

### Faith Freedom Assured In Iraq

Baghdad — (NC) — Iraq's Premier Abdul Karim Qassim has stated that all religions represented in the country enjoy "full freedom" and have his "full protection," through Iraq is officially Moslem.

Whatever their class, religion or nationality, he said, the people of Iraq "are all brothers inside Iraq enjoying full freedom and brotherhood and having the same rights and obligations."



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### Off The Record

## The Sound of Music

By SUZANNE WIGG

Well, here it is, the album of the year, "The Sound of Music." The original cast album, "The Sound of Music" is the new Richard Rodgers Oscar Hammerstein musical which opened at the new Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on November 16, 1959 with a four million dollar advance sale of tickets. While waiting in line for tickets to see the show (which will probably be about a two year wait) one can enjoy the wonderful music from the show with this original cast album.

The story, in brief, is about a young postulant (Mary Martin) in the Nonnberg Abbey in Austria who is sent to the home of Captain Von Trapp to become governess to his seven children. She falls in love with the captain, marries him and the rest of the story is concerned with the Nazi occupation of Austria and the Von Trapp family flight to freedom.

THE MUSIC RANGES from the glowing title song through charming ballads, lively airs and jaunty Austrian tunes to the stirring ceremonial music for the Abbey. The score has a cloister sound to it with such things as "The Preludium" which is several minutes of Abbey bells pealing followed by the ethereal voices of the nun choir, and with the "Processional" which is the music for the well to Maria on her wedding day.

The most uplifting song in this album or anywhere is "Climb Every Mountain" sung by Patricia Neway with a backing voice which seems to transcend the very doors of heaven.

"Do-Re-Mi" and "My Favorite Things" are typical Rodgers and Hammerstein type tunes which one will go around humming and whistling for years. "Do-Re-Mi" is a simple song based on the musical major scale. Maria is teaching the seven children to sing by giving different meanings to the names in the scale.

"Do" is a female deer, "Re" is a drop of golden sun, "Mi" is what I call myself, etc. Although the song never deviates far from the scale, by clever means of counterpoint, it sounds like a brand new form of music. As for Henry Martin, the queen musical comedy, nothing much can be said except that when she sings a song, it stays sung. There isn't a disappointing minute in the entire album. It is an hour of pure enchantment.

DECCA'S BOB BECKHAM has recorded an album called "Just As Much As Ever." Beckham, a hillbilly-tinged pop singer sings several standard tunes such as "Blue Prelude," "September in the Rain," "You'll Never Know," "When a Girl Loves," "Thinking of You" and several other with a real out-of-the-hills style. Mr. Beckham owns a pleasing baritone voice, the arrangements are simple but effective and the whole album has a waxy commercial flavor. It's one of those albums which is neither great nor terrible. It will probably sell a million.

A different Christmas single to arrive on the scene is a thing called "Christmas-mus" by the Commander Shea School Boys' Choir on Cedemus label. The Commander Shea School is the central school of the Caribbean parish, St. Cecilia's, in New York City. With an authentic calypso backing the little fellows sing the song with a delightful Caribbean accent.

It goes like this: "Do we have to be in the north to have Christmas? Do we have to have snow and ice to do it right. Can there ever be a Caribbean Santa Claus in Christmas-mus still Christmas-mus if Christmas-mus ain't white." This is one of those delightful little gems which comes along once in a lifetime and then disappears.

For a kind of silly cutie in the Christmas department, listen to "The Happy Reindeer" by Dancer, Franzer and Nervous on Capitol. This is a distorted voice situation of the famous reindeer with one addition, Nervous. The tune itself is bright and happy, even hummable. The idea of changing the speed of tape to distort the voice is getting a bit tired but it will probably last until Christmas.

Until then, this "Happy Reindeer" will enjoy a nice Christmas season.

THE FOUR PREPS on Capitol bounded out with a peach, "Down by the Station." It is the same old tune of yesteryear but the Preps have added a real catchy beat background and sing it with some wonderful solid harmony. It's one of those tunes you will go around singing or humming all day if you happen to hear it in the morning. It has the nostalgia of a folk song, the crispness of a brand new arrangement and the earmarks of a big success.

