



U. S. Ambassador Visits Pope John

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII poses with John Davis Lodge, U.S. Ambassador to Spain, his wife, and daughter during a private audience in the Pontiff's private library here.

A Quaker Says

A Catholic Can Be President

New York — (RNS) Given the right man, a Roman Catholic could be elected president of the United States. Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D.-Ill.) declares in the March issue of Coronet magazine.

The senator, a Quaker, stresses in an article entitled "A Catholic Can Become President," that the time has arrived for Americans to stop thinking of religious faith. It is essential, he says, that Americans cast aside all remnants of prejudice in a time when the whole world is watching to see whether the U.S. lives democracy, or merely talks it.

"What is the reason underlying the refusal of politicians to support a Catholic for high political office?" asks Sen. Douglas. For one thing, he declares, "politicians are worried; they are worried about putting forward a Catholic candidate be-

fore the country is ready for one. They worry that the campaign would lead to religious issues — that the candidate may be defeated, and that his defeat, regardless of cause will be blamed on religion."

"It might also be," he adds, "that Catholic delegates are afraid that a Catholic running for President might adversely affect their own candidates for local office."

THE ILLINOIS Senator states that he does not think a member of a minority religion would do anything to offend the beliefs of the majority. And, he says, there is strong evidence that Catholic officeholders would bend over backward to avoid charges of religious prejudice against themselves or their co-religionists.

"Looking over the ranks of our Catholic Democratic colleagues in the Senate," he observes, "I must confess that the

Old Jewelry Aids Missions

Portland — (RC) — The cardboard box contained antique gold watches, a wedding ring, old coins, a locket and bits of gold jewelry, marked "for Bishop Sheen's missions."

But no box could hold the human memories attached to those treasures kept for many years and in many places.

The carton, addressed to Father Edmund Bliven, director of the Propagation of the Faith in the Portland archdiocese, came from the Mt. Saint Joseph Home for the Aged here.

Five ladies of the residence had given their keepsakes for the missions. They are Almes, Margaret Pollard, Julia Wirtz, Olive Kelly, Mary Cramer and Josephine Gribbin. "It's nice to know where our things are going," one of the ladies said. "And we hope to share in the prayers and Masses of the missions."

Congress Studies U.S.-Vatican Tie

Washington — (RNS) — A concurrent resolution calling for "immediate establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican through appointment of a United States envoy" has been introduced in Congress by Rep. Victor L. Anfuso (D.-N.Y.).

The resolution, which was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, would express the "sense of Congress" that diplomatic representation be established with Vatican City so that the U.S. could be "currently and fully informed on the policies of the Vatican," particularly relating to the world-wide struggle against Communism.

In a statement, Mr. Anfuso said appointment of a diplomatic envoy would be a "gesture of our friendship and our desire to help promote world peace and greater understanding."

"Whether we like it or not," he said, "we are at war with Communist Russia on all fronts. They are bent on destroying the free world, and particularly the faith of the free world in a Supreme Being."

The Brooklyn congressman said this would be a propitious time to send an envoy to the Vatican "in view of Pope John's elevation to the Papal throne and his strong appeal for unity in the ranks of Christendom."

He cited the Vatican as an important center of intelligence and charged that the United States is maintaining diplomatic missions in Communist countries but "is ignoring an important listening post at the Vatican which could be no less valuable to us."

MR. ANFUSO termed "ridiculous" the charge that sending an envoy to the Vatican would constitute special favoritism toward one religion.

"We are interested in preserving the security of our nation and of the free world," he said. "It is therefore most logical to stand together in a common cause with all those forces who think as we do, who seek the same goals, who are fighting the same enemy."

"If Communism should emerge triumphant, it will make little difference whether we are Catholics, Protestants or Jews — all believers, regardless of creed, will be doomed."

"Under such circumstances

Tax Relief Proposed For Tuitions

Washington — (RNS) — Rep. Gerald Ford (R-Mich.) said here that he will press for consideration of his proposal that all tuition payments made by parents to private or parochial schools be deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Mr. Ford has re-introduced a bill which he sponsored last session at the behest of the National Union of Christian Schools, a Protestant group of Calvinist background, which has headquarters at Grand Rapids, Mich., in his district.

Under the terms of the bill, "payments of tuition by the taxpayer for the attendance of his children at a primary or secondary school, conducted on a religious basis by a group organized and operated for religious or educational purposes, shall be treated as a contribution or gift by the taxpayer to such organization."

It would provide a minimum tax saving equal to 20 per cent of the cost of such tuition by parents who send their children to private schools of a religious character. The saving would be larger if the taxpayer is in a higher tax bracket.

The bill (H.R. 98) has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Earlier, several other bills urging tax credit for private school tuition were introduced in Congress. One of them proposed by Rep. Thomas E. Curtis (R-Mo.), would allow a 30 per cent tax credit against the individual income tax for amounts paid as tuition or fees to certain public and private institutions of higher education.

Seminary Superior Montebello — (NC) — Father Thomas J. McIntyre, C.M., has been named president and superior of the Vincentian Fathers' St. Vincent's Seminary here.

A CATHOLIC IN 1960?

Do Senators John Kennedy (Mass.), Frank Lausche (Ohio), Governor "Pat" Brown (Calif.) and other popular Catholic political figures have a chance to be on the Democratic ticket in 1960?

- Will religion be a major issue in the race?
- What problems will face a Catholic candidate?
- As President, would Kennedy appoint an ambassador to the Vatican? Increase federal aid to parochial schools?

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