

'No Cause For Alarm'

Commissioner Denies Fire Hazard Charges

Rochester's Public Safety Commissioner Kenneth C. Townson told the Courier Journal today the city's public and parochial schools maintain a standard of safety "unequaled by most cities in the United States."

He flatly denied recent headlines and articles in local newspapers which charged "holocaust conditions" exist in Rochester area schools.

He also denied a newspaper article imputing negligence to pastors in the way they supervise parish schools. The Commissioner further denied that any schools — public or parochial — are "bad structurally" as reported also in daily papers.

The Safety Commissioner, in an exclusive statement to the Courier Journal, said thorough investigation of over 100 Rochester schools by Fire Bureau and Building Bureau officials, has indicated there is "no cause for alarm" in the structure, housekeeping or safety drills of public and parochial schools.

His full statement follows: "In December of last year this department started inspections of schools in the City of



KENNETH TOWNSON
"safety unequalled"

inspections are yet to be completed. Over one hundred schools have been inspected to date and reports have either been issued to the superintendent, or will be very shortly.

"I have held meetings with this group and have followed their reports with a great deal of interest.

"It is most gratifying to note that the greater percentage of recommendations made by the inspectors were on matters of housekeeping, storage, and various overlooked hazards that we are accustomed to living with as becomes a habit in our own homes.

"At first we were rather apprehensive as to the welcome our inspectors would receive from the advisory personnel of the various schools, but we were delighted with their reception and the cooperation received from Dr. Seymour and the Board of Education, and from Monsignor Boyle, the parish priests and sisters of the parochial schools.

"They asked for criticisms of our inspectors and in every instance they started immediately to make corrections after it was impressed upon them that poor housekeeping is considered our greatest fire hazard today.

"I am very happy to report that 68% of the schools have fully complied with orders, with only 32% still to be OK'd.

"I cannot thank too heartily the members of all the schools who cooperated so willingly in this great drive for public safety which we feel certain has raised the safety of our schools to a standard unequalled by most cities in the United States.

"We are fully aware that in some schools certain structural changes must be made but this cannot be accomplished or even started before vacation time in June. However, our reports to date have not given us cause for alarm and we are proud of the fact that we have not found it necessary to evacuate any of our schools as an immediate hazard.

"I feel confident that next September we will find us in excellent condition and in a position to point with pride to all of our schools with hazards eliminated and well-trained personnel.

The statement is signed by the Commissioner.

To Each His Own

Chong Ju, Korea — The ingenuity of a young curate prevented the perennial Korean "inked-up shoe problem" following a large religious service here.

Catholics from all over the Province gathered at a large local school recently for the Pontifical Mass celebrating the return of Maryknoll's Bishop James V. Pardy to Korea.

"Since Koreans always remove their shoes before entering a building, the presence of 800 pairs of shoes at one entrance promised confusion," reports Father Gerald J. Farrell, Maryknoll Missioner of Brooklyn, N.Y.

But the Brooklyn padre solved the problem by giving each person a plain sheet of wrapping paper in which they held their shoes during the ceremonies. Everybody went home wearing his own shoes.

