

America's present strength is God-given "that freedom may not fail," said the nation's Catholic bishops this week.

They said despite growing Communist truculence, "we must not be discouraged, imagining that our hour of opportunity has passed.

"It has not passed. The hour of greatest opportunity is striking now as the forces of freedom and of tyranny grid for a decision."

The bishops said the greatest threat to this country is a widespread "moral deterioration" which corrodes all ranks of society. They cited as evidence — increased crime, corrupt practices of civic leaders, stubborn continuance of race prejudice and disintegration of family life.

They made their statement at the end of their annual meeting in Washington.

In underscoring that "our national ideal no longer exists upon a foundation of broad and solid morality," the bishops declared that "ignorance of moral principles and the rejection of the very notion of morality are on the rise today and threaten to undermine our nation and its most sacred traditions."

The bishops said responsibility for the moral decline was shared in part by the modern communications media, popular education, secularism and scientists who deny the existence of God.

"Although the communications industry, through many sincere and admirable leaders, has made valuable contributions to human welfare," they said, "yet it has also inflicted on the modern world a pernicious cult of the image. Submerged beneath waves of publicity from the motion picture to the television set, the image of the image... Man's moral focus is distorted. For nations as well as individuals, the all-important thing is the image that is projected on the minds of others."

Regarding popular education, the bishops said that "at first, there was no intention of excluding either religion or morality from the common tax-supported school."

However, they added, "the diversity of our religious pattern and the rising pressure of secularism have produced the school without religion, an it was idle to suppose that this school could long facilitate the American youth moral confusion which would be firmly hard. The result is that our society is now faced with great numbers of young people almost devoid of religious beliefs and moral guidance."

Defining secularism as "the banishment of God from all public and private life and the enthronement of human nature in its place," the bishops said: "Under its influence, men may not perhaps deny God; on formal occasions, they may even mention His name. In practice, however, they simply ignore His existence. They do not openly reject moral principles; they may even pay them lip-service. But they disregard them or reduce them to hazy generalities. In general, the only sanctions they recognize are those supplied by individual taste, public opinion and the power of the state."

Stressing that even among those who have not rejected moral principles a moral apathy exists, the bishops struck out against citizens who are not concerned enough to exercise the right to vote; elected officials who are interested only in their "public image," their personal power; and union members, labor leaders and industrialists who place their selfish interests above national security and the common good."

Stressing America's international moral responsibility, the bishops, speaking of the emerging new nations, said "we must inspire, even help these nations wherever possible, to build on a religious and moral foundation if we are to contribute significantly to the achievement of their national aspirations."

"Meanwhile," they added, "we must be willing to open our hearts and our homes to those who come to our shores, to make room for them in our schools and universities, even to send our own sons to their lands to assist them. All these things we must do, not as mere counter-moves against communism, but for their essential rightness, as expressions of our highest principle: love of God and love of neighbor."

We Dawdle In Prejudice

Washington — (RNS) — A leading Catholic educator who is a member of the Civil Rights Commission strongly criticized Americans who seek to preserve the "blessings of democracy for their own white selves alone" by denying equal opportunity to minorities.

The Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president of Notre Dame University, particularly condemned the "unspoken, but very effective conspiracies of builders, real estate brokers and good neighbors" who deny adequate housing to minority groups.

"We are all excited about Communist subversion," he said, "while we perpetrate a much worse and studied subversion of our own constitution that corrodes the nation at its core and central being — the ideal of equal opportunity for all," he stated.

Father Hesburgh made his comments in a separate statement issued in conjunction with a report by the Civil Rights Commission, which includes five other members besides the priest.

In his statement Father Hesburgh noted that this country spends billions to convince the uncommitted nations of the world that "our way of life" is better than communism, "and then wastes out all the good effects by not even practicing our way on our own homeland."

"Personally," he concluded, "I don't care if the U.S. gets the first man on the moon, if while this is happening on a crash basis, we dawdle along here on our corner of the earth, nursing our prejudices, flouting our magnificent constitution, ignoring the central moral problem of our times, and appearing hypocrites to all the world."

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School Aid Debate Continues

Washington — (RNS) — The U.S. State Department reaffirmed their stand on federal school assistance by stating they will oppose "any form of general federal aid to education that discriminates against children" at existing private and parochial schools.

A statement drafted here by the prelates said, "The bishops unanimously appealed for justice and for an understanding of the rights of such children to participate in any proposed program of aid."

