

### Jesuit Educators

## Seek Equal Aid For All Students

Kansas City — (RNS) — Changes in certain "discriminatory" provisions in the National Defense Education Act were urged by the Jesuit Educational Conference at a meeting here.

Representatives from Jesuit colleges and universities throughout the United States adopted a statement calling upon Congress to modify four provisions in the 1958 Act which purportedly make unfair distinctions between public and private schools.

These include, the Jesuits said, cancellation of student loans, small number of loans to private schools, exclusion of non-public schools in testing and guidance programs, and non-payment to private school teachers attending language institutes.

Objection to the student loan provision was based on the fact that the law does not permit cancellation of any part of the loan for borrowers who go on to teach at private or parochial schools as it does for those teaching in public schools.

The section calling for direct loans to all schools for the strengthening of science, mathematics and modern languages instruction makes only 12 per cent of the appropriation available for non-public institutions.

ANOTHER objectionable item, the Jesuits said, provides millions for testing and guidance programs intended to find talented students but does not direct the states to carry these programs into private schools.

The fourth provision criticized by the Catholic educators grants money to public and non-public schools setting up language institutes for teachers, but al-

though public school teachers are paid weekly, those teaching in private or parochial schools get nothing.

### Dominicans Open School For Laity

New York — (NC) — A School of Theology for the Laity has been founded here and will give courses in dogmatic and moral theology starting February 2 at St. Vincent Ferrer School.

Classes are conducted by the Dominican Fathers under sponsorship of the Assumption chapter of the Third Order of St. Dominic.

The two courses initially being offered are of 10-week duration and are each limited to a single class that will meet weekly on Monday nights for 75 minutes. In order to maintain the desired scholastic standards, the study material is to be approached and presented in the formal manner characteristic of classes on a university level.

### Priest-Mayor To Visit Soviet

Paris — (RNS) — Canon Felix Kir, mayor of Dijon and oldest deputy in the French National Assembly, plans to visit the Soviet Union in May for "town twinning" ceremonies between Dijon and Stalingrad.

## Collection Set March 8 To Aid World's Needy

Cincinnati — (NC) — Laetare Sunday, March 8, will mark the 13th consecutive year of the American Catholic Bishops' Relief Fund Appeal to assist the needy overseas.

The drive to obtain funds for the worldwide relief programs carried on by Catholic Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference was announced here by Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati, chairman of the NCWC administrative board.

In a letter sent to the heads of all U.S. Sees, the Archbishop noted that American Catholics' generous support of the program last year enable CRS-NCWC to supply "surplus food, clothing, medicines and various services that had a value of over \$140,000,000."

During the week designated for the appeal, March 1 to 8, the majority of the more than 16,000 Catholic churches in the United States will conduct local drives to assist the destitute and hungry in foreign countries.

However, the relief fund appeal will get under way on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 11, with a 40-day Lenten campaign among more than four million Catholic elementary and high school students.

The personal contributions of the school children, which go to aid less fortunate children overseas, have totaled approximately one million dollars each year.

The Bishops' Relief Fund minimum goal is five million dollars, which provides the basis for maintaining a world wide relief operation that functioned in 1958 in 51 countries among 40 million needy persons.



## Last Rites Before Cuba Execution

Matanzas, Cuba — (RNS) — A Catholic priest gives the last rites to Jose C. Rodriguez who was tried by a rebel military tribunal and executed before a firing squad here.

At right, the priest comforts the 51-year-old prisoner moments before his death. A former Batista army corporal, Rodriguez was found guilty of killing two men.

## Cuba Catholic Paper Defends Executions

Havana — (NC) — Executions of ousted dictator Fulgencio Batista's agents were conducted in line with a military code providing strict guarantees of justice, a Catholic publication said here.

It added that the shooting of "a few hundred guilty persons" was mild punishment in view of all the "horrible things" that took place under the fallen dictator's six-year regime.

The influential weekly La Quincena denied that the executions ordered by the military courts of revolutionary leader

Fidel Castro constituted acts of political retaliation. The denial came from the magazine's own director, Franciscan Father Ignacio B'ain.

The Catholic publication, noted for its condemnations of rebel terrorism and government reprisals alike, stated that all persons sentenced to death were convicted of common law crimes.

