

Catholics Lag In Engineering

Detroit — (RNS) — The need for Catholic engineers in the country is becoming increasingly acute, Father Lawrence J. Green, S.J., vice-chairman of the University of Detroit's architecture department, said here.

Addressing representatives of 18 other colleges which provide the first two years of the engineering curriculum for 500

Green noted that for the fifth consecutive year there has been a national decline in engineering enrollment, with a 5.7 per cent drop in the 1962 freshman engineering classes across the nation.

"If there are not enough engineers to satisfy our needs," he said, "I submit further that there are not enough Catholic engineers." Total enrollment in eight accredited Catholic engineering curricula in the U.S. now stands at 10,643, he said.

Father Green also observed that although Catholic students make up 12.5 per cent of the total college enrollment in the country, they comprise only 4.5 per cent of the total engineering enrollment.

"Catholic engineers need that which only the Catholic colleges can give: Education in the humanities, philosophy and theology," Father Green said.

Engineers, he continued, are the middlemen "who stand between science and the world of matter and men. They make the products for man out of the findings of science."

"They also find resting on their shoulders," he said, "the heavy responsibilities of solving problems as administrators involving supply and demand, production and consumption, management and labor."

Father Green, a licensed architect, stated that the engineer must make decisions and determine policies much broader than what his technological training alone prepares him.

"Because of the exaggerated materialism in the world today, and the need for private enterprise to produce at a profit," he asserted, "there arise in business many problems which can be solved by applying fundamental principles which are taught in theology, philosophy and sciences."

These courses, Father Green said, are found only in the curricula of the Catholic engineering college. "Most secular schools stress the importance of science and technology but omit sufficient teaching of a nature which is a guide to right conduct and which provides norms for making honest and ethical decisions," he stated.

Hero's Award For Frigid Rescue

San Pedro — (NC) — Petite Isabel Ramirez has received the Carnegie Heroism Award and a \$1,000 check for rescuing a man who was in a car that had fallen off a bridge into a harbor channel here.

The award was presented to her by Vice Admiral Roland M. Smoot, USN, Ret., at the monthly luncheon of the Catholic Maritime Club here in Mary Star of the Sea auditorium.

THE 400 persons present gave her a standing ovation. Among those present were her mother and virtually every top-ranking Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Army officer in the area, civic dignitaries, shipping executives, and the Consul General of Mexico.

Last December on her way to work in a cannery, Isabel was driving across Henry Ford Bridge when she saw a crowd on the bridge gazing down at a car that had plunged off.

Three men were in it. Isabel saw one man come to the surface and stretch his arm for help. No one in the shocked crowd moved. Isabel pulled off her shoes and jacket and jumped into Cerritos Channel.

She seized the man, Ascencio Vigil, 26, held him up until rescuers pulled them both from the water. The other two men drowned. Isabel doesn't know how to swim.

Since the incident she has received many honors and has turned over money collected at these events to the families of the men who perished.

No Laundry On Sunday

Hackensack, N.J. — (NC) — It's against the law here to operate an automatic laundrette on Sunday. Superior Court Judge Donald M. Woesche has ruled in upholding the conviction of an East Orange firm (Dec. 13) for violating the strict municipal Sunday closing ordinance.

Automatic Enterprises, the East Orange firm, had been convicted by Glen Rock Magistrate William W. Evens Sr. on Nov. 9, 1962, for a violation in August of this year.



White House Christmas

Washington — (RNS) — Christmas decoration at the White House has been completed and this Nativity scene — a religious tableau of 18th century Neopolitan figures — is a central feature. The setting, in the East Ballroom, was arranged and loaned to the White House by Mrs. Howell Howard of New York, an internationally known collector of creches and Nativity figures.

No 'Trade' On Cardinal

Washington — (RNS) — A State Department spokesman here denied reports that Communist Hungary had offered a "trade" to the United States — freedom in exile for Josef Cardinal Mindszenty in exchange for a softening of the official American attitude toward Hungary in the United Nations.

Lincoln White, press officer, said the department "has no knowledge of any Hungarian proposal or offer such as that reported."

The alleged Hungarian proposal had been rumored in U.S. circles here. Under its provisions, Hungary would be willing to permit Cardinal Mindszenty, who has taken refuge in the U.S. legation at Budapest

'Pretense' of Morality?

Freedom Plea for Smut 'Worse Than Nonsense'

See Editorial, page 4

Fort Wayne — (NC) — A Catholic bishop has described as "shocking" the views of Supreme Court Associate Justice William O. Douglas on banning literature which aims to arouse sexual desires.

