

Law To Rate Movies Urged

Washington — (NC) — The U. S. bishops' committee for motion pictures has taken a dramatic new tack in its effort to secure classification of films as a guide for parents of young children.

The five-member committee said that industry rejection of its repeated appeals for voluntary classification makes it necessary to turn to legislation.

The Episcopal Committee for Motion Pictures, Radio and Television said it will lack legislation which would authorize state or municipal education departments, or other suitable agencies, to publish advisory classifications of films suitable for children.

The bishops said they will support such legislation wherever movie exhibitors fail to classify films voluntarily.

"We shall urge that the actual work of classification be entrusted to departments or agencies of proved qualification and competence, and which enjoy the respect and confidence of parents," they said.

Archbishop John J. Krol of Philadelphia is chairman of the committee whose statement was released here through the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the U.S. hierarchy's secretariat.

The bishops' turn toward legislation as a means of securing classification is made in their third successive annual statement on the matter of films and youth.

The prelates said they continue to prefer, as they did in past statements, voluntary classification by the movie industry itself.

But they said the opposition of industry leadership, especially the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), and the continuing increase in so-called "adult films," many of them featured in "family-trade" movie houses, makes it necessary to seek a new course.

They charged that "short of a computer file on all films"

parents are unable to determine the acceptability of many films exhibited in neighborhood theaters which their children frequent.

The impact of "adult films" on youth is a "cause of increasing concern" for many people and agencies, such as parents and police, who are convinced that the films "tend to impose an unhealthy and false outlook on life," they said.

The bishops said that opponents of voluntary industry classification claim it is unnecessary because there are already numerous rating services, such as the National Legion of Decency and the monthly "Green Sheet" of the Motion Picture Association of America.

But, the prelates said, no rating service — including the Legion — covers all films currently released in the United States.

The "Green Sheet" of the MPAA, the bishops noted, rates only films bearing the Seal of Approval from the association's own Production Code Authority.

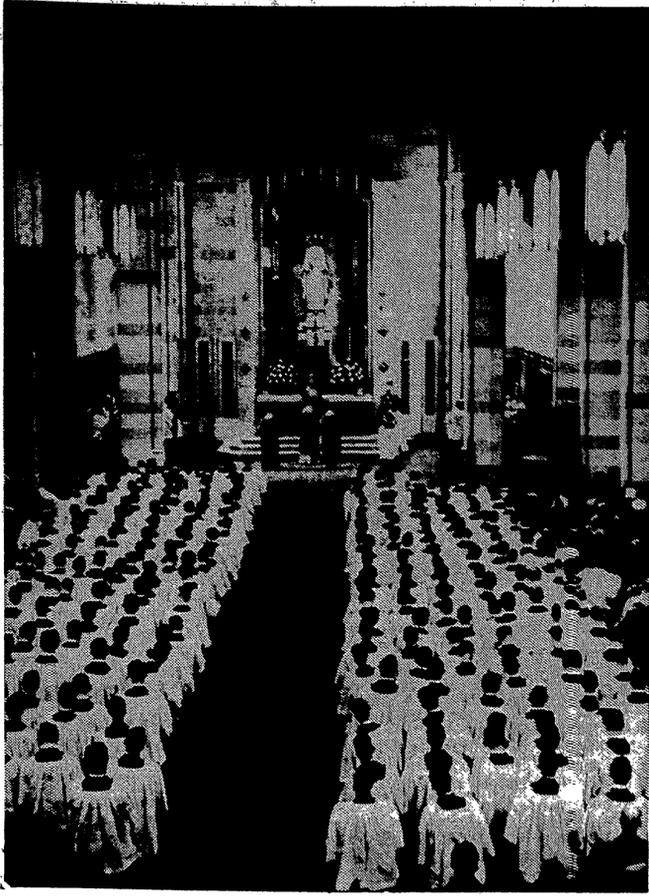
In New York State alone, they continued, less than 200 of the 798 films licensed for public exhibition had Code Seals.

"With the rapid increase of foreign and independent domestic films on the American scene, it is difficult for any rating service to cover even a majority of films released," the bishops said.

Laymen Take Clergy's Place

London — (RNS) — Participation by Roman Catholic laymen in the work of the British Council of Christians and Jews has again been permitted, according to a report in The Universe, leading Catholic weekly published here.

The Council was formed in 1942 to combat all forms of religious and racial intolerance and to promote goodwill and understanding between Christians and Jews. The late Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, resigned as a co-president in 1954 and other Catholic members left there after. Press reports at the time stated that the Vatican had issued instructions affecting Catholic participation in the Council.



Seminarian's Feast Day

Students of St. Andrew's Seminary, parents and friends and members of St. Monica's Sodality (mothers of priests and seminarians) attended Mass at the Cathedral Friday evening, Nov. 30, feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. Bishop Kearney celebrated the solemn Mass. Students are enrolled in four year high school and two year college course at St. Andrew's in preparation for continued studies at St. Bernard's Seminary where they will complete their college course and four years of special theological studies.

'Horrible Version'

Chant 'Suffocating' in U.S.

St. Louis — (RNS) — Gregorian chant in the Roman Catholic Church is dying from "slow suffocation," a nationally known expert on the liturgy told the Missouri State Convention of the National Catholic Music Educators' Association here.