It said that no civilians had been executed, but only members of dictator Batista's secret police and armed forces "who were clearly open-stained with serious crimes."

Revolutionary leaders have been quoted as saying that under Batista's regime some 20,000 persons, including women and children, were tortured or killed by the fallen dictator's agents. Supporting this view, the magazine said:

"The chain of murders was so long and the men who committed them so well known... that we can easily assert that the testimony of witnesses (at the trials) should stop; pornography and level shows should be barred; other perversion and moral corruption should be removed and all free of unjust accusations."

### Cuba

## Prelate Proposes 9 Point Reform

Santiago — (NC) — The Archbishop of Santiago has praised the revolutionary triumph of Fidel Castro and his followers and called upon the country's new government to improve the lives of the people.

Archbishop Enrique Perez Serantes made nine reform proposals in a 2,650-word letter read in all of the churches of Oriente province, the birthplace of Mr. Castro's 26th of July Movement.

He called the overthrow of the former government a "triumph" gained by the "valiant followers" of Mr. Castro. The leader himself was praised as "a man of exceptional qualities."

In his nine "points to be considered," the Archbishop listed:

1. Let no one lose sight of the fact that man is a son of God and that His ultimate aim is over and above that which is measured by time.
2. Individuals and societies must worship God and those in power must set the example of honoring God.
3. Children must be trained at the home and school — whether public or private — in a Christian way of life.
4. The state must support and protect the sanctity of the family, defending "with valor" the unity and indissolubility of marriage.
5. Immorality must be banished from society in several ways: without restricting freedom of the press, excesses of the press should stop; pornography and level shows should be barred; other perversion and moral corruption should be removed and

exploiters of vice should be punished with a firm hand.

6. Housing must be cleaned up and "filthy habitats where so many families live" in physical and moral disorder must disappear.

7. All men in public office must be upright and honest, "the mirror of good behavior both in the home and in public, who fulfill God's law prior to anything else."

8. Public officials must consider the security and well-being of the people and of families and their decisions should not be made for political motives.

9. Tenant farmers must feel happy in their duties and the government must sponsor adequate assistance to help farmers.

### Castro Promises Divorce Mills End

Havana — (NC) — The Cuban government will reduce facilities for divorce in an effort to strengthen the Christian family, the nation's provisional President told Cuba's Cardinal Ortega.

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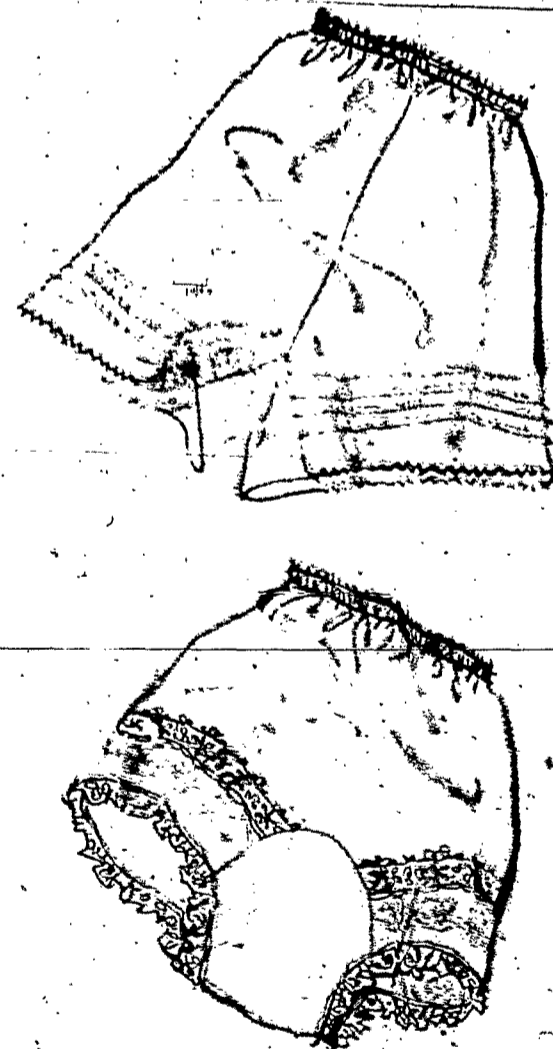
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