



A Smile ... A Friend

Boston — (RNS) — Susan Collins, one of 50 teen-aged volunteers at Boston's Carney Hospital, makes an elderly patient a bit more comfortable with her engaging personality and warm smile. She is a member of the "Louissettes," an organization founded 10 years ago "to visit the aged poor and lonely, with a view of giving them spiritual or material help, if needed." Susan wears a special cap awarded to a Louissette who has given more than 100 hours of volunteer service. The organization is named for St. Louise de Marillac, a 17th century French widow who cooperated with St. Vincent de Paul in establishing the Sisters of Charity.

'On the Spot' at Council

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question: "Don't you experience a feeling of awe to be part of such a great gathering?"

As one looks around the Basilica each morning and sees the Church Universal in action, and realizes that these men are directly responsible for the souls of five hundred million Catholics, and also for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in the hearts of the countless millions not of our faith, one cannot help but be impressed.

Here are simple, sincere men, united in their belief of the essential doctrines of the Church; differing, many of them on the manner these truths and methods of procedure are to be implemented in their own dioceses for the greater spiritual good of their people.

Conditions differ throughout the world (four weeks of liturgical discussion have

shown all of us how divergent national religious customs really are). What is beneficial for one country simply would not be practical in another. It is the task of the Council, not an easy one, to reconcile the different viewpoints and to make allowances for local conditions.

The Fathers are working under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and He will not permit errors to creep in, nor will He allow this Council to fail. These men are making history. They are too close to the scene, actually a part of it, to have any feeling of awe or self-consciousness.

Perhaps this sense of awe may come in later years to each of the Council Fathers, when, after reading a book about Vatican Council II and its impact on the life of the Church, he lays it down, reflects on the happenings of those distant days, and says, "I was there."

Church, State in U.S.

Neutral, Not Separate

Washington — (RNS) — America's constitutional tradition in the religious sphere is one of neutrality, not absolute separation, a law professor said here.

Wilber G. Katz, law professor at the University of Wisconsin, gave this opinion to a Workshop session of the first national institute of the Religious Freedom and Public Affairs Project of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Prof. Katz discussed America's constitutional tradition and religious liberty. Over-all theme of the institute, held during the NCCJ annual meeting here, was "The Responsibilities of Religious Freedom."

"I BELIEVE that our constitutional tradition is best summarized as one of neutrality with respect to religion, neutrality in a sense forbidding the legal classifications in terms of religion," he told his listeners.

Prof. Katz went on to suggest that it is not a violation of this "neutrality" for the govern-

ment to express its concern for religious freedom by adopting measures which offset what would otherwise be restrictive effects of government action.

As an example, he cited the provision for voluntary worship in the armed forces. This practice is constitutional, he explained, "not because government policy may properly favor religion, but because the government is not required to exercise its military powers in a manner restrictive of religious freedom."

In this instance, he added, government is "not required to abandon neutrality and maintain strict separation."

Prof. Katz turned to the topic of religious liberty permitted under constitutional law by making reference to an interpretation of it by a colleague, Prof. Philip B. Kurland of the University of Chicago.

According to Prof. Kurland, he said, the free exercise of religion guarantee of the Constitution is only that freedom

which can be exercised in conformity with community standards of social responsibility.

This has been the reasoning, Prof. Katz said, for the legal prohibition against such practices as plural marriages many years ago followed by Mormons.

When the Supreme Court defines an area of religious freedom, it is, in effect, doing two things, Prof. Katz said.

"When they find that certain activities lie within the area of protected freedom, the courts are saying that in carrying on these activities, it is entirely up to the sects and individuals concerned whether their freedom is exercised responsibly or not," he declared.

"On the other hand," he added, "when they find that other activities lie outside the protected area, the courts are saying that here legislatures may enforce standards of responsibility for religious practices."

NEA Said 'Pathological'

Educator Raps Teachers' Group

Salt Lake City — (NC) — The former U.S. Commissioner of Education has reaffirmed his description of the National Education Association as blindly opposed to private education. Sterling M. McMurrin was asked for comment on the NEA's action in leading opposition to the Kennedy administration's proposal for federal aid to U.S. colleges. The bill was killed in the House.

In an interview, McMurrin, who is now a philosophy professor at the University of Utah, recalled an earlier description he made of the NEA as "not interested in higher education, cool to the private schools and pathologically opposed to the parochial schools."

McMurrin said he would not go beyond this statement given a New York Times reporter in October.

In his 19 months in Washington, McMurrin said he was guided by the belief that "there are

all kinds of schools and we want them all to be good."

"I FELT THAT as Commissioner of Education, I was responsible to help all schools."

