

Philosophers Said Failing 'To Take Off'

St. Louis — (RNS) — Contemporary philosophy is too preoccupied with beginnings to allow it "to take off," the president of the American Catholic Philosophical Association declared here.

Addressing the group's 34th annual meeting, Father Robert Lechner, C.P.P.S., professor of philosophy at St. Joseph's College, Collegeville, Ind., said that sometimes "we return so often to verify the authenticity of our point of departure that we never get very far."

"Prominent Catholic philosophers from throughout the country attended the two-day meeting, which was sponsored by local Catholic universities, colleges and seminaries.

Speaking on "The Practice of Philosophy: A Call to Contemplation," Father Lechner said that there is more to philosophizing than asking questions. "It seems to be a fact," he said, "that when we are concerned very much with beginnings we must take precautions that our sense of finality, or metaphysical feel for finality, is not weakened."

"It becomes so easy to stop along the way with no great or deep sense of emptiness or incompleteness or fulfillment. We fall as philosophers if we generalize and synthesize too quickly, without sufficient reflection and depth in penetration of facts.

Much history of philosophy is the story of such failures, Father Lechner, editor of the journal, Philosophy Today, added. "We fall just as surely — and more so — if we stop philosophizing too soon," he said, "if our mind rests before we have touched the ultimate in reality."

Fordham Day At New York

New York — (NC) — Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York has proclaimed May 3 as "Fordham at Lincoln Square Day."

On that date ceremonies celebrating the university's 100th anniversary will be held for the new Fordham University Law school in the Lincoln Square redevelopment area.



She Meets Her Son Again

Chicago — (RNS) — Bending to kiss the hand of her son, Father Joseph Pruskis of Chicago, is Mrs. Ona Pruskis, 73, who was permitted to leave Lithuania only after OK by Premier Nikita Khrushchev. The Iron Curtain refugee had not seen her son since he fled Russian territory in 1948. He is assistant pastor of St. George church in Chicago.

Europe Protestants Want Confession

Basel — (NC) — A Protestant minister has declared that "the demand for confession is coming vigorously to life among Protestants."

The Rev. Mr. Eberhard Zellweger said in a booklet published here, "Confession and Forgiveness," that "it becomes more evident all the time that the future of Protestantism will hinge on whether confession is granted the outlet it deserves."

Mr. Zellweger quoted Holy Scripture to support his idea, but refused to accept the intermediary of the priesthood. His pamphlet recalls a 1951 session of the Lutheran

Chemist Predicts Synthetic Food To Ease Hunger

Synthetic Food To Ease Hunger

Washington — (NC) — Synthetic foods produced by chemical processes may hold the solution to food shortages created by the world's expanding population, according to a government scientist.

"The bold assumption that chemistry can make as great a contribution to civilization in the next century as agriculture did 2,000 years ago is based on the fact that the chemist has produced from nonliving materials most if not all of the substances essential to human nutrition," says Archibald T. McPherson.

HE IS associate-director in charge of engineering at the National Bureau of Standards, and a former chief of the Bureau's Division of Organic and Fibrous Materials. His estimate of the contribution synthetic foods can make to food shortages is contained in the March Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

Declaring that techniques for producing synthetic foods on a large scale, "for the most part, are still in the laboratory stage," Dr. McPherson adds: "Before large-scale manufacture can be achieved, it will be necessary to develop practical chemical engineering processes and to build manufacturing plants."

Carbohydrates, proteins, and fats — the basic elements of human nutrition — can all be produced by synthetic methods, he states.

Waste paper collected in the U.S. each year — about 200 pounds per person — could supply 180 pounds of carbohydrates, or about one-third of the energy requirement of each person, he says. He notes that synthetic production of fats was accomplished in Germany during World War II and states that proteins in the form of amino acids are already on the market, principally as animal food supplements.

New Birth Control Pill Said Morally Wrong

Weston — (NC) — A theologian has described as "diametrically opposed to Catholic teaching" a doctor's suggestion that a pill which suppresses ovulation might be morally acceptable to Catholics.

Father John J. Lynch, S.J., professor of moral theology at Weston College, made the statement in commenting on remarks attributed to Dr. John Rock, who has done research on the pill at Harvard University.

Dr. Rock was quoted by newspapers as having said at a meeting of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology that the pill acts in a natural way to prevent ovulation and therefore could be acceptable to the Church as a birth control technique.

However, Father Lynch commented that "the use of any drug for the purpose of inhib-

Anti-Faith Trend In Italy Noted

Rome — (NC) — Italy's bishops have issued a joint pastoral letter condemning the growing opposition to the influence of the Church and religion in this country.

In their pastoral the bishops use the term "laicism," which they define as "systematic opposition to every influence which religion in general or the Catholic hierarchy in particular exercises over the activities of men."

THE LETTER, whose signers include 14 cardinals, 64 archbishops and 90 bishops, says that some of the signs of laicism are:

— A malicious criticism of every kind of Church intervention in public life;

— Protests against any participation by government officials in religious ceremonies;

— Support of every effort to introduce divorce into Italy and to scrap the concordat between Italy and the Holy See;

— Giving publicity to alleged scandals of the clergy;

— Intolerance toward Catholic life and thought;

— The incapability of understanding the religious significance of the interest of the

Church and hierarchy in guiding Catholics in public life.

