

# 'Bugging' Raises Moral Question

## Theologian Restricts Practice To Police

St. Louis — (NC) — Wiretapping or monitoring another's conversation by means of a hidden microphone could be morally permissible, but only with certain safe-guards, a noted moral theologian said here.

"The principle back of either wiretapping or monitoring with a hidden microphone is that, within certain limitations, it is morally permissible for a legal authority to do this, if it is necessary to combat some great threat to the common good," Father Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., declared.

"But there are three restrictions: (1) there must be good reason to suspect the monitoring will produce evidence of action seriously detrimental to the common good; (2) the matter at stake must be grave—that is, some grave harm must be threatening the common good, and (3) the monitoring must be done only by legally constituted authority."

FATHER CONNELL, here for a conference with editors, was sought out for an interview because of the current prominence given to the practice of "bugging" by stories in the secular press. "Bugging" is the practice of listening in on conversation through the use of a hidden microphone.

The noted theologian said he was inclined to think that monitoring should be restricted to the police authority, i.e., the executive branch of Government.

Asked to cite an example of morally justifiable monitoring or wiretapping, Father Connell said the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Justice Department—both legally constituted and under the executive branch of the Federal Government—could morally take such action in grave cases. Examples of such cases would be conspiracies to overthrow the Government itself.

Dean J. Norman McDonough of the St. Louis University School of Law pointed out that so-called "invasion of privacy" was a relatively new legal concept.

"EAVESDROPPING" has been a criminal act for centuries, but civil action against eavesdropping, wiretapping, or otherwise monitoring another's remarks without his permission is relatively new, he said.

"There has been a growing recognition of 'violation of privacy,'" he said, "but cases vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

"From the court point of view, during the past few decades there has been growing recognition that there is a right of privacy which it is civilly wrong to vio-

late. There seems to be a recognition that it is a natural right of man to be left alone. It is not, of course, an unlimited right." From a legal point of view, Dean McDonough added, the limits of invasion of privacy insofar as monitoring by concealed microphones is concerned, have not been sharply defined.



Martyr's Niece

Sister Benedicta, S.N.D., teacher at St. Peter's parochial, Cheraw, S.C., is the daughter of Korean vice-president John Chang. She has two brothers studying for the priesthood. Her aunt, Sister Agnita, M.M., was Provincial Superior of the Maryknoll Sisters in northern Korea, when martyred there by the communists in 1949.

### Prelate's Advice

## 'Kill The Rats'

St. Paul — (NC) — A story of a scourge of rats in a Philippine province that forced the local Bishop to command the rodents be eliminated was told here.

Father Clarence Bertelsman, O.M.I., a missionary in the province who was interviewed during a visit here, also said that American Catholic aid helped the area recover after the scourge.

THE OBLATE OF Mary Immaculate priest said that in 1953 rodents overran a large section of Cotabato province. They ate cats, invaded homes and finally chewed up the natives' harvest, plunging the area to the brink of famine.

The situation was almost desperate, but the natives would not kill the rats because of a superstition that if they killed only

some other vermin would return to seek revenge, perhaps killing human beings.

Bishop Gerard Mongeau of Cotabato then took action. He wrote a pastoral, said Father Bertelsman, which told natives to kill the rats.

A drive against the rodents was begun, but food had become in short supply. At that point, Catholic Relief Services-National-Catholic Welfare Conference stepped in, sending rice and dry milk which kept many people alive until the next harvest, concluded Father Bertelsman, a native of Belleville, Ill.



Alexandria — (NC) — Archbishop Silvio Oddi, Apostolic Internuncio to Egypt, presented the pallium to the new Coptic Rite Patriarch of Alexandria, Egypt, Stephanos I Sidarous, in a ceremony in the Meadi seminary. As head of the Coptic Rite Catholics, the prelate ranks second in dignity to the Bishop of Rome.

## New Egypt Patriarch

Alexandria, Egypt — (NC) — Archbishop Silvio Oddi, Apostolic Internuncio to Egypt, presented the pallium in the name of Pope Pius XII to the new Coptic Rite Patriarch of Alexandria here.

Patriarch Stephanos I Sidarous, former rector of the Coptic Rite Seminary of Meadi and Coptic Patriarchal Vicar of Egypt, symbolized high rank in the Church, in a ceremony in the Meadi seminary church in the

presence of several hundred dignitaries of Church and state.

Earlier he had ascended the throne traditionally said to have belonged to St. Mark as Patriarch of Alexandria of the Copts.

In the 5th century, Pope Leo the Great recognized the Coptic prelate as second in dignity to the Bishop of Rome because of the tradition that St. Peter himself sent the Evangelist Mark in the year 43 A.D. to convert the people of Egypt. St. Mark is said to have founded the Coptic Church in obedience to Rome.

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## Senorita's Faith Saved Alaska For Americans

Washington — (RNS) — The story of how a Spanish girl who was loyal to her Catholic faith frustrated an effort by the Russians to colonize what is now northern California was recalled here as President Eisenhower signed legislation to admit Alaska, a one-time Russian territory, to the union as the 49th state.

But for the religious loyalty of Dona Concepcion de Arguello, daughter of the commandant of the Spanish fort of San Francisco, the history of that area might have been much different.