ARCHBISHOP Gawronski flew here from Rome, where he resides. He sat next to Cardinal Godfrey of Westminster at the annual central meeting of the Catholic Council for Polish Welfare.

They heard Mr. Nora Warnington, the council's newly-named honorary treasurer, describe her visit to Poland this year as "a fulfilment of a dream and a ground a shattering nightmare."

"The river in Warsaw runs presumably the same," she said. "The banks and bridges are different. The paradox is everywhere. Communism and Catholicism exist side by side with everywhere the people hard-working, disciplined, tremendously brave and often even gay."

"But you have only to scratch the surface to be back in the nightmare. Underpaid, unrelaxed, overworked, one had to adopt the disciplined way in which they accept their unrelenting life. But the Poles of Poland are eager to live."



### Academy To Have Winter Whirl

Sacred Heart Academy's "Winter Whirl" will be held at the Chatterbox Club, Tuesday, Dec. 29, 9 to 12 p.m. Anne Waldert, Laurie Ann Sanders and Shannon Hayes have arranged the annual Christmas time dance. Parties preceding and following the dance have also been planned.

### Poland Faith In Peril

London — (NC) — Archbishop Godfrey of Westminster, who has just returned from Rome, said that the Polish bishops are constantly asking for spiritual and material needs, he added especially religious books, manuals, medicines and clothing.

### Father Conway, 87, Dies 'Question Box' Author

New York — (NC) — Requiem Mass for Father Bertrand L. Conway, C.S.P., 87, credited with converting 4,000 persons to the Catholic Faith, was offered in the Church of St. Paul the Apostle here. Burial was in the church crypt.

FATHER CONWAY died (Dec. 8) in Roosevelt Hospital after a long illness. A native of New York, he was acquainted with Father Isaac Hecker, founder of the Paulist Fathers, and his assistants, Father Augustine Hewitt and George Deshon. Father Conway was ordained in 1895 and spent 40 years in mission work among Non-Catholics. He was the author of "The Question Box," a book of questions and answers on the Catholic Faith, which first was published in 1903, was revised in 1929 and has passed the four-million mark in circulation. His other books included "Studies in Church History" and "The Virgin Birth."

Father Conway, who served as general treasurer of the Paulist Fathers, in 1917 organized the Catholic Unity League which distributed Catholic books to Non-Catholics throughout the country.

Washington — (NC) — Television is presenting a "basically mediocre image" of America and Americans, a Catholic priest has told the Federal Communications Commission. Father William F. Lynch, S.J., also warned that the "oceans of fantasy and dreams and distortions" presented by the mass media could eventually make Americans "not willing or able to face the political or military decisions history sometimes calls for."

Father Lynch made the statement (Dec. 11) during hearings by the FCC on radio and television network programming policies, and the extent of its powers to regulate these policies.

The Jesuit educator, a member of the faculty at Georgetown University, is the author of a recently published book, "The Image Industries," that is strongly critical of the U.S. mass media.

Earlier (Dec. 10) the FCC heard an official of the Catholic University of America urge the television industry to "continue and perfect its own system of self-regulation," based on the television code of the National Association of Broadcasters.

In many accident cases, the fact that a driver has been drinking is not recorded and is never entered in the driver's official record.

### Xmas Said Ancient Christian Symbol

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — Use of the abbreviation "Xmas" for "Christmas" has been endorsed by the Pittsburgh Catholic, official diocesan publication, which called it "one of the most significant and venerable Christian badges."

The newspaper declared in an editorial that the term is neither "secular" (as many religious groups have charged) nor "unliturgical."

Asserting that the "X" in "Xmas" stands for the word "Christ," the Pittsburgh Catholic said that as such the abbreviation "long preceded newspapers, department stores, Santa Claus and any worry about the secularization of Christmas."

"It is an abbreviation that goes back to the very time of Christ," the paper added. "The adaptation is from the Greek, specifically from the Greek letter for our CH, which is X."

The editorial recalled how in the days of early Christianity the "X" became a distinctive mark of the Christian. "There is therefore no reason for Catholics to fret or to object about the use of the 'X' for Christ and its application to words like 'Xmas,'" the paper said. "In reality the 'X' is a sacred monogram, standing for the title of Jesus as Redeemer and Messiah announced by the Godhead."

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