

Arrested Priest Says

Sit-ins Justified

Oklahoma City — (RNS) — Father Robert G. McDole, the Catholic priest twice arrested for participation in lunch counter demonstrations, has publicly disagreed with the local president of the National Association of Colored People, over future sit-in strategy.

The priest also has denounced city officials for their stand on racial questions.

Father McDole's statements were made the day after an announcement of his transfer from his post as assistant pastor of Corpus Christi Catholic church, an interracial parish here, to St. Mary's church, Ponca City, in Northern Oklahoma.

E. Melvin Porter, local NAACP president, had indicated no future demonstrations would block aisles and doorways leading to eating places.

Father McDole's last arrest on March 11 came when he and 12 others were charged with

disorderly conduct when they used the passive resistance technique of squatting in front of the entrance to a local cafeteria whose management had refused admission to demonstrators against its policy of refusing to serve nonwhites.

TAKING ISSUE with the NAACP head's stand, Father McDole said: "We do not take orders from Porter or the national NAACP office. The sit-in movement is not associated with the NAACP."

Porter countered that, as local NAACP president, he had given the orders and that demonstrators would obey "if they remain a part of the NAACP." Porter said he discussed the situation with the national NAACP office, "but the decision was made by me."

Father McDole, referring to blocking the way of regular customers at downtown restaurants, insisted, "We're not interested in keeping them in or out. We're interested in eating and being served. And I believe we are morally justified in civil disobedience in trying to gain the higher aim of human rights."

The priest labeled the city council and Oklahoma City Mayor James Norick as "beneath contempt." He said, "They talk of property rights as though they were human rights. We say human rights are far more important than property rights or civil law."

Father McDole denied that his transfer to Ponca City effective March 18 indicates disapproval of his actions by Bishop Victor J. Reed of Oklahoma City-Tulsa. "As a matter of fact," the priest said, "the bishop stood behind me as far as possible in this thing."

"The time came, however, when he thought any further participation would be detrimental to the cause of the Church and the dignity of the priesthood. He asked me not to participate in any more demonstrations." It was then he requested transfer, said the priest.

"But, I leave my heart with the sit-in movement," he added. "I am bound to obey my bishop and I will gladly follow his wishes."

Maine Governor Backs Bus Rides For All Pupils

Augusta — (RNS) — Gov. John H. Reed of Maine announced his support of legislation which would allow the use of public funds for bus transportation of pupils to private schools.

Two bills have been introduced in the Maine legislature on the subject. At the request of Gov. Reed, Rep. Sylvio Gilbert of Augusta filed one measure which would allow municipalities to spend tax money for private school transportation, but the state would subsidize only the part which it is paying for rides for public school children.

The other bill presented by Rep. Melvin Lane of Waterville would make it permissive for municipalities to spend tax money for transportation to private as well as public schools.

MANY MAINE communities have transported all children at public expense for many years. Four years ago the issue erupted and was taken to the state Supreme Court which ruled that it was illegal to use tax money for private school transportation. The court suggested that legislation could be passed which would make it legal.

Despite the Supreme Court ruling, several communities continued to provide transportation to private schools when the present term opened last fall. A threat by Roman Catholic school officials to close many of their schools, causing greater expense to municipalities, prompted many communities to ignore the court's stand.

Dial For Sermon

Syracuse — (NC) — Forty thousand calls a week are placed to a local telephone number for spiritual advice and comfort.

Callers who dial Granite 4-4261 hear a recorded message provided by the Franciscan Apostle of the Telephone at the headquarters of the Conventual Franciscan Fathers.

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Annual KC Breakfast

ANNUAL BREAKFAST of the Auburn Council, K. of C., was held at Mount Carmel High School Sunday after the group received Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church. Principals at the breakfast (from left): Rt. Rev. Msgr. James D. Cuffney, administrator of St. Mary's Church; Rev. Raymond J. H. Kennedy, of LeMoyn College, principal speaker; Joseph W. Janosko, breakfast chairman; Philip J. Conboy, grand knight; and Joseph P. Cuddy, toastmaster. Over 300 attended the affair.

Portugal's 4 Centuries Of Failure

Lourenco Marques — (NC) — A stepped up Catholic Action program among Negroes had been adopted in Mozambique shortly before Portuguese Africa became the latest section to be caught up in the wave of nationalism sweeping over this continent.

The revitalized program followed a reminder that, over the centuries, whites have sinned gravely in their treatment of Negroes.

The reference to the past was made by a Prince of the Church born in Africa of Portuguese parents, Teodosio Cardinal de Gouveia, who spoke at the close of Mission Week here on the history and present state of the missions in Portuguese Africa.

Name in the News

He spoke before dozens of whites were massacred (March 15 and 16) by rampaging tribesmen in Angola, across the continent. There was no relation between the two events.

THE ARCHBISHOP of Lourenco Marques pointed out, too, that whites have often given a very bad example to Negroes because of what he called their immorality, mania for pleasure and religious indifference.

Portuguese Africa, until recently little affected by the rising tide of African nationalism, broke into the news in February when African riots in Angola took some 50 lives.