Bishop Leo A. Pursley of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the Bishops' committee for the National Office for Decent Literature, said "one likely effect" of Justice Douglas' stand would be "to encourage the smut peddlers."

Justice Douglas, in a booklet, "Freedom of the Mind," published (Dec. 13) in Chicago by the American Library Association, favored freedom for publications whose "main impact" is "the arousal of sexual desires."

He argued that the real purpose of those who seek to protect society from such material is "a pretense . . . to make the public live up to the censor's code of morality."

Bishop Pursley, in a statement issued here (Dec. 15) in his capacity as NODL chairman, said he had not seen the full text of Justice Douglas' remarks. However, he said that portions quoted in newspaper accounts were "quite shocking, particularly in their implications."

"However difficult to define legally, there is certainly such a thing as obscenity in print and there is sound reason to regard it as a factor in sex violations," the Bishop said.

"When Justice Douglas asks 'should a publication whose main impact is the arousal of sexual desires be banned?' he appears to answer the question by saying 'a goodly part of life is the arousal of sexual desire,'" he continued.

"To make such a statement without any qualifying frame of reference is to talk something worse than nonsense."

Noting Justice Douglas' sincerity in expressing his "very liberal views," Bishop Pursley nevertheless warned that "one likely effect will be to encourage the smut peddlers, who seem to be doing pretty well without any encouragement."

THE BOOKLET was also highly critical of secrecy sur-

rounding activities of the Central Intelligence Agency as well as "restraints on liberty" which he said have arisen since the end of World War II.

Justice Douglas was critical of banning a publication because it is considered obscene by the Post Office Department or some "purity league."

He denied that such literature is a threat to young people, saying "researches" in this field show that "sex literature is not an important factor in arousing youth's sexual desires."

"Adults are the ones most afflicted, and men more than women. The male who is commonly aroused is an adult in the upper social groups. So the desire to protect either juven-

iles or society turns out to be a pretense.

"The real purpose is to make the public live up to the censor's code of morality," he said.

Justice Douglas said the current legal test for obscenity is its effect upon "normal people in the community, not upon members particularly susceptible."

Nevertheless, he suggested that efforts to ban matter because of its appeal to prurient interest might have the effect of regulating the reading matter available to the general public by a lowest common denominator. He said the effect might be to "treat all adults as sick and unable to withstand exposure to the world of ideas."

Atheist Fights School Prayers

Baltimore — (RNS) — A brief filed before the U.S. Supreme Court in behalf of the nation's highest tribunal of Appeals decision upholding the requirement of the city's schools that daily opening exercises include a reading from the Bible or the Lord's Prayer.

In the brief, Leonard J. Kerpelman, attorney for Mrs. Madalyn E. Murray, maintained the United States is a secular democracy, and Baltimore's prescribed school prayers threaten the constitutional guarantee that government shall not favor one belief over another, even religion over non-religion.

The Supreme Court agreed last October to review the case, and is expected to hear arguments early next year.

MRS. MURRAY, an atheist, brought the appeal on behalf of her son, William J. Murray 3d, a tenth-grader at Polytechnic Institute here.

"The requirement for prayer or Bible-reading adopted years ago by the city's school board, was amended in 1960 to allow a child to leave the classroom during the exercise upon written request from his parent."

