

Tension Mounts In Uganda

Kampala — (RNS) — As this British protectorate in East Africa approached independence on Oct. 9, there were some indications of strained relations between Christian Churches and the government which will head the territory as it joins the parade of free African nations.

Approximately 40 per cent of Uganda's population of 6,536,000 is Christian. There are an estimated 1,710,000 Catholics and some 921,000 Protestants. According to the World Christian Handbook, the country is served by 203 foreign-born and 118 native Catholic priests; and 731 ordained Protestant ministers, 92 of whom are foreign-born.

A central issue here is the future status of Protestant and Catholic mission schools which account for more than 90 per cent of Uganda's educational facilities. Fear has been expressed in some circles that the church-related schools will become state-controlled after independence from Great Britain.

Education ranks as one of the country's biggest problems. It has been reported that the authorities are considering a crash program to boost the level of learning, but that they are not sure how to go about it.

Although Uganda has some of the best schools in Africa, only 11 per cent of its children go beyond the fourth grade level. Since the country is mainly agricultural, little schooling is needed to make a modest living. At present education is not compulsory.

Under British control, the country's mission schools have been run with government cooperation. The state has been paying teachers salaries — but the missions own the school buildings and equipment. Also — and more important — there has been a hands-off policy by British authorities as to how these schools are run.

Bury Hatchet, Rivals Told

Kampala — (NC) — The Anglican and Catholic archbishops of Uganda have joined in an independence-eve appeal to their people to bury old rivalries and to work together for the good of the whole nation.

They said that with the coming of total freedom for Uganda on October 9 it will be the duty of the new national government to protect the God-given human dignity of all of Uganda's people.

"This means," said the prelates, "that every human being in the nation—African, Asian, European, man or woman — has the right to freedom of worship, freedom to propagate his beliefs, freedom of speech, freedom from hunger and ignorance, freedom from unjust arrest."

The statement, dated October 5, was signed by the Most Rev. Joseph Kiwanuka, Catholic Archbishop of Rubaga, head of the Catholic Hierarchy of Uganda, and the Most Rev. Leslie Brown, Anglican Archbishop of Uganda. Such a joint statement was unprecedented.

Peace Corps For Alaska

Fairbanks — (NC) — A veteran Alaskan missionary has urged President Kennedy to extend the same technical assistance to Indians and Eskimos as the U.S. now gives foreign countries under the Peace Corps program.

Father Jules M. Convert, S.J., said in a letter to the President that he "wholeheartedly" supports aid to underdeveloped nations.

But he also urged that the same assistance benefit "those areas of our own land that labor under the same handicaps of educational, economic and social underdevelopment."

Father Convert, who has served for some 20 years as a missionary among Eskimos and Indians in western Alaska, said these people "need our helping hand at least as much as any other population around the globe, to get on their feet and become self-sufficient and useful citizens."

CDA To Pray For Council

Washington — (NC) — Members of the Catholic Daughters of America throughout the U.S. have been urged to attend Mass and receive Communion for the success of the ecumenical council October 11, the council's opening day.

The CDA's more than 200,000 members also were urged to pray for Christian unity. Announcement of these plans was made by CDA regent Margaret Beckley.



Champion and Counselor

Chicago — (RNS) — The new world's heavyweight champion and the Jesuit who has worked for his rehabilitation, Sonny Liston and Father Edward P. Murphy, S.J., are shown in the champion's dressing room following the knockout victory over Floyd Patterson. Arrested 19 times and jailed for a long term for robbery, Liston was barred from boxing in many states because of his record and alleged association with criminals. Last spring and summer Liston underwent a rehabilitation program at the rectory of Denver's St. Ignace Loyola church, of which Father Murphy is pastor. The 3 R's were first on the academic list since the 30-year-old boxer had never gone to school.

Religion Stabilizes Family

Ann Arbor — (NC) — Billboards say "Families that pray together, stay together" — and the billboards are right, according to a University of Michigan sociologist.

"Fundamentally, church attendance fosters marital stability — and success — and non-attendance facilitates divorce," says sociologist Robert O. Blood, Jr., in a new book, "Marriage," published by the Free Press.

BUT THERE are important exceptions, Blood adds. One is that religion helps "only insofar as it is shared by husband and wife." Another is that "the Jewish community has a high degree of marital stability and happiness but a very low degree of religious activity."

Scientific studies have yet to be made to see exactly "how religion holds marriages together," Blood points out. But it is possible that religion makes three main contributions to marital success, he adds.

The first is through religious rituals in the home. Rituals of any kind are known to promote family integration and pride. "Less common in the American home today than in the past, religious rituals nevertheless give those who still practice them a sense of participating in a common pattern of meaningful activity," Blood notes.

Grace at meals, family worship and festival rituals are included in this category. Religious participation in the community can also contribute

to family welfare, he says. Church participation is a joint family activity. It links families into a network of other families with similar values. And the clergyman can serve as a therapeutic resource in time of trouble.