Washington — (RNS) — Protestant groups here expressed "regret" that the Roman Catholic bishops reaffirmed their stand that they will oppose U.S. aid to education if such legislation excludes assistance to private and parochial schools.

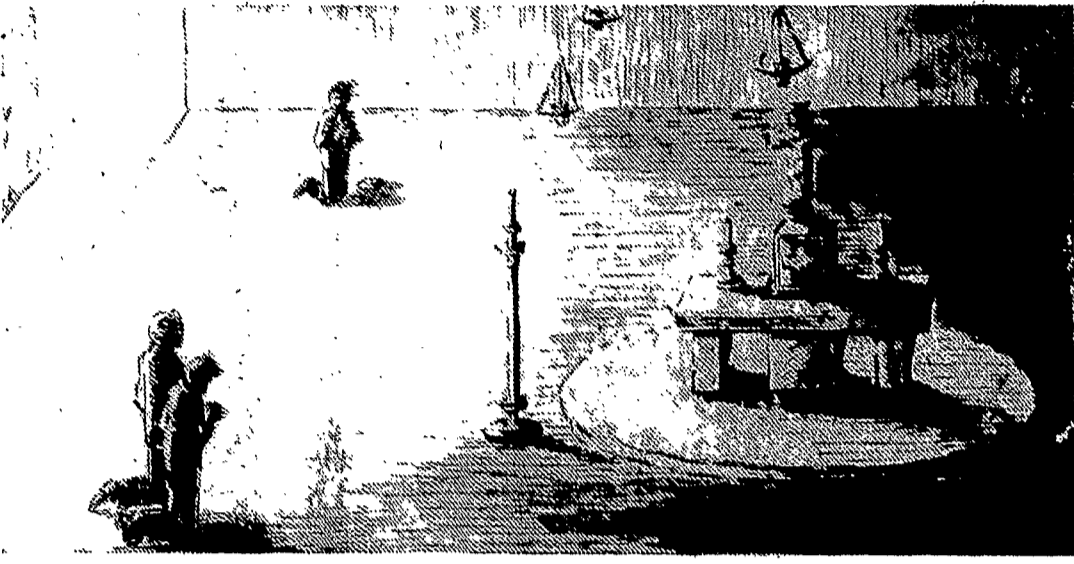
The same position which the Catholic hierarchy pursued so vigorously during the past session of Congress succeeded in dividing the American public and was the primary reason for the defeat of legislation to provide federal aid to public schools," said Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, secretary of public Affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Parliamentary, Lutheran, Unitarian and Jewish spokesmen and Dr. Glenn L. Archer of "Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State" voiced similar objections.

New York — (RNS) — The Kennedy Administration will offer Congress in January an "affirmative school aid bill" which would allow the federal government to decide if federal funds are to be used for both public and private education. It was indicated here by Abraham Ribicoff, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

At a press conference here, Ribicoff disclosed that the new Administration approach would give to each state a flat two per cent of its expenditures on public education without regard to the number of public or private school children, as in past bills.

The federal funds, estimated at \$375,000,000 a year, would go directly into state educational allotments to be distributed as local authorities see fit, the Secretary explained. Those states which wished to use the federal funds for private and parochial schools could do so, he said.



High School Oratories

Altar In Center, No Pews

Students at Monroe County's two new Catholic high schools will literally gather "round our divine Lord when they make visits to the Blessed Sacrament."

Each school will have two classrooms set aside as oratories — prayer-rooms — designed so pupils can offer a brief prayer between class periods.

The oratories will have the altar in the center of the room and no pews. The floor will be carpeted wall to wall.

This arrangement will enable more pupils to get into the oratories and will eliminate the inevitable inconvenience of entering and leaving pews.

The sanctuaries in the middle of the rooms will be bordered by hanging lamps and flanked by two large floor candlesticks.

Besides the two oratories — one for the boys' wing and the other for the girls' wing of each school — there will also be two chapels, one for the brothers and another for the nuns who staff the schools.

Auditoriums will be used when entire classes or all the students attend Mass.

The two schools — Bishop Kearney High School in Irondequoit and Cardinal Mooney High School in Greece — are currently under construction and scheduled to open in September, 1962. Each school will enroll 800 boy students and 800 girls to be taught in separate classrooms by separate staffs.

Look to Eternal Life Says Pope at Eighty

Vatican City — (RNS) — Commenting on his birthday, Pope John XXIII urged pilgrims to the Vatican not to be confined by earthly considerations but to look forward to "eternal life" where man finds the meaning of existence.

