cold one, but the situation was fairly similar."

Once or twice, Msgr. Furlong recalled, he was able to say Mass privately for his secret visitor. In addition to spiritual counseling, their meetings were devoted largely to talks about communism.

"Mr. Penha has a keen mind and a good grasp of the problems of communism," Msgr. Furlong said. "I learned a lot from him—and I learned to fear a lot."

IN ANSWER TO committee questioning, Mr. Penha paid tribute to the importance of religion in daily life.

"Once I got into the party I realized that the very thing I needed to have close to me I could not have—my religion."

"WHAT DID THEY (the communists) have to do with preventing you from going to church," he was asked by Rep. Clyde Doyle of California.

"Sir," answered the counterspy, "they control every moment of your life and they are atheists to begin with. The hard-core members do not believe in it (religion) and I can assure you if I had gone to church I wouldn't be here today. Only those who are infiltrating religion go to church."

Mr. Penha testified that he knew about 65 per cent of the 400 Communist party members in the New England area. Between 40 and 60 per cent of party members are "secret members" who "infiltrate organizations, industry and fraternal groups," he testified.

ASKED TO estimate the present strength of the Communist party, the witness said that the communists try to give an appearance of weakness, particularly through the loss of members.

Christ Only Eighth In Japanese Poll

Tokyo, Japan — Need for greater Christian missionary activity in Japan comes from a recent poll of some 10,000 Japanese high school students in 200 schools throughout the country.

To the question: "Whom do you respect most of all among historical figures?" the name of Jesus Christ received no better than eighth place mention, reports a spokesman for the Maryknoll Fathers here.

The top ten in order of preference were: (1) Abraham Lincoln; (2) Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, great Japanese bacteriologist; (3) Yukichi Fukuzawa, founder of Keio University and crusader for the cause of democracy; (4) Florence Nightingale; (5) Sontoku Ninomiya, self-made scholar; (6) Madam Curie; (7) Thomas Edison; (8) Jesus Christ; (9) Prince Shotoku, champion of Buddhism in early day Japan; (10) Alfred Nobel.

Corporation Grants Good Friday Closing

Pampa, Tex.—(NC)—The Calumet Corporation announced here that its employees again will be granted a paid holiday on Good Friday, April 4.

Vatican Masterpiece On U.S. Stamp

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—The Hand of God creating man, as depicted by Michelangelo in a great masterpiece in the Vatican, will appear on a United States postage stamp commemorating the International Geophysical Year.

The three-cent stamp will be issued May 31 at Chicago to mark the international cooperation in scientific research in which the United States is participating.

IN THE BACKGROUND of the stamp will be a photograph of the disc of the sun showing an intense flare of solar activity, such as occurs periodically and is among the phenomena being studied during the 18-month IGY program.

Superimposed above the sun and against a backdrop of the fiery solar prominences will be a segment of Michelangelo's fresco "The Creation of Adam," which is the central panel of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican.

The Arm and Hand of God will be seen on the right just as it is about to touch the lifeless and inert form of Adam's body to bring life to the first man.

Ernie Metz, New York City artist, who was commissioned to design the stamp, said, "In the small confines of a postage stamp we have endeavored to picture a man's wonder at the unknown together with his determination



Frank Folsom Wins Lactare Medal

Notre Dame, Ind.—(RNS)—Frank M. Folsom, former president of the Radio Corporation of America and now chairman of its executive committee, was named to receive the 1958 Lactare Medal of Notre Dame University here.

Since 1883 the medal has been awarded annually by the university to an outstanding member of the American Catholic laity.

The Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president of the university, described Mr. Folsom as "one of the great leaders of American business and industry."

Jesuit Reports On South Pole Trip: Scientists Nearing Big Discovery—God!

By GEORGE GENT
(N.C.W.C. News Service)



FATHER LINEHAN
Deep Freeze Padre

New York—A world-famous Jesuit scientist said here that continued progress would soon lead his fellow scientists to the rediscovery of God.

This is the belief of Father Daniel Linehan, the seismologist whose work last December proved that there is land above sea level at the South Pole.

HE WAS INTERVIEWED at the Fordham University office of Jesuit Father J. Joseph Lynch, who, like himself, is a widely known seismologist.

Carrying 225 pounds on a 5-11 frame, the 53-year-old Jesuit looked more like the Boston College tackle he was under Frank (Iron Major) Cavanaugh, than the dedicated man of science.

Father Linehan returned only last week from Antarctica, where he spent four months in research with the Navy's Operation Deep Freeze Three scientific expedition, as part of the International Geophysical Year.

Before that, he had made two other trips to the South Pole, both of six months duration, and an earlier visit to the North Pole.

FATHER LINEHAN'S most important discovery to date, he believes, was the recent confirmation that there is land above sea level at the South Pole, buried under 8,297 feet of ice and snow.

"It will help scientists answer a number of unanswered questions," he explained. "Ice is one of the most delicate instruments we know for measurement."

"Now that we know Antarctica has land beneath the ice," he added, "geologists will be able to determine whether it is a continent or a series of islands. Meteorologists will have a clue as to what effect the antarctic has on warming and cooling the earth, and how this affects the oceans and earth's total water supply."

FATHER LINEHAN said "the most significant thing" to result from IGY will be a "greatly simplified view of the whole of science."

"We are discovering that more and more things are related," he said, "that they are first cousins. Eventually we

on the sun. Then science will discover the one author of all nature, the most simple Being of all, God Himself."

Father Linehan is head of the geophysics department at Boston College and director of its Weston, Mass., seismic observatory.

One of the five living persons who have circumnavigated the South Pole, Father Linehan was also the first Catholic priest ever to celebrate Mass there. That was December 5, 1957. His congregation was made up of seven sailors a long way from home.

Among his other achievements, Father Linehan devised a hurricane detecting method based on seismic principles during World War II; discovered the magnetic north as an aid to navigators during his Arctic expedition; and, with Father Lynch, searched for St. Peter's tomb in Rome during 1951-52.

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"HAVE YOU EVER BEEN REALLY HUNGRY . . .?" This was the startling question a recent visitor to your office asked the other day. "Well," we said, "who hasn't missed a meal . . . who hasn't been on a diet . . ." "That's not hunger," our visitor exclaimed, somewhat annoyed, "most people in this country have never been really hungry. They just don't know what it means. But I do and that's why I'm glad to give this \$10 for a food package so that at least one family of refugees can eat for another week." Are you willing to give a food package (\$10) to supply an Easter dinner for the poor. In gratitude, Father King will send you an OLIVE SEED ROSARY BLESSED IN THE HOLY LAND.

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YOUR WILL IS GOD'S WILL WHEN YOU MENTION THE MISSIONS IN YOUR WILL . . . DO IT TODAY . . . YOUR GOOD WORK WILL LIVE AFTER YOU.

SUGGESTION OF THE WEEK
YOUR EASTER JOY may bring a beautiful "extravaganza" to a poor refugee child. Ten dollars will give one child the sheer joy of a new suit or dress for First Communion Day. You can perform this act of charity for a loved one who is deceased OR our beautiful gift card will tell a special friend or relative that this kindness has been done for their intention. We'll send the card anywhere for you and enclose PRESSED FLOWERS FROM THE HOLY LAND which have been blessed on the Holy Sepulcher.

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FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, President
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