Paulists' New Magazine

New York — (NC) — The Paulist Fathers will publish a new bimonthly journal of Christian unity called the Ecumenist. It was announced here. First issue of the magazine is timed to coincide with the opening of the Vatican Council on October 11.

End Widespread Poverty Chile Bishops Plead

Santiago — (NC) — Chile's Bishops have issued a joint pastoral letter urging this South American nation's Catholics to take the lead in carrying out a broad program of social, economic and political reforms based on the papal encyclicals.

The Bishops warned against the errors of communism and the abuses of capitalism. They singled out unjust distribution of land and income, poor housing, unemployment, low wages, inadequate educational opportunities, bad diet and governmental inefficiency as the major problems to be dealt with.

Knowledge of the Church's social teachings must be accompanied by their application to the country's concrete problems, the Bishops said, so that "one may avoid the scandalous contradiction produced by certain Catholics who, through apparently faithful in the fulfillment of their strictly religious duties . . . lead a life in the fields of labor, industry, the professions, business and in the exercise of public functions which is contrary to the norms

of Christian justice and charity."

Spelling out the problems that need to be solved, the Bishops noted that "a large part of our people lives in the country, oppressed by misery and intolerable conditions because a minority of owners possess the best farm land." Four per cent of Chileans own 77 per cent of the nation's arable land.

The Bishops added that a third of the people do not have proper dwellings in which family virtues can be normally developed and pointed to the existence of overcrowding in slums. It is estimated that Chile, with a population of 7,500,000, has a deficit of 400,000 dwellings.

Bells To Peal

London — (NC) — Catholic church bells will ring throughout England and Wales on October 11 for the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