Today is the Pontiff's 80th birthday.

Receiving in audience a large group of pilgrims, many from the U.S., the Pope expressed his gratitude to "the thousands of faithful" who have tendered their good wishes for his birthday.

"This supernatural concept of life alone can give serenity of spirit even in the old age when one's strength becomes less and one knows that the gates of eternity are about to open," he said.

Churches Too Silent

Washington — (RNS) — America's churches and synagogues are "too silent" on social issues, says Arthur J. Goldberg, said here in an address before the 46th biennial General Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

He called on churches and synagogues to intensify their efforts in calling for legislation on social and moral issues that affect the nation's welfare.

Goldberg said the nation's religious institutions were "too often afraid to offend, too often the victims of the conformity of thought and the tyranny of community thinking they should deplore and expunge from society."

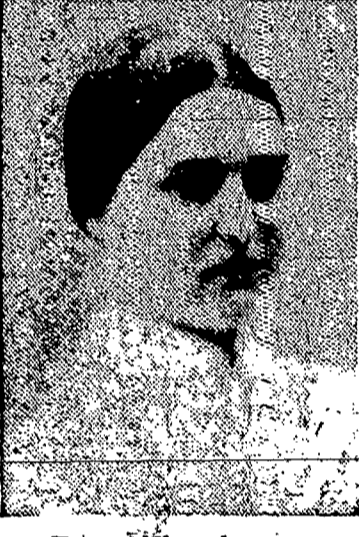
The Cabinet officer urged them to face up to such issues as "the denial of equality in economic life, trade policies and their effect upon people here, housing and urban development."

Jewish Nun, Nazi Victim

Berlin — (RNS) — Catholics in East and West Germany commemorated the 70th birthday of Edith Stein, a Jewish-born Carmelite nun who died in a Nazi gas chamber in 1942 and whose beatification cause has been advocated for many years by German Catholics.

Born in 1891 in Breslau, now Wroclaw in Poland, Edith Stein came from a family of seven children. A student of philosophy, she became assistant to several outstanding professors at German universities and was later a lecturer in philosophy and education at Munster University.

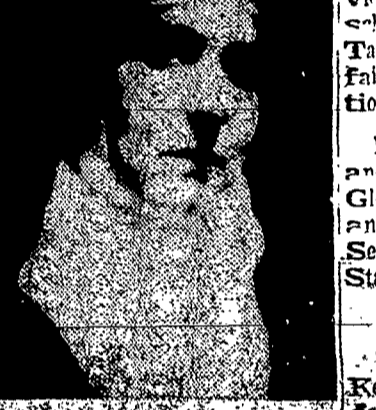
The deportation was believed to have been in retaliation against a protest of the Dutch Catholic hierarchy denouncing Hitler's anti-Jewish measures.



From philosophy...

In 1922 she became a convert to Catholicism and in 1933 entered the Carmelite order in Cologne as Sister Benedicta of the Cross.

When the Nazis began their all-out persecution of the Jews in 1939, she was transferred by her order to the Carmelite cloister at Echt, Holland. But, in 1942, during the Nazi occupation of Holland, she was deported by the Gestapo, along with some 300 Dutch Catholics of Jewish birth, to the Auschwitz concentration camp where she died in a gas chamber on August 9, 1942.



Nazi victim

Racial Questions

Undiluted by Expediency

"Time has run out. There are no tomorrows" for finding the "best" solution to the racial problem.

"The oppressed and exploited peoples are demanding their rights and demanding them."

Telecasters Go to Mass

Vatican City — (RNS) — Church law requiring attendance by the faithful at Sunday Mass is fulfilled by technicians and television workers who aid in transmitting the services from Catholic churches, provided they had the intention of complying with the precept.

This was the decision handed down here by the Vatican's Sacred Congregation of the Council which had been asked to rule on the obligation as it affects Catholics in bringing telecasts of the Mass to the public.

The Congregation decision said: "Those who work inside the church at the television transmission satisfy the precept as do those who inside the church cooperate with them, provided these persons had the intention of fulfilling the said precept and by that intention are united with the celebrant."

now," said William Chiles at the Nov. 14 meeting of the Catholic Interracial Council.

Chiles, a Negro and a Catholic, is relocation director for the city of Syracuse. He has been a member of the Syracuse Catholic Interracial Council for twenty years.