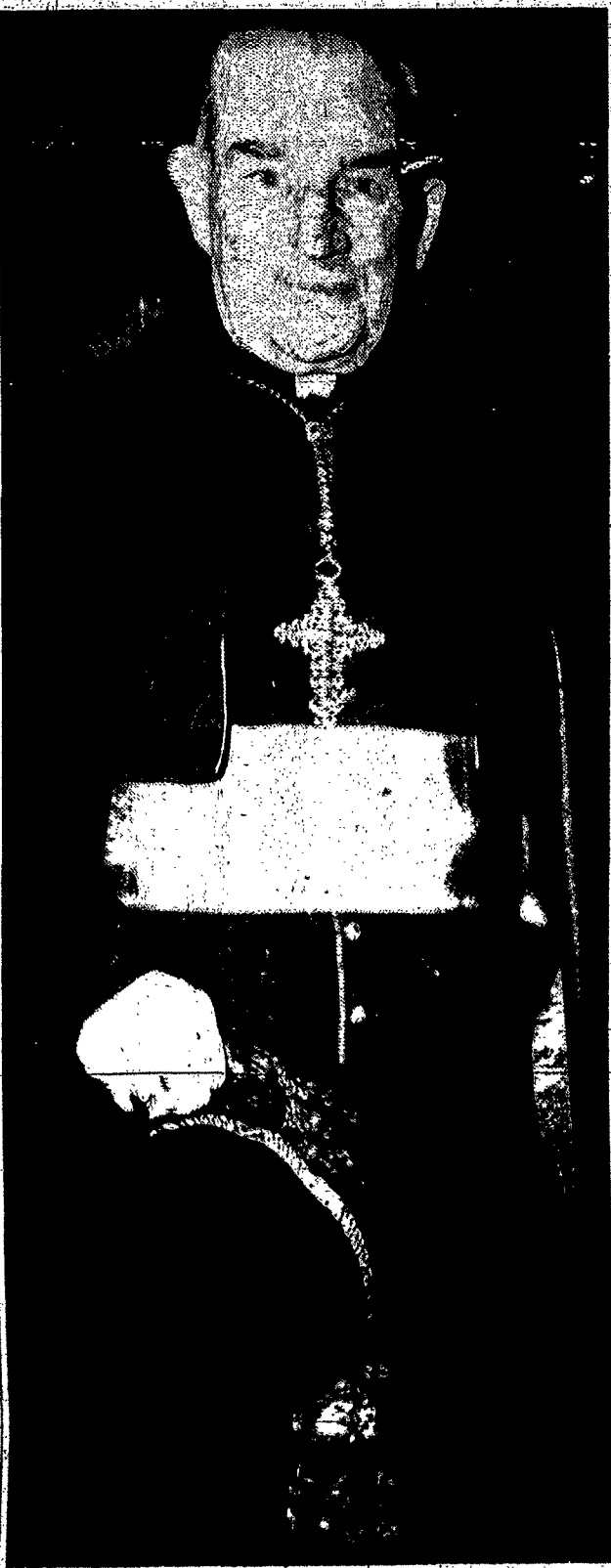
Comics Cleanup Boosts Circulation

New York — (RNS) — Since the inauguration of an industry-regulated cleanup, comics magazines have reached a new high circulation of 600,000,000 a year, it was reported here.

John L. Goldwater, president of the Comics Magazine Association of America, attributed the increase in circulation — 150,000,000 — since the "comics code" was introduced — directly to the improved quality of comics.

He told the annual meeting of the association that another factor was lessening public pressure against the medium. In addition, a number of publishers of "lurid" magazines have gone out of existence, he added.

He reaffirmed the industry's intention to abide by the code and support the Comics Code Authority, which previews all material intended for publication in books published by association members.



Ready For Rome

Bishop Kearney bids farewell for a month as he heads for Rome and an audience with Pope John XXIII.

The Bishop will sail tomorrow, Saturday noon, aboard the liner Independence for a ten day trip to Italy. He will present a special report on diocesan activities to Vatican officials.

He is shown with his Roman style clerical hat and the robes he will wear as he makes the required visits to the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul. (Courier Journal photo by Paul Contestable).

Another seventy-five, who also kept up the long vigil, were turned away because the class was full. They were seeking to enroll their youngsters on a first-come-first-served basis which Msgr. John J. Mahon, pastor of the overcrowded school, had announced some time before.

Lay Teachers Applications

Applications are now being received for positions as lay teachers in the elementary schools of the Rochester Diocese, according to Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles V. Boyle, schools superintendent.

He said properly qualified women interested in teaching beginning in September are invited to visit, write or phone the Catholic Schools office, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, phone BAker 5-3690.

See Inside

Look Out Below Page 5
Local News
Second Section

Portable typewriters, Easy Payments, William S. Thomas, 318 Main St., East. Adv.

Vatican Says Sin To Vote Communist

Greek Priest Visits Pope

Hartford — (RNS) — Archbishop Jakevos, head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, revealed here that on March 18 he privately visited Pope John XXIII at the Vatican.

He made no further comment on the visit, except to note that it marked the first time in some 350 years that a Greek Orthodox archbishop or bishop had called on the Pontiff.

China Pope Proposed

Hong Kong — (NC) — The "study circles" required for Catholics in China by the communist regime at regularly discussing the question of having a "Pope for China," it was learned here.

According to travelers returning from the mainland, the general idea is that local pope in China (Chungking Kiang-ton) would do any completely with the thought of allegiance to the Roman pontiff, who by communist definition is an "imperialist."

China Reds Push Anti-Rome Drive

By FATHER MORGAN J. VITENGLI, M.M.

Hong Kong — (NC) — Strong opposition to the Vatican-concocted Patriotic Association of Chinese Catholics, and the consecration of three more "patriotic" bishops, highlighted a regional conference of Catholics in communist China it was reported this week.

The opposition, led by Archbishop Joseph Chou, Chi-Shih, C.M. of Nanchang, led to his ouster by the "patriotic Catholics." Another priest was consecrated a bishop to replace him.