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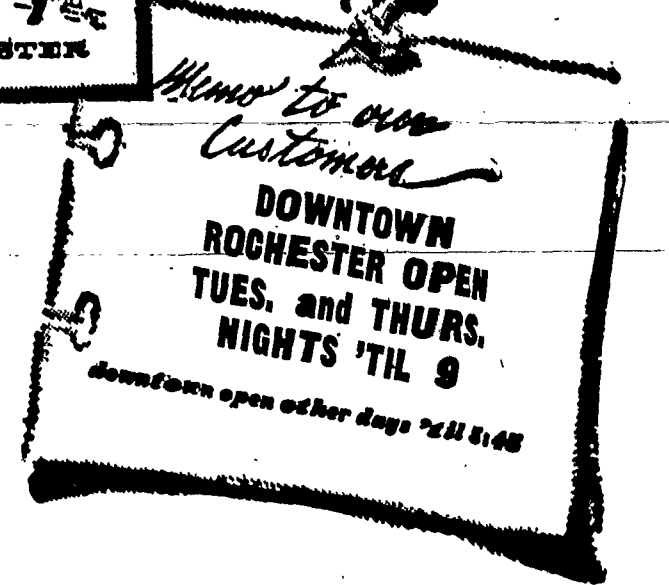
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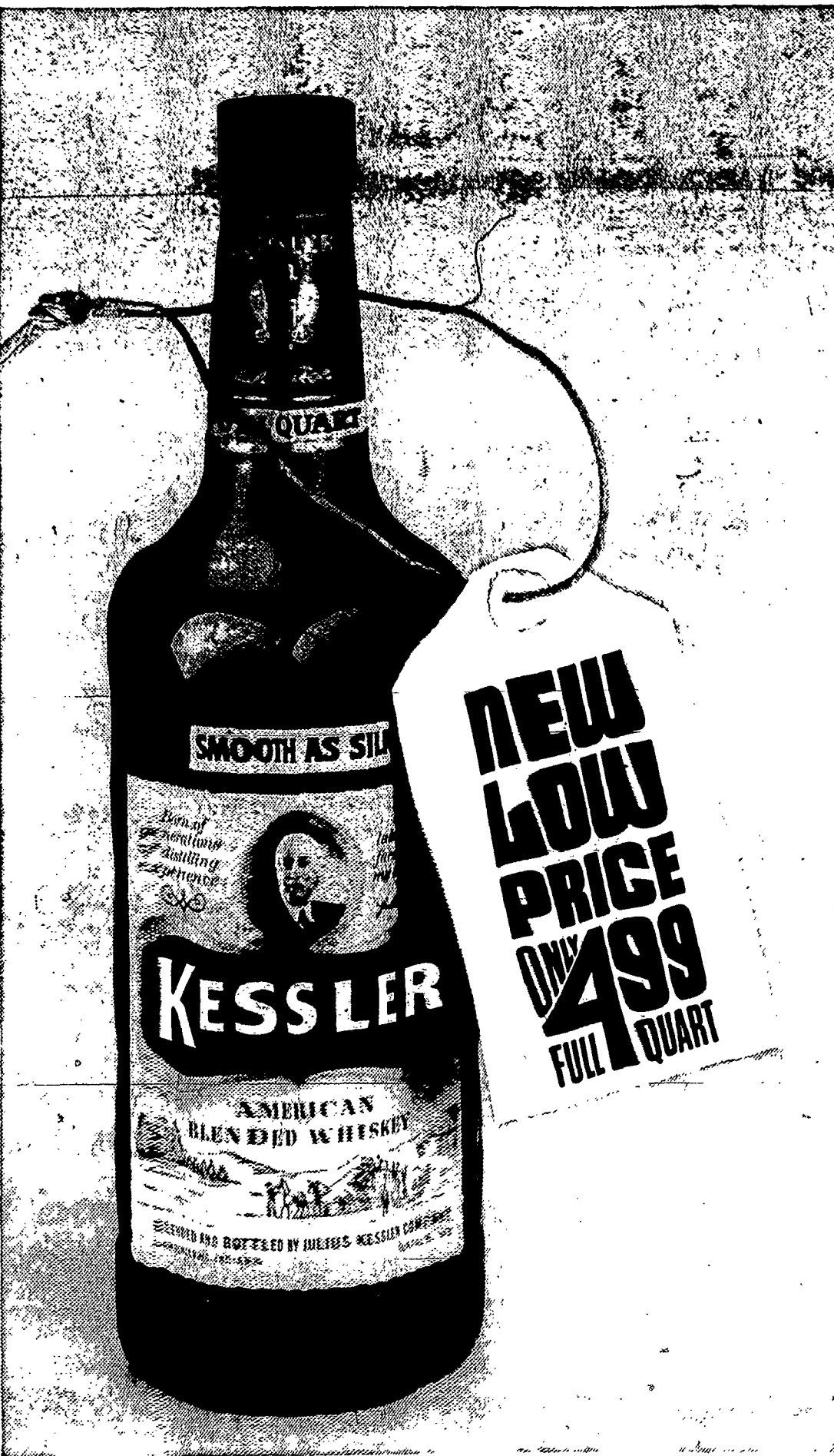
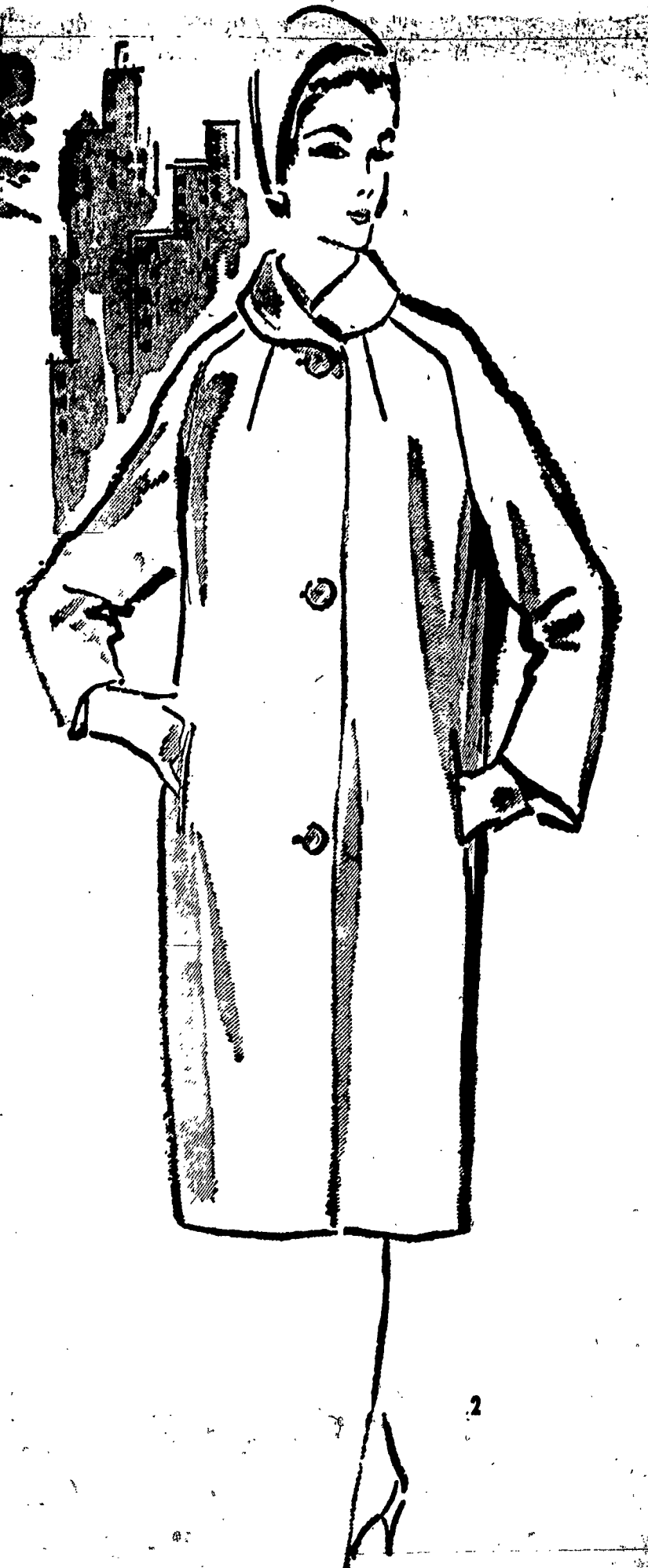
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