McMurrin, who quit his federal post about three months ago, also said that the NEA "is in danger of moving toward national control of American education."

The NEA, the major educational lobby in Washington, helped kill equal federal aid to all colleges by bombarding House members with telegrams alleging that the bill violated constitutional separation of Church and State because it would have extended certain types of grants to church-related colleges. Sponsors of the bill vigorously denied this.



Moment To Give Thanks

YOUNG AND OLD in Hawaii send heartfelt thanks to their fellow-Catholics in Rochester for their favorite social worker, Maryknoll Sister Helen Mary (Bauermann) of Holy Family parish. Rochester has given Maryknoll eleven Sisters.

Text Books Aid Opposed

Providence — (RNS) — Spokesmen for Protestant bodies opposed state aid to parochial and private schools here as a Rhode Island study commission completed public hearings on a request by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence for assistance in the purchase of mathematics and science textbooks.

Opposing such assistance were spokesmen for the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island; the Rhode Island Council of Churches; the Rhode Island Baptist State Convention; the Rhode Island District of the Lutheran Church in America; the South County Ministerial Association; and the national organization of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State (POAU).

Critics called the proposed aid unconstitutional, unfair and divisive. Many said it would encourage the growth of private schools to the detriment of the public school system.

Social Action Leader

Father McGowan Dies

Kansas City — (RNS)—Father Raymond A. McGowan, renowned authority on the papal social encyclicals and on Latin American affairs, died at Mercy Manor here at the age of 70.

He had been living at the manor, a home for retired Catholic laymen and priests, since his retirement in 1954 as director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington, D.C.

(Father McGowan, a member of the St. Bernard's Seminary class of 1916, was a close friend of Rochester's Monsignor Joseph E. Grady, seminary vice rector, and spoke at many social action meetings and conventions in this area.)

Father McGowan joined the department as assistant director in 1920, serving under its first director, Msgr. John A. Ryan, nationally known social welfare authority, who was praised at his death in 1945 by President Truman for the "enlightened common sense and high appreciation of moral and ethical values" he had displayed as an economist and sociologist.

Other posts held by Father McGowan were those of secretary of the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems, and executive secretary of the Catholic Association for International Peace.

An early advocate of unemployment insurance and other social improvements, as well as an ardent champion of international justice, Father McGowan served on many committees, including the National Fair Rent Committee headed by the late Fiorella H. McGowan, which

sought federal extension of rent controls and government-aided low-rent housing construction.

In 1943 he was named by President Roosevelt to a committee appointed to draw up for Congress recommendations for changes in the organic law of Puerto Rico that would enable the people there to elect their own Governor.

Unceasingly active in urging active Catholic participation in labor unions, he held strongly to the belief that union membership was a "moral" obligation for working men through which the country could demonstrate that its economy could meet spiritual as well as materialistic goals.

At the same time he stressed the importance of coordinating economic self-government and

political self-government under the American democratic system. In 1949, the U.S. military government in Germany commissioned him to make an extensive social action survey in a number of European countries.

Born in Brookfield, Mo., June 23, 1892, Father McGowan was educated at St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kan. He then enrolled at St. Bernard's Seminary of Rochester, completing his studies for the priesthood at the North American College in Rome. He later attended the Catholic University of America in Washington. After his ordination on Dec. 15, 1915, he served briefly as a chaplain in World War I and filled various parish posts in Missouri before assignment to work with the NCWC.

Algerians Change Cathedral To Mosque

Algiers — (NC) — The Algerian government has taken over St. Philip's cathedral here for use as a Moslem mosque.

Although Church and government authorities had agreed in principle on the gradual takeover of Catholic churches and the Algiers archdiocesan offices, no specific date had been set for the transfer.

While negotiations were under way, Algerian workmen came to the cathedral and began work to turn it into a Moslem mosque. To avoid an incident the vicar general of the Algiers See, Msgr. Fleury Giroud, gave the keys to the cathedral to Algeria's Minister of Islamic Foundations, Tewfik El-Madani. Archbishop Leon Duval of Algiers is at the Vatican for the ecumenical council.

Algeria claims that the cathedral is a former mosque. Actually it was built by the French in 1845 as a church on the foundations of the old Ketchaoua mosque.

Fifty State Attorneys

School Prayer Support Asked

Annapolis — (NC) — Maryland Atty. Gen. Thomas B. Finan has urged the attorneys general of the other 49 states to join him in asking the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the constitutionality of reciting the Lord's Prayer and reading from the Bible in public schools.

Finan, in a personal letter to each attorney general in the nation, said the threat of war in the Cuban crisis "has made it more apparent than ever that the world is dependent on God's help if we are to survive."

