

Court Asked

Parking Lots Church Need?

Washington—(RNS)—Is it essential in this automobile age for a church to have a parking lot for the use of persons desiring to attend worship services and does the prohibition of parking on church-owned land through zoning laws abridge freedom of assembly and worship?

These are questions raised before the United States Supreme Court by James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, on behalf of Santa Felicitas and Perpetua Church—known locally as Old Adobe Mission.

THE APPEAL to the Supreme Court brings to a climax long litigation between the city of San Marino, Calif., and the church over the issue. The church bought the lot in 1939, and in 1948 built a new church near it and in 1950, a parochial school. For ten years it has been used as a parking lot on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and is a playground for school children at other days.

Church membership in the historic parish has grown from 150 in 1939 to 1000 in 1960. While acknowledging that use of the lot is at variance with zoning regulations in the populous Los Angeles suburban residential area, the church contends that such use has been continued and has now become essential to the operation of both the church and its school.

Attorney Charles A. Horsey of Washington, D.C., representing Cardinal McIntyre, has asked the Supreme Court to "impose if 'where other religious, educational and commercial establishments (in the area) were granted the precise zoning variance here sought to petitioners... their discriminatory enforcement in violation of the due process and equal protection clause of the Constitution'."

The attorney contends that the California Court of Appeals, in upholding the city's zoning rule, failed to distinguish "between mere property rights and the rights of freedom of assembly and freedom of worship."

In short, the Supreme Court is to decide whether a parking lot there is no freedom of religious assembly in modern-day Los Angeles County.



'To Bigotry No Sanction'

New York—(RNS)—This was the scene at the 170th anniversary celebration in New York of George Washington's famous letter to the Touro Synagogue in Newport, R.I., containing the oft-quoted phrase "To bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance." Listening to one of the youngsters read the letter are (l. to r.): Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, Philippine ambassador to the United States; Morris Morgenstern of the Morris Morgenstern Foundation; and Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The event launched a nationwide campaign against religious and racial intolerance. It was sponsored by the NCCJ and the foundation.

'Prison Friars' New Order

Roma—(RNS)—A new "Order of Prison Friars" dedicated to bringing spiritual solace and hope to the inmates of Italy's jails and penitentiaries has been founded here by Father Blandino della Croce, a Franciscan priest.

On Father della Croce's habit a small badge has appeared depicting the legendary wolf of Subbia offering its wounded paw to St. Francis of Assisi. It will be worn by those who will daily cross the thresholds of the country's prisons on errands of spiritual and temporal mercy.

"The unfortunate man in jail," the priest said, "is a sick man, and as such he needs a specialist who can analyze and treat the causes of his disease. As spiritual physicians rather than priests alone, the members of the new order will spend their lives trying to bring human beings back from moral and spiritual darkness to the light of humility, understanding and health."

Such complaints have been made especially by the Bulgarian paper, Rabotnichesko Delo and the Hungarian publication, Tolnacskegy Napujag, it said.

The Vatican station said Rabotnichesko Delo complained especially that attendance at religious meetings in Bulgaria, has increased recently.

Smut Blamed For Crime Rise

Findlay, Ohio—(RNS)—Public and court apathy in permitting a dangerous increase in sex crimes, many of them directly linked to the reading of obscene publications, the new chairman of the Ohio Citizens for Decent Literature charged here.

Edward F. Castleberry of Cincinnati, made the statement at the third annual meeting of the group which has spearheaded the fight against obscenity in Ohio and served as a model for other U.S. groups, many of whom number churches or affiliates.

Castleberry cited sex crimes in Cleveland and Lima in which he alleged, smutty reading matter was a factor.

"IN BOTH CASES," he said, "the men involved had been arrested for earlier sex offenses and let off with what he described as 'light sentences'."

In Cleveland, a man arrested after a series of obscene phone calls to a suburban housewife was found to have two suits

COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, November 4, 1960 7

"Short" steel isn't short, according to The World Book Encyclopedia. It's just the steelman's way of saying the metal is brittle.



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Reds Complain

Vatican City—(RNS)—A study of current anti-religious campaigns in all Iron Curtain countries shows that their atheistic organizers are very dissatisfied with the results of their efforts, the Vatican Radio reported.

The station broadcast extracts from newspapers in the Communist countries complaining that the majority of so-called Communists publicly claim to be atheists, but "go very religious" when they get home.

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KC Sues Minister For Libel

Kearney—(RNS)—A \$100,000 libel suit has been filed by the Knights of Columbus in United States District Court here against a Farmville, N.C., Baptist pastor and a Eureka, N.C., woman who are charged with printing and distributing a "large quantity" of pamphlets containing the "bogus oath" attributed to the Knights of Columbus.

The Catholic fraternal group said the oath was "calculated by the defendants to demean and injure" the organization and its members. The K. of C. further charged that the Rev. Donald R. Bryan, pastor of the Central Baptist church in Farmville, and Mrs. Ruth J. Timby of Eureka, were "motivated and actuated by a spirit of actual hatred and malice toward members of the Roman Catholic Church generally and towards the Knights of Columbus."

The Council asked to be awarded monetary damages in the amount of not less than \$100,000. Actual damages, the group said, are "incapable of estimation and calculation and are irreparable."

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