The riots touched off demands by independent African and Asian nations — backed by the U.S. — for a United Nations investigation into Portuguese rule in Angola. Portugal strongly opposed the demand and won its point March 15 in the U.N. Security Council.

Portuguese opposition was based on the claim that since 1951 Angola, like other Portuguese African territories, has not been a colony but an integral part of Portugal. It said, the U.N. would be illegally interfering in its internal affairs.

The same day the Security Council turned down the investigation proposal, dozens of whites were killed by rampaging tribesmen in northern Angola. All 23 whites on a farm near Quiexa, including women and children, were slain. A report from Lisbon said the tribesmen had crossed the border from the neighboring Congo. It had been reported earlier that there are some 60,000 Angolans in the Congo.

Today, he added, "we are at the beginning of a new era in Africa. It is more urgent than ever to integrate the people of Mozambique into the nation. Above all, the most certain means to this end is education which is inspired by the traditional Christian principles of morality, justice, heroism and brotherly love."

At the close of Mission Week, it was decided to step up the work of Catholic Action groups among the Negroes, to send suitable persons to Portugal for training in Catholic Action work, to intensify efforts for good interracial relations, to defend family life and encourage better education, and to work for greater cooperation between Catholic Action organizations and the missionaries.

More than five centuries ago the Portuguese became the first modern Europeans to lay claim to African territories. Today Portuguese territories consist of six widely scattered areas, varying in size from giant Angola — a country the size of France, Italy and Germany combined — to the 320 square-mile Madeira Islands, birthplace of Cardinal de Gouveia.

Other territories are the Cape Verde Islands, Sao Tome and Principe Islands, Portuguese Guinea and Mozambique. The six territories have a total area of 795,273 square miles and a combined population of 12,187,000, of whom 2,512,000 are Catholics.

Angola was discovered in 1482 and within a decade missionaries had converted one of the native kings and his people. A few years later the first Portuguese settlers arrived. But early Portuguese and Church gains, all of which were made along the coast, were soon wiped out by raids of cannibal tribesmen from the interior. In 1575 Portuguese troops restored their country's rule over Angola and built its capital city, Luanda.

Luanda, which became a diocese in 1596.

MISSIONARY efforts were seriously hampered by the opposition of the large number of Moslems in northern Mozambique, the unhealthy climate and particularly by the demoralizing effects of the slave trade, of which Mozambique remained a center until 1877. During the centuries the Church in the area made very slow progress and from 1812 to 1940 it was a mission dependent on the Goa patriarchate in India.

Angola now has 1,382,000 Catholics in a total population of 4,840,000. Mozambique's 6,234,000 people today include 583,000 Catholics, up from 85,333 in 1940.

During the past 20 years the number of Catholic elementary schools in Mozambique has risen from 294 to 2,995 and the number of their pupils from 43,214 to 453,355. In the same period 83 churches and chapels have been built and seven seminaries established. In Angola there were 50 native priests by 1956.

But many native Catholics, ill instructed and clinging to the remnants of paganism, need reconversion. In addition, not half the European Catholics practice their Faith, one priest has noted. Protestants are active in both territories and have won about 550,000 adherents in Angola and Mozambique, as well as close to a million Moslems.

Despite recent gains, the Portuguese, great pioneers of Christianity, have been unable in their more than four and a half centuries in southern Africa, "to convert more than a third of the Angolans or more than a tenth of the people of Mozambique."

Although race prejudice is far less marked here than in many other parts of Africa, Negroes who have not been "assimilated" are often subject to forced labor that takes them away from their families. Women and children as well as men are recruited for forced labor, in defiance of colonial law.

Palm Sunday Observance Set

Members of the Sacred Heart Men's Society of St. Anthony's parish, Elmira will hold their annual Palm Sunday observance on Sunday, March 26.

THE GROUP will receive Holy Communion at the 7:30 Mass and breakfast will follow.

Ten Year Back Taxes On Polish Churches

Vatican City — (RNS) — Financial burdens imposed by the Communist government are creating new difficulties for the Catholic Church in Poland, a Vatican broadcast said.

It said the official government gazette, Monitor Polski, has announced that "ecclesiastical institutions are to be considered as private institutions and taxed up to 65 per cent of their investments."

Acting under this new decree, the Vatican station said, the president of the Polish National Bank sent a circular to chancery offices around the country notifying them that in the future, dioceses, parishes and seminaries will be treated on the same basis as private institutions so far as income taxation is concerned.

"This arrangement, which is retroactive and is held to apply for the past ten years," the station commented, "will make it practically impossible for the Church in Poland to undertake any building projects."

A further difficulty, the Vatican Radio added, is that all Church deposits in the Polish National Bank have been transferred to savings accounts from which withdrawals can be made only by special permission of the state authorities.

New Ceylon Law Threat To Faith

Madras — (RNS) — A Catholic weekly here sharply criticized a new move by the government in Ceylon which it said represents another anti-religious measure in the predominantly Buddhist country.

The New Leader said that not only Ceylonese, but all Indian Christians, have been "deeply shocked" by a bill introduced in the Colombo parliament to give the government absolute power over all places of worship on the island.