At the same time, the four suffragan bishops of the ecclesiastical province headed by Archbishop Chou — two of them Americans, and all missionaries long since expelled — were also "relieved" of their bishoprics.

THE MOVES were further schemed in China as reported by the communist newspaper Kiangsi Jih Pao to have taken place last October.

According to the paper, they took place at a joint conference of Catholic and Protestant representatives in Nanchang, capital of Kiangsi province in southeast central China.

At the meeting, the paper reports, Kiangsi members of the

Vatican City — The Church stepped firmly into the turbulent arena of Italian politics this week by branding as sinful a vote for communist candidates.

The ruling — strongest anti-communist action of the Vatican in 10 years — was obviously aimed at the present Catholic-Communist coalition government in Sicily.

The decree, however, affects Catholics throughout the world.

Pope John XXIII approved the ruling made by the Congregation of the Holy Office, the Church's top tribunal in matters of faith and morals.

NCWC News Service quotes L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican's daily newspaper, which published the new decree in full.

The paper says the Holy Office has declared it is "not lawful" for Catholics to vote for candidates, whether actually registered as Communists or not, known as supporters of the Red Party program.

The term "not lawful" means "sinful," it stated.

The Holy Office statement repeats its 1949 decree excommunicating communists or those who support communism.

It goes further than that decree, however, since it makes it sinful for Catholics to support any candidates for public office who, though not members of the Communist party themselves, and though they may claim to be Christians, are known to "unite with the communists and favor them by their actions."

The general effects of the

resolution are clear, but it is also seen on the Italian scene as being directed chiefly against the present government in Sicily which has favored open collaboration between Communists and Catholics. It is also believed to be directed against those Catholics, some of whom are in high places in Italy, who have become openly sympathetic to communism and its program.

ADDING WEIGHT to the supposition that political events in Sicily had prompted the Holy Office condemnation was the fact that on the day following its publication L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican City daily, carried a statement of the Sicilian hierarchy opposing Catholic-Communist collaboration.

The provincial government in Sicily is headed by a former Christian Democrat party leader, Silvio Milazzo. Some months ago, after experiencing difficulties in forming a government, he was joined by a number of fellow Christian Democrats and with the support of communists and neofascists formed a coalition government.

The leader of the Italian Christian Democrats at that time, Premier Amintore Fanfani, warned Milazzo not to go through with the coalition. Milazzo refused and was expelled from the party after saying the Sicilian Christian Democrats would not accept dictation from Rome.

The communists hailed the Milazzo government as proof that Italy's Catholics and communists are necessarily drawing closer together in the nation's political life. It was then that the Sicilian Bishops issued their statement.

Children Still Believe In God

Budapest — (RNS) — Hungary's leading Communist newspaper complained here that "religious propaganda" is being conducted openly in the state schools "while atheistic enlightenment hardly exists."

Nepszabadsag, organ of the Hungarian Socialist Workers (Communist) Party said that although the Churches' influence has "decreased in the past years," children "still believe in God."



Karsh Of Ottawa Photographs Pope John

Vatican City — (RNS) — Shown at the Vatican with Pope John XXIII is world-famed photographer Yusuf Karsh of Ottawa whose portrait (right) of the Pontiff is scheduled to appear in color in the April 19th issue of the American Weekly magazine, distributed with many Sunday newspapers throughout the country. "Photographing the Pope was a rich experience," Mr. Karsh said. "Pope John is a compelling, forthright human being, unashamedly fond of people. He is, as it were, the kindly father intimately concerned with the welfare of all his children. The more I saw of him the more I realized he is truly 'Il Papa.'"

Boston Lay Balk Sunday Let Down

Boston — (RNS) — A spokesman for the Boston Archdiocesan Council of Roman Catholic Men voiced opposition here to four bills designed to mitigate Sunday laws.

Attorney Henry M. Leen told a State House legislative committee the council was "opposed in principle" to the bills because enactment would "neutralize and commercialize" Sunday observance.

"If Sunday is to remain as a day of cessation from business activities and as a day of special significance," Mr. Leen said, "the line must be held as it is now drawn and further exceptions will result ultimately in the complete breakdown of proper Sunday observance."

One bill would permit operation of billiard and pool tables on Sundays and another provides for car washing establishments to open at certain hours.

Sunday sale of food is dealt with in two others. One permits bread sales at all hours instead of the present restricted periods.

In the Solemn Hours, flowers are more comforting than words. In the beauty of flowers is confirmation of the faith which sustains all who have suffered loss. Blanchard Flowers, 58 Lake Avenue, BA 5-9484. — Adv.