

Unemployment Haunts Nation

Rochester Catholic Charities officials were in Toledo this week for the National Conference of Catholic Charities.

They heard church and government leaders stress the need for both private enterprise and tax supported assistance to aid the poor.

The specter of unemployment, the Charity officials were told, threatens to haunt the nation in the wake of increasing automation.

U.S. Labor Dept. Robert C. Goodwin said, "For the first time in our postwar history we are experiencing genuine hard-core unemployment, with its killing impact on the life of the community, state and nation. For the first time we are experiencing the waste product of progress on a very large scale and we find ourselves inadequately set up to cope with it."

Attending the Toledo meeting from Rochester were Father Donald Mulcahy, William Charbonneau and Joseph D'Aurizio, Angelina Boelly, Mary Ann Hickey, Madeline Sullivan, Marion Brasley, Mary Dawson, Philip Powers, Gerald Pashley, Sister Robertina, Sister Theophane, Raymond Coleman, Beryl Coleman and Marion Leaty.

Father Mulcahy chaired a workshop session on provisions of social security laws affecting children.

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Scholarship In Catholic Journalism

Chicago — (NC) — Students aiming at a career in Catholic journalism can soon count on substantial scholarship and other aid, according to an announcement by the Catholic Journalism Scholarship Fund, Inc.

The new foundation has already collected enough funds to award initial scholarships in time for the 1962-63 academic year, said Msgr. John S. Randall, founder-president and managing editor of the Rochester Courier-Journal.

He made the announcement here after a meeting of the foundation's directors. Formation of the foundation was made public last spring by Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh at the annual convention of the Catholic Press Association in Vancouver, B.C.

Msgr. Randall said the directors expressed unanimous approval of the new Career in Journalism program of the CPA. Bishop Albert R. Zurob, episcopal chairman of the NWC Press Department, sent a message to the meeting in which he commended the directors' efforts on behalf of the scholarship project.

Among those present at the ceremony were Father John LaFarge, S.J., associate editor of America, and the chief of the Catholic Interracial Council, parent body of 48 similar bodies in all regions of the country, and representatives of various Protestant and Jewish organizations engaged in the field of intergroup relations.

"This requires extensive research, and the article closes with the suggestion that the federal government should support such programs."

Even this necessarily brief outline indicates that the author has tackled his difficult subject with considerable

acumen and directness. We agree that controversy concerning family planning has tended to focus on methods rather than objectives; that public policy regarding birth control will probably follow the precedents established in regard to divorce, therapeutic abortion, and sterilization, as recent experiences in New York, Denver, and Washington indicate; and that considering the worldwide significance of family planning problems, there is need for much more research.

On the other hand, the article contains several statements that must be qualified to avoid misunderstanding of the Catholic position.

First, and this is by way of greater precision, the church does not teach that chemical and mechanical methods of birth control violate natural law in that they frustrate procreation. Such methods are judged contrary to natural law because they hinder or inhibit the adequate fulfillment of the marital act by interfering with the natural physiological process it initiates.

Hence the contraceptive act is judged evil in itself and not because it may frustrate a possible conception.

Second, with the exception of religiously active Protestants and Jews, Catholics do disagree with Non-Catholics over the objectives of family planning.

Catholics regard marriage as a sacred calling or vocation in which the partners seek their mutual sanctification by dedicating themselves to the service of new life. In

this connection it is relevant to note that modern secular definitions of marriage do not include procreation as an essential element.

Third, it is understandable that Dr. Rock's statement concerning the "pill" should prove disconcerting, since it seems to imply that the Catholic view on this subject has not yet been clarified. However, Catholic moral theologians are unanimous in stating that the use of the "pill" for contraceptive purposes is prohibited, inasmuch as it constitutes direct sterilization, which is wrong.

Fourth, although the doctor's solution to the difficult problems relating to public policy will probably be accepted in our pluralist society, it will disturb many Catholic thinkers, since they maintain that the arguments against contraceptive birth control are derived from principles based on natural law, which should be apparent to all thinking men. However, they must admit that the traditional Christian conception of natural law has been rejected by the majority of Non-Catholics so that arguments based on it are no longer generally accepted.

Finally, it is possible that this article will upset Catholics because it brings them face to face with the practical implications of a pluralist society for a religious minority. Different beliefs concerning the nature of man and his basic institutions have far-reaching consequences in the practical order both in terms of public policy and personal conduct.