It said the bill empowers the Director of Cultural Affairs and the Minister of Culture, under certain conditions, to destroy shrines and to ban the building of new places of worship.

The paper recalled that only last January, the Catholics of Ceylon abandoned an agitation against the nationalizing of all the country's schools, hoping that this gesture would be met by a reciprocal display of goodwill by the government toward the Christian minority. Instead, it said, the government has decided to go ahead with another anti-religious measure.

The New Leader said that although the bill places all religions on the same footing, Christians in Ceylon find no assurance in this fact.

The reason is, it explained, that while the Buddhists, being an overwhelming majority and politically powerful, would find it easy to secure permission to build temples, it would be almost impossible for the small Christian community either to prevent existing places of worship from being torn down or new shrines erected.

Faith Blocks Graduation

Berlin — (NC) — A communist periodical in Soviet Lithuania in effect has asked students at the University of Vilnius to keep an eye on fellow students to see to it that professed Christians are not graduated.

The magazine Literatura i Menas (Literature and Arts) spoke out after a Vilnius student had written to it in defense of the practicing Catholics of his native village.

Cowboy Title For Prelate

Oklahoma City — (NC) — Denver's first Catholic bishop is being considered for Colorado's nomination to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center being built near here.

Bishop Joseph P. Machebert, who was named Bishop of Denver in 1957, is among five clergymen being considered for the honor. The others were Protestant ministers.

Prelate Defends Unions

Madrid — (RNS) — Enrique Cardinal Pla y Deniel, Archbishop of Toledo and Primate of Spain, declared here that Catholic workers and other associations are essential for the Church's mission in this country.

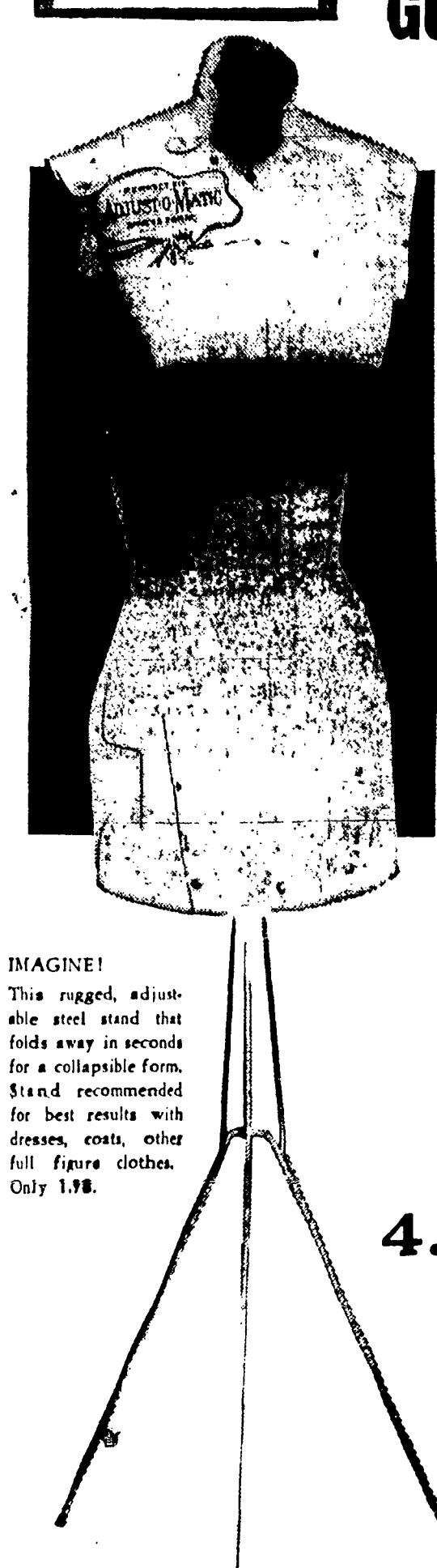
He was regarded by observers here as alluding especially to the fact that the Spanish authorities have balked at giving official recognition to Catholic Action Workers' Brotherhoods which are independent of the official Sindicatos, or trade unions, which embrace about 9,000,000 workers in 22 national groups.

Addressing the closing session of the Seventh Congress of the National Assembly of Employers' Social Action, the cardinal said it is not the duty of the state to conduct an apostolate.

"Even though our state is a Catholic one," he stressed, "Catholic associations are necessary. The state can pass laws and can exert coercion, but if these laws are not obeyed in a spirit of affection and conviction, they will not be fully carried out, or not observed at all. Even in a Catholic state, Catholic associations are essential for the fulfillment of the Church's mission."

Bishop Named For Owensboro

Washington — (NC) — Msgr. Henry J. Soenneker, 53, spiritual director at St. John's Seminary, Collegeville, Minn., has been named Bishop of Owensboro, Ky., by John The Diocese of Owensboro was established in 1937. It extends 12,502 square miles over 32 counties in Western Kentucky. The diocese has a Catholic population of more than 37,000 in the area where there is a total population of more than 620,000.



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