Catholics in 1941 were in the vanguard of interracial programs but the present "small" group "tend to leave us as members of the rear guard," he stated.

He said current racial conflict in this country discredits our claims made to the new nations to spurn Communist promises in favor of America's better way of life.

"If America would sell democracy to the world, she must first adopt and practice its principles here at home. It is rather difficult to export that which you do not have," Chiles said.

He blamed "the generation immediately ahead of you" for creating a "compartmentalized society."

"They solved few, if any, problems in this field. For the most part, they dealt with a formula to make the problem tolerable — separate but equal. Now we see so clearly that this was a false philosophy... and unless we find a better formula, we may destroy ourselves" by forfeiting our nation's position as world leader to the Communists.

HE QUOTED the advice of a Jesuit missionary in India, Father George Dunne, who told a young man with hopes to serve in foreign missions, "Stay in America and fight racial segregation. You can do more for the missions that way... because the example of racial segregation in America is the biggest obstacle we have to overcome in trying to tell the people the merits of both Christianity and democracy."

Chiles said Catholics should solve racial questions by honest application of "the teachings of the Church, undiluted by expediency, practicalities or compromise."

Subsequent speakers at meetings of Rochester's Catholic Interracial Council will include: Nov. 23, Rev. Benedict Ehmann; Dec. 12, Rev. Raymond Kenny; Jan. 9, Father Ehmann; Jan. 23, William Stewart; Feb. 6, Dr. Edna O'Hern; and Feb. 20, Father Ehmann.

Meetings are held at Immaculate Conception school hall at 8 p.m. and are open to the public.

Seminarians Feast Nov. 30

Students of St. Andrew's Seminary will celebrate their patronal feast at a pontifical Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thursday, Nov. 30, at 8 p.m.

Bishop Kearney will preside at the Mass in his "cappa magna" — the ermine and red cap used for solemn ceremonies.

Celebrant of the Mass will be Auxiliary Bishop Casey and the sermon will be given by Monsignor Richard Burns.

Seminarians will sing and serve the Mass. Parents and friends will attend.

Tomorrow morning, Saturday, Bishop Kearney will preach the sermon at a Mass to be offered by Cardinal Spellman in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, to mark the 75th anniversary of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion.



Clothing to Aid Poor

Parish centers are piled high with clothing donated for relief of the world's poor. At Corpus Christi Church, Belinda Romeo and Raymond Pannone help Father Thomas Slat sort items just before start of their Thanksgiving holiday.

LAST WEEK'S PAID CIRCULATION 66,036

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Bishop To Lead Radio Rosary

Bishop Kearney will lead in recitation of the Rosary in Monday evening's WSAY radio broadcast of the Family Rosary for Peace program at 7 p.m.

The date marks the feast of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Catherine Labouré in 1832 to reveal the pattern of the "miraculous medal."

St. Mary's Hospital student nurse sodalists will make the Rosary responses in the broadcast.

FOR THE CEMETERY
Evergreen, Blakely, Wreath and Sprays and all Holiday Decorations now ready at will appreciate our prompt plan. TROTT BROS., 1100 Mt. Hope, GE 4-3771-Adv.

Textbook Plan Unconstitutional

Portland — (RNS) — The ruling of the Oregon Supreme Court declaring that school districts cannot constitutionally provide free textbooks to church-related elementary schools has created a series of problems and policy questions for public and parochial systems in the state.

It is expected that parochial schools, the great majority of them Roman Catholic, will have to absorb an expenditure of more than \$1,000,000 over the next five years to provide texts for their pupils.

Meanwhile, some public school administrators weighed the question: Because the Oregon Supreme Court based its findings on the state constitution, should the state continue to provide bus service to parochial school students?

The Circuit Court judge who in May had ruled Oregon's 20-year-old free text books law to be constitutional had done so because he felt the famed Everson decision — in which the U.S. Supreme Court, acting on a New Jersey law, upheld public-supported transportation for parochial school students — was equally applicable to free textbooks.

Judge Ralph M. Holman said he felt the U.S. Supreme Court decision overrode his personal belief the Oregon law was unconstitutional.

Because of the Everson decision, Oregon now supplies free bus transportation to parochial students.

In overruling the Circuit Court judge, the Oregon Supreme Court said it had acted on the basis of the state's constitution, asserting it was not necessary to decide whether the textbook law violated the federal constitution.

A Portland public school executive estimated that the district has about \$150,000 invested in books currently used in parochial schools.

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