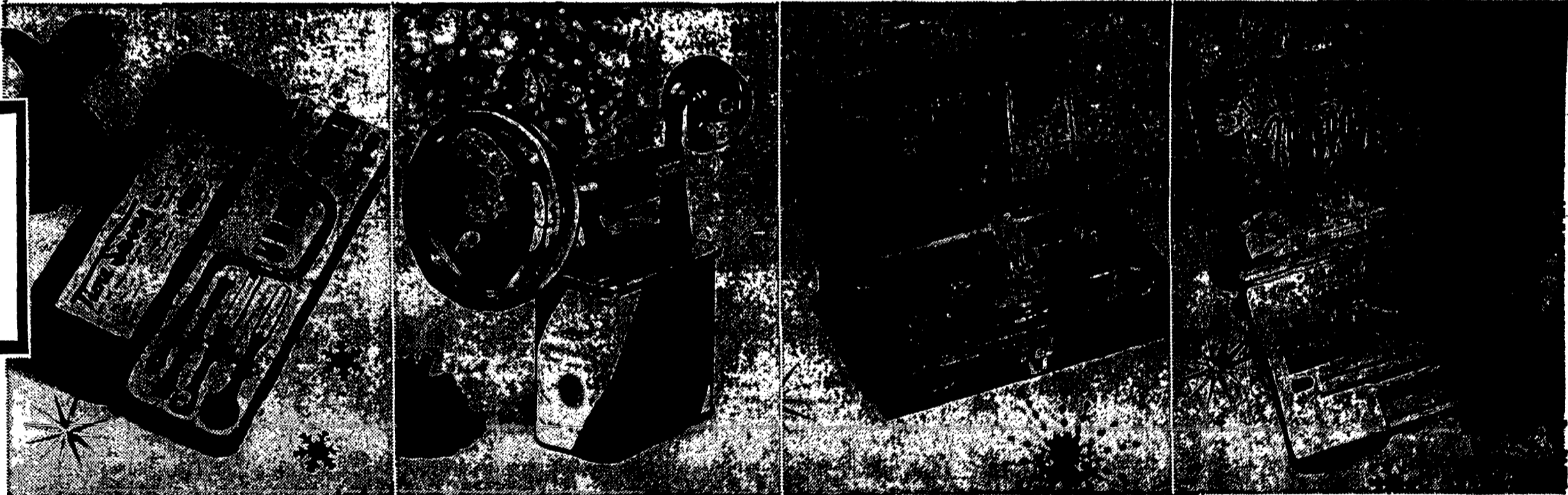
Mr. Kerpelman explained in his brief that the Murrrays do

not object to the teaching of the Bible or religion as literature or history, or when presented as sociology or philosophy, or to the display of religious symbols as decoration.

"What the petitioners do object to is the sanctioning of favor for religion as opposed to non-religion, and to the conduct of religious teachings, whether such teachings be called sectarian or whether they be called non-sectarian," the brief said.

Mr. Kerpelman said Supreme Court Justice Jackson stated the principle argument of the Murrrays in an earlier case when he wrote:

"My evangelistic brethren confuse an objection to compulsion with an objection to religion. It is possible to hold a faith with enough confidence to believe that what should be rendered to God does not need to be decided and collected by Caesar. The day that this country ceases to be free for religion it will cease to be free for religion — except for the sect that can win political power."

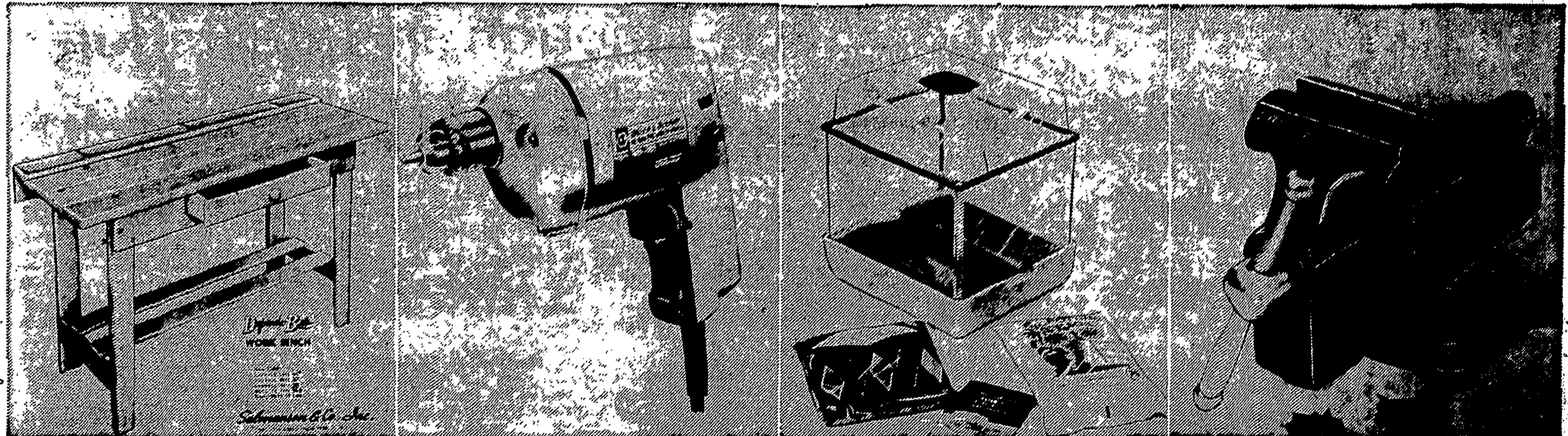


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