Msgr. Charles P. Schmitt, vicar general of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese, pleaded for the restoration of Gregorian chant, along with the introduction of the vernacular.

He said he felt the need for vernacular "at least in the spoken liturgy, but this does not mean that the Gregorian chant should be discarded."

Msgr. Schmitt noted that the problem arises because the Gregorian chant and its Latin text are, in the opinion of virtually all liturgists, inseparably united. If one changed the language to the vernacular, one would have to change the melodies.

He acknowledged most Catholics have difficulties with the

chant. Most priests can't sing it well, most parishes don't use it well, and many Catholics don't like it, he said. This seemed "strange," in view of the fact that the chant, like the Pope's words, should be "universal," he told delegates.

The real reason most Catholics don't like the chant is because they have been hearing "a horrible version of it," Msgr. Schmitt said. "For some, chant means only the Requiem Mass, sung badly and rapidly as often as the rubrics permit."

He described it as both a pastoral and an educational problem.

Priests are concerned, he noted, because few know the chant. One reason for this is that the young men entering the seminaries, like other Americans, are "deficient in musical background."

Ministers Praise Pope For Unity Efforts

Cleveland — (NC) — A prominent Protestant theology professor and the 372-church Cleveland Area Protestant Church Federation have joined in lauding Pope John XXIII for his role in the growing reunion movement among Christians.

The professor is Dr. J. Robert Nelson of Oberlin College Graduate School of Theology and secretary from 1953 to 1957 of the Christian Unity Committee (Faith and Order) of the World Council of Churches, Geneva.

The occasion was the fall assembly of 600 delegates of the church federation. The federation adopted a resolution which was sent to the Pope along with a letter saying:

"Our prayers have been offered for the success of the ecumenical council, and now they will also be offered for your speedy recovery from your present illness."

The resolution said that "in view of the obvious desire of Pope John to break down the age-old adersion that has existed between Catholic and Protestant, be it resolved that the Cleveland Area Church Federation send greetings to Pope John expressing our joy in this new demonstration of good will, assuring him that we share the same desire for a

stronger community between all Christians, and that we join with him in Christ's prayer that we "all may be one."



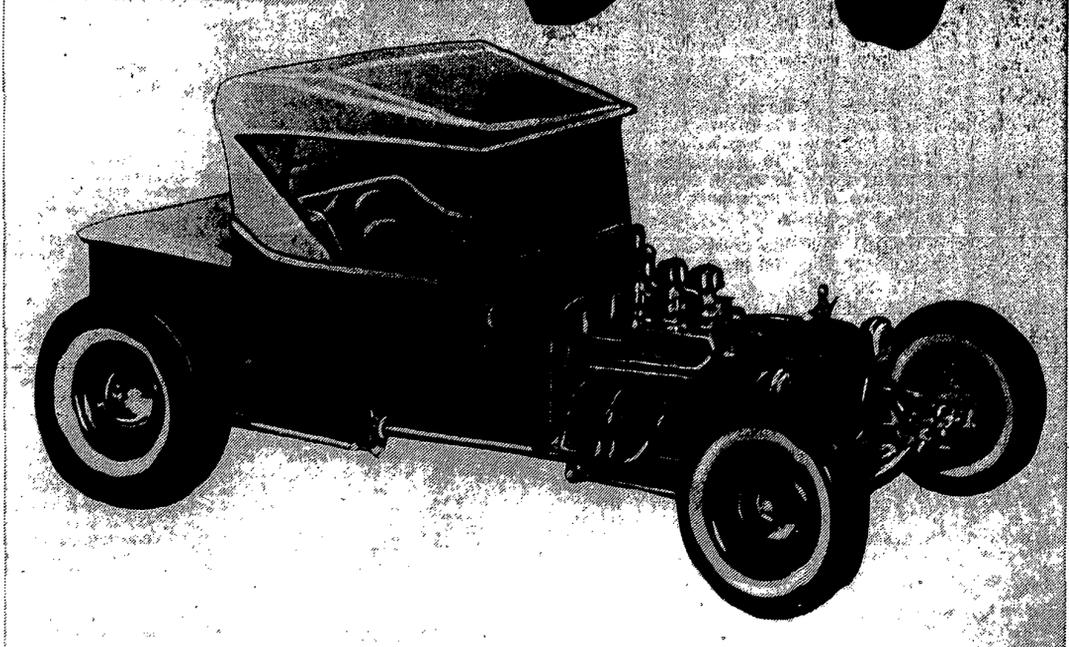
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Dutch Queen's 'Rock' Faith

The Hague — (RNS) — Bernard Jan Cardinal Alfrink, Roman Catholic Primate of Holland, has conveyed his sympathy to Queen Juliana upon the death of former Queen Wilhelmina at the age of 82.

From Rome where he is attending the Second Vatican Council, Cardinal Alfrink praised Wilhelmina for her belief in God. "I have been edified by her rocklike faith in the Lord in whom she had put all her trust," he told Queen Juliana.

"Princess Wilhelmina will undoubtedly be counted among the great sovereigns of the century," he stated. "In spite of the burdens of two world wars, her long reign has been particularly happy and full of blessings for our people."