The pastoral says that "the Church has no interest in opening ancient differences, neither does it want Catholics dragged into useless controversies. But it cannot remain indifferent to the danger of the laicist idea, which is penetrating even the ranks of the Catholic clergy and laity."

The bishops also denounce the tendency toward underestimating the ability of Christian teaching to solve social problems.

Priest, Nun Knifed

Fort Hall, Kenya — (NC) — A priest and a nun were slashed seriously by a band of Africans in a raid on the Buri Catholic mission.

They are Father Arbinson, a missionary, and Sister Filomena, a nurse.

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Nuns Plan Asia Work

Taipei — (RNS) — Plans to establish the first Asian foundation of the Medical Missionaries of Mary have been formulated here by Mother Mary Martin, Superior General and founder of the Irish order.

Up to now, the 23-year-old congregation has confined its missionary activities to Africa. Mother Mary Martin just completed a two-week visit to Formosa during which she discussed the possibilities of affiliating a Medical Missionaries nursing school to the medical college of the planned new Fu Jen University here.

The extension of activity to Taiwan marks a notable stage in the rapid development of the Medical Missionaries of Mary. Since 1937, when the congregation was founded, 15 mission houses have been established in Nigeria, and Angola, West Africa, and in Uganda and Tanganyika, East Africa. Hospitals with training schools for African nurses, maternity centers, marriage training centers and four leper settlements have been set up.

Missionaries Assigned
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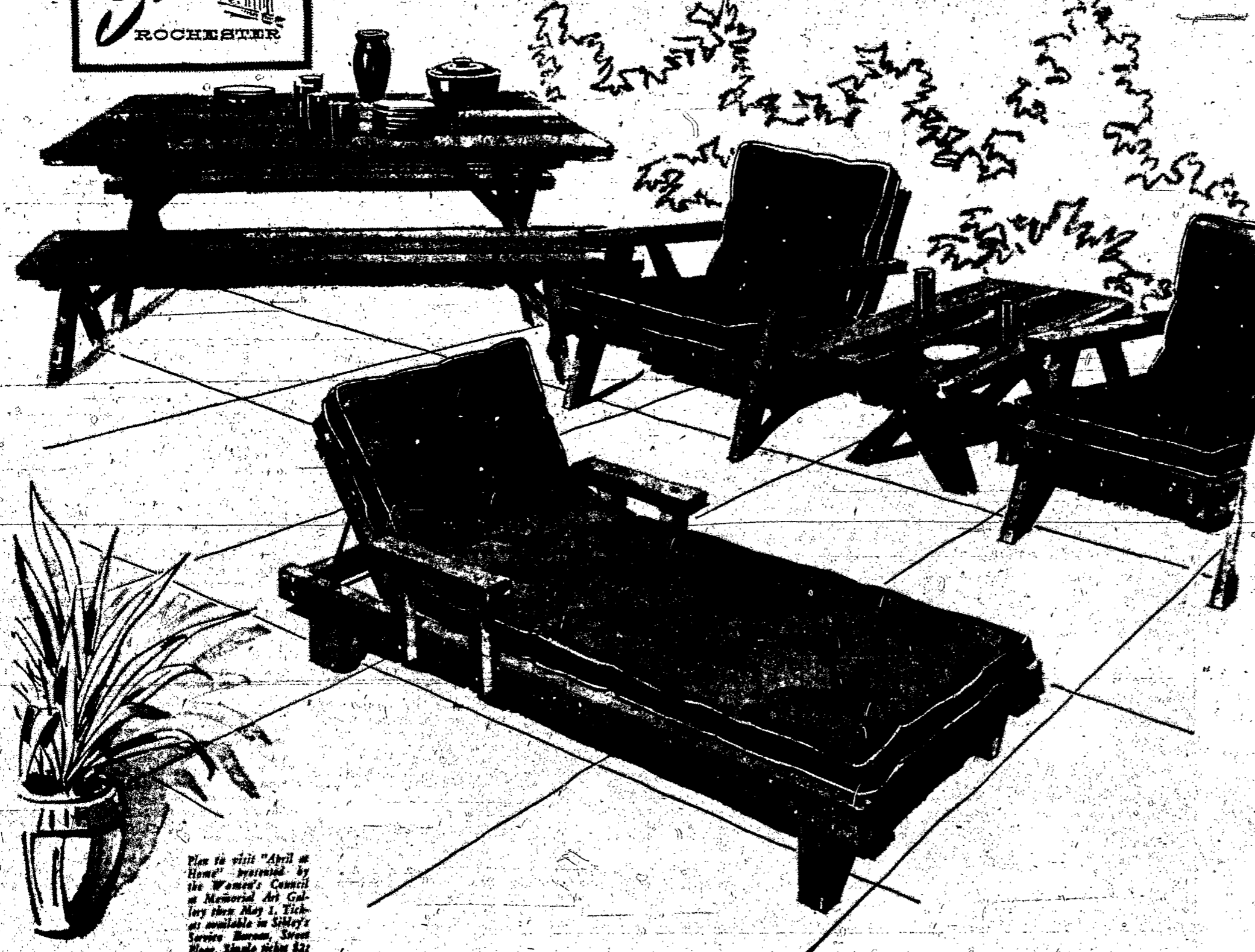
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