HE ASKED the attorneys general to "urge on the Supreme

woman is challenging the constitutionality of Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in public schools.

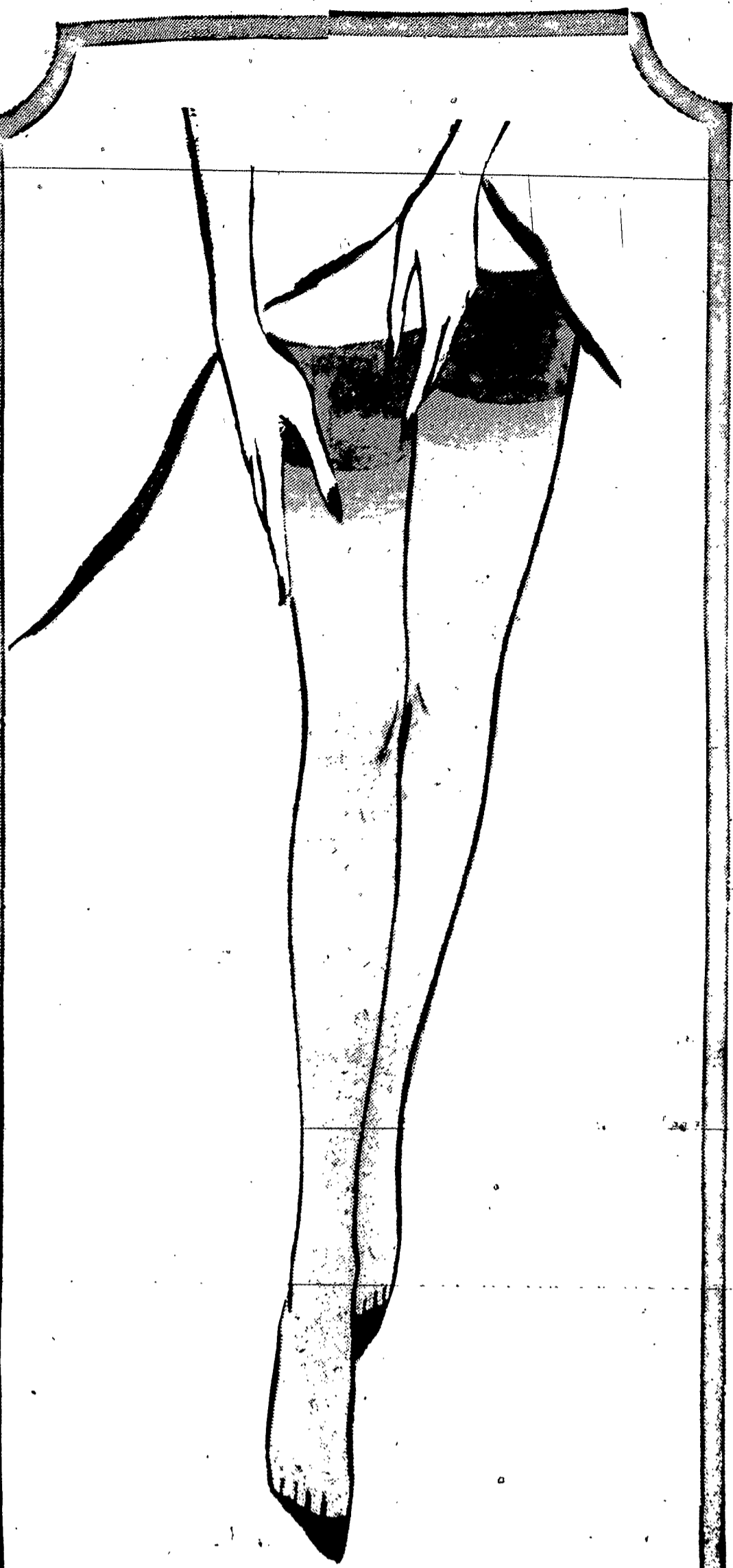
The Supreme Court agreed October 8 to consider the case. At the same time, it agreed to consider a Pennsylvania case centering on a challenge to Bible reading in public schools.

The court's decision in these cases (and perhaps in a similar case from Florida, which has been asked to review) is expected to help clarify its decision of last June 25, when

it ruled against a prayer prescribed for public school recitation in New York State.

He noted, however, that in the New York case "the court has expressly held unconstitutional only a prayer composed by public officials."

Nevertheless, he added, a concurring opinion in the New York case, written by Justice William O. Douglas, "strongly suggests that it is only a question of time before even the mention of God will be precluded in every governmental activity."



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