And Russia might not have despaired so readily of her efforts to colonize North America that she sold Alaska to the United States for \$7,200,000 in 1867.

FEW AMERICANS realize that the Russians not only colonized Alaska, but that they attempted to gain control of the entire area that is now America's Pacific Northwest.

Capt. Nicolai Rezanov was one of the ambitious Russian leaders of early-day Alaskan settlement. In April, 1806, Rezanov sailed into San Francisco Bay with a cargo of tools, fabrics, and leather. Ostensibly his intentions was to trade with the Spanish at Fort San Francisco. Actually, it was to see if he could pave the way for a Russian settlement of California.

Conditions were in turmoil because of the revolutions sweeping Mexico and Latin America at that period and the authority of Madrid at San Francisco was weak, indeed. Rezanov, however, hesitated to risk a battle with Spanish forces in the area since he was far from his own line of supply.

The Russian Captain was cour-

teously received and, with his handsome uniform and continental manner, made quite a hit with the young ladies, particularly with Dona Concepcion.

The thought occurred to Rezanov that he might be able to accomplish a peaceful settlement of the area by means as old as diplomacy itself. He began to court the young Spanish belle and she soon fell head over heels in love with him.

Rezanov went to her father to ask for the hand of his daughter in marriage. The commandant was flattered, but there was a question of religion. Dona Concepcion would not be married other than in the historic old Franciscan mission, but Rezanov was a member of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Eventually, it was decided that the handsome Russian would have to get permission of the czar to marry outside his faith and then go to Rome and get the

Pope's blessing on the match.

DONA CONCEPCION wept as her lover bade her goodbye for the long journey, but this was the only possibility in keeping with her faith. Rezanov set out for distant St. Petersburg but he never got there.

He tried to cross Siberia in midwinter and his horse fell through the ice of a stream soaking him. He caught a fever, but tried to go on with his party and next day fell from his horse, sustaining fatal injuries.

It is a sad love tale that is still told, as almost a legend of California's early history.

Had Rezanov succeeded in his purpose of marrying the daughter of the Spanish commandant, the way would have been opened for his ambitious plan of settlement in California. As it was, the Russians did later establish a fort 40 miles north of San Francisco under Ivan Kuskov, but the settlement never prospered and there was always hostility with the Spanish, now part of the Republic of Mexico, to the south.

When Americans began crowding in 30 years later, the outnumbered Russians gave up and went back to Alaska. Eventually, they gave that up, too.

It is fascinating to speculate on how the course of history might have been changed. Dona Concepcion's refusal to marry a charming Russian without the permission of the Pope and the blessing of her Church balked Russian expansion at a very critical moment.

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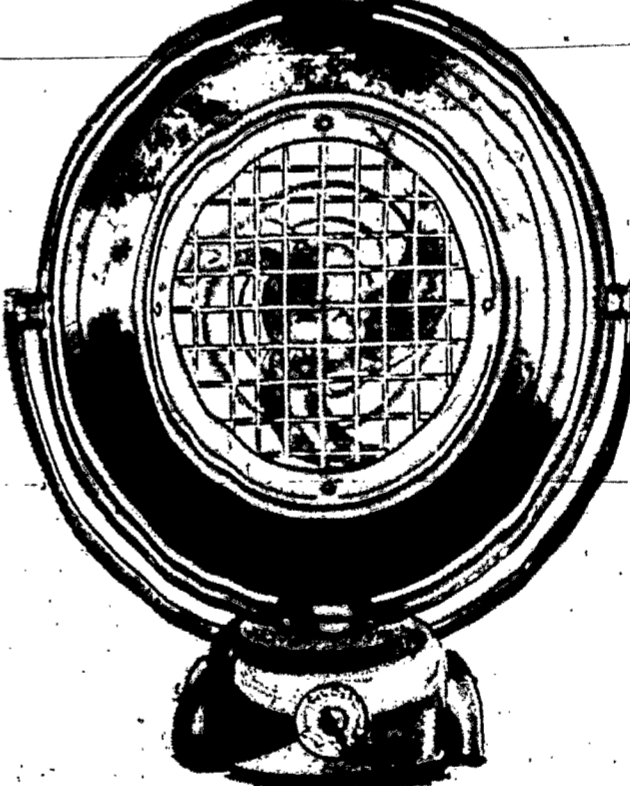
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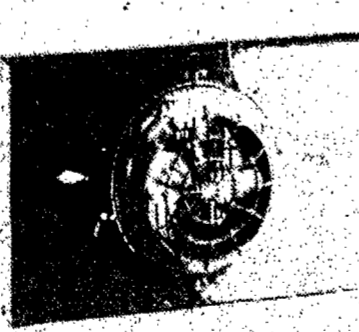
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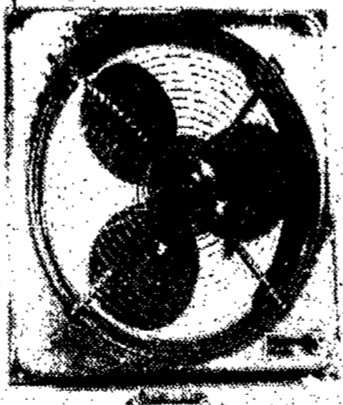
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