Commenting on the continuing Catholic-Protestant controversy in the field of birth control, the priest said the issue implicit in the words uttered by Pope Pius XII in 1951, when he affirmed the Church's sanction of rhythm and added, "Conscience and religion are concerned with private sin; the civil law is concerned with public crimes." Father O'Brien entirely secure basis.

The priest said that perfection of the rhythm method would help reduce tension between Protestants, Catholics and Jews since effective birth control means would remove the issue from politics.

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The priest also pointed out a "further development of significance and promise."

"In an admirable gesture of friendliness and goodwill," he said, "Protestant Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike proposed that the National Institutes of Health launch a research program to render the rhythm method as simple and effective as any of the contraceptive methods. If that were accomplished, Bishop Pike would probably favor, in the interests of national unity, concentrating on the rhythm method in our foreign aid to underdeveloped nations."

Bishop Pike's constructive proposal echoes in part a plea implicit in the words uttered when he affirmed the Church's sanction of rhythm and added, "One may even hope that since we will succeed in providing this licit method with a sufficient secure basis."

Writing in the October 10 issue of Look Magazine, Father O'Brien pointed out that the National Institutes of Health had a budget of \$560 million for 1961.

He stressed that if the institutes devoted but one per cent of that amount for research "to render the rhythm method simple and effective," great strides would be made in the field of birth control.

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Article On Birth Control Calls for Clarification

An article by "an eminent Roman Catholic doctor in July Good Housekeeping and this month's Reader's Digest claims 'We can end the battle over birth control.' Jesuit Father John L. Thomas of St. Louis University in this special article comments on Dr. John Rock's statement.

As I understand it, Dr. Rock's thesis runs as follows. Although Catholics and Non-Catholics differ in doctrine, they share similar views concerning the need to regulate family size under certain conditions, so that their disagreement is not over the objectives of family planning but over the methods used. Further, since we live in a pluralist society, our laws and policies covering public institutions should respect the convictions of all groups.

This means, according to Dr. Rock, that existing restrictive laws should be abolished and pertinent public institutions should make available all methods of birth control on a voluntary basis. Finally, he says, progress toward the resolutions of doctrinal differences will come about only if a much broader variety of birth-control methods emerges, so that effective techniques acceptable to all religious groups will become available.

This requires extensive research, and the article closes with the suggestion that the federal government should support such programs.

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Crash Program For 'Rhythm'

New York — (RNS) — A "crash research program" designed to perfect the rhythm method of birth control was urged here by a Catholic theologian.

Father John A. O'Brien, research professor of theology, University of Notre Dame, called on Congress or the Kennedy Administration to order such a program, saying "there is every reason to believe that the problems of family planning and of population control could be solved" if the rhythm method were made 100 per cent effective.

Other than abstinence, the rhythm method is the only form of birth control approved by the Catholic Church.

Father O'Brien also said that because the "overwhelming majority" of Protestant denominations approve birth control it would be impossible to "oppose the general religious and moral conviction of such a majority by legislative fiat." To do so, he said, would be "to invite the same breakdown of law and order that was occasioned by the ill-starred Prohibition experiment."

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Intrepid Spirit Of Columbus

Washington — (RNS) — President Kennedy, in his first Columbus Day Proclamation, called on Americans to mark the 469 anniversary of the discovery of America by "appropriate ceremonies in churches, schools, and other suitable places."

"The intrepid spirit and steadfast faith which sustained the great explorer on his venture into the unknown are a constant inspiration to us as we seek to achieve ever greater accomplishments in every field of human endeavor and strive to help create a better world community," the President stated.

This country, he said, has as its foundation "the great principle of democracy, including cause of personal freedom and the dignity of the individual—principles which are shared today by the free peoples everywhere."

106,000 members of the Third Order Secular of St. Francis and the Catholic Interracial Movement to combat discrimination through education and good example has been "the most important development in the history of the movement."

George K. Hunton, secretary of the Catholic Interracial Council of New York, spoke at ceremonies here during which he was presented with the 1961 Peace Medal of the Third Order.

In recognition of his outstanding work as peacemaker in the field of race relations, attendance at the ceremonies were over 500 representatives of Third Order fraternities from many parts of the country.

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