

America 'Too Far Away'

Lincoln's Bid For Cardinal

By MSGR. JAMES I. TUCEK

Vatican City — (NC) — For the first time in history the U.S. is to have six members of the College of Cardinals. Less than a century ago it was considered too far from the Holy See to have even one.

A story is told here of how a leading Vatican official advised a pope to turn down a request for an American cardinal during the administration of President Abraham Lincoln. The story, however, omits the name of one of its principal figures, President Lincoln's envoy:

As the story is told here, a special envoy presented himself at the Vatican during the reign of Pope Pius IX, announcing that he had been instructed by President Lincoln to bear greetings to the Pope and to inquire into the feasibility of having an American cardinal.

The diplomat was ushered into the office of Cardinal Giacomo Antonelli, Papal Secretary of State, but the Cardinal could not speak sufficient Italian. The famous curator of the Vatican Library of that time, Cardinal Giuseppe Mezz-

anti, who claimed knowledge of some 30 languages, was called in as an interpreter.

When President Lincoln's envoy stated his business, Cardinal Antonelli was shocked. He said under his breath to Cardinal Mezzanti: "This man is mad." Then he turned to the envoy and, through his interpreter, said:

"My dear sir, the whole idea is impossible. It can never be done."

THE ENVOY asked for one good reason, and the Cardinal said that, for one thing, America was too far away. To this the envoy pointed out that he had made the voyage from the U.S. to Europe no less than seven times. This time, he added, it had taken him only 25 days to travel from New York to Rome, and the day would come when it would be done in even less time.

"All that may be very true, sir," said the Cardinal, "but the cardinals are the Pope's counselors, and the Pope will never go to the ends of the earth for his counselors. Do you not see how it would be if he had to wait for the American cardinals?"

The diplomat was a match for Cardinal Antonelli. He cited the facts of history for him, noting that in times past it had taken cardinals many weeks to travel to Rome from Seville or London. He concluded by suggesting that Cardinal Antonelli

must have some very special reasons for wanting to refuse the President's suggestion.

This latter departure from diplomatic language must have impressed the Cardinal, for he suggested that the proposal be immediately set before the Pope.

THE CARDINAL went in alone first to speak to the Pope, and he did not hesitate to present the President's suggestion as so much folly. The Pope is said to have replied:

"Your Eminence, I think that the idea of President Lincoln is altogether wise and noble, and that his envoy should be treated as a worthy and excellent person. You forget a circumstance of my life. I am, among the successors of St. Peter, perhaps the only one who has set foot on the soil of that great American continent. The honor awaits me, therefore, of creating American cardinals."

For my part I wish there were men of every race and tongue in the Sacred College."

Some years later the U.S. had its first member of the Sacred College, Cardinal John McCloskey, Archbishop of New York. Pope Pius IX had served as auditor at the apostolic delegation in Chile from 1823 to 1825.

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Chaplain Receives Chalice

PRESENTED by Corning Assembly, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, the William Kady Memorial Chalice is accepted by Rev. William F. Nolan (left) Catholic Chaplain, U. S. Veterans Administration center, Bath. Presentation is made by Faithful Navigator Thomas V. Hanly of Corning Assembly.

New Filipino Party Leans To Left

Manila — (NC) — The newly formed National Progress Movement (NPM) has been described in an official statement issued by Catholic Action of the Philippines as "political, leftist and anti-Catholic."

THE VIGILANCE Committee of Catholic Action declared that the NPM "aims to spread all over the Philippines its own version of nationalism," and that it is not guided in its program by Christian ethical principles.

The NPM, according to the Vigilance Committee, "preaches a nationalism based on injustice, hate and prejudice."

Specifically, it was pointed out that the National Progress Movement is agitating against foreigners, and that it has made derogative statements against the Catholic Church.

The NPM stated in a recent publication that "the Catholic Church and sectarian institutions have been employed and

Year's Aid Totals \$115 Million

Washington — (NC) — A program of inestimable mercy, with a monetary value of \$115,075,532, was conducted during the period between October 1, 1958, and Sept. 30, 1959, by Catholic Relief Service—National Catholic Welfare Conference world-wide relief and rehabilitation agency of the U.S. Bishops.

This was disclosed in the agency's annual report submitted by Msgr. Edward E. Swannstrom, its executive director, to the CRS—NCWC board of trustees.

THE REPORT also stated that for the third consecutive year more than one billion pounds of relief supplies were distributed to the poor and needy overseas.

The 1,022,130,000 pounds of relief goods during that period went out in 1,024 shipments to 88 countries and was valued at \$81,345,890. Included in these shipments were \$58,720,733 worth of surplus foods donated by the U.S. Government. The remaining \$22,625,157 worth of supplies was gathered from various sources by the agency itself.

The report said that since the inception of CRS—NCWC in 1943, now grown into the largest private relief agency of its kind in the world, the total amount of food, clothing, medicines and other relief supplies shipped by the Bishops' agency has totaled 5,310,999,101 pounds, with a value of \$305,791,478.

Frauds Caught in St. Louis

St. Louis — (NC) — The St. Louis Better Business Bureau has warned persons to beware of solicitations to a so-called "Catholic Directory" after two St. Louis area businessmen claimed they were contacted by advertising salesmen for the non-existent directory.

St. Louis County Sheriff Orion J. Litzinger said the directory was a project of a man whom he described as a "promoter." The sheriff arrested two employees of the promoter and charged each with obtaining money under false pretenses when they attempted to sell advertisements for the directory.

Knights Again Elect Hart

Washington — (NC) — Luke E. Hart of St. Louis was unanimously re-elected Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus at a meeting here of the board of directors.

Mr. Hart has been head of the knights since 1953, and long has been influential in the direction of the society's activities.

McDonald Edits New Magazine

Milwaukee — (NC) — Donald J. McDonald, former editor of the Davenport (Iowa) Catholic Messenger, has been named editor of a new quarterly magazine.

To be published at Marquette University, purpose of the magazine is to contribute to public understanding of the world of scholarship and ideas. Emphasis will be placed on achievements, objectives and problems of higher education.

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