

## Jewish Help Needed

Kansas City — (NC) — Catholic-Jewish relations need Jewish assistance on the question of governmental aid for private education, a prominent Catholic authority on constitutional law and education said here.

William Ball, principal author of the 1961 study on church-related schools and Federal aid, carried out by the National Catholic Welfare Conference, spoke Jan. 29 at a joint Catholic-Jewish symposium.

"We need your help, not your hostility, on the school aid question," said Ball, executive director and general counsel of the Pennsylvania Catholic Welfare Committee, Harrisburg.

"This is a profoundly meaningful matter to many millions of your neighbors," he added. "It will not be winked away."

"At the very least, we could hope that there would cease to come from Jewish leaders repetitions (about the dialogue setting) of the strident cries of the Bible Belt bigots."

"We would hope that — in the matters of Catholic education — no encouragement and no cooperation would be lent by Jewish quarters to the forces of extremism in the field of Church-State relations."

Ball was the opening speaker at the one-day symposium entitled "Encounter: A Catholic-Jewish Confrontation." The event was sponsored by the Jesuit Father's Rockhurst College, the Jewish Community Relations Bureau and the Rabbis' Center of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion.

## Minister Subs For Bishop

Hastock — (RNS) — This area's advancement of interreligious cooperation and harmony reached a new high when a Protestant minister pinched a spokesman for a Roman Catholic bishop.

The Rev. Douglas M. Williams, curate of St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal church, Pittsfield, read before the State Racing Commission a statement containing the views of Bishop J. Weldon of Springfield.

## 'Practical' Steps To Ease Bias

Chicago — (NC) — Albert Cardinal Meyer said on a television program here that individuals can help break down racial barriers by inviting to their homes Negroes who are in the same line of work as they are.

This was one of several suggestions made by the Archbishop of Chicago on a program over WBEK-TV on which he appeared with two priests, a federal judge, a Protestant leader and a rabbi.

The program took place (Jan. 19) just two days after the closing here of the National Conference on Religion and Race, the first national meeting convened by agencies of the three major faiths in the U.S.

AS A PRACTICAL effort against racial discrimination, Cardinal Meyer suggested that individuals do the following:

- Join in interracial council activities.
- Employ Negro workers.
- Invite Negroes to Christian Family Movement meetings and other discussion groups.
- Read Negro publications.
- Take an active part in neighborhood and community organizations.

Cardinal Meyer said that by stressing the religious values involved in interracial justice the recent national conference may give some people the courage to rise above social conformity.

Asked what actions will be taken now that the conference is over, the Cardinal replied: "We must begin with our own people. I have repeatedly stressed in conferences with my own clergy that they join interracial neighborhood councils."

The survey also tended to indicate that church attendance declines after adulthood is reached.

Highest church attendance was reported in the 10 to 14 age group, and here the Roman Catholic interviewed compiled a perfect record — all had attended Mass on the previous Sunday.

## New Almanac

New York — (NC) — The 1963 National Catholic Almanac, which has been called "the Catholic library in one volume," features special articles on the Second Vatican Council and on papal peace plans.



## March of Dimes Benefit

COLUMBIAN SQUIRES of St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn, held a bread sale at the church Sunday for the benefit of the March of Dimes. Shown as he makes a purchase is Armand Iala. Salesmen are John Conkright, and Donald Lumb.

## Credit to a Young Man

By CARL A. BALCERAK

Chicago — (NC) — What forces are responsible for the success of such a historic meeting as the National Conference on Religion and Race?

"Several, single and collective, and undoubtedly a lion's share of credit for helping initiate and develop the conference must go to a young man named Mathew Ahmann."

Ahmann, 31, acted as executive secretary of the conference, first national meeting to be convened by the three major faith groups in the U.S. He is also the executive director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, the secretariat for the national meeting.

In an interview during the (Jan. 14-17) conference, Ahmann was reluctant to speak of his role in the meeting, but later two persons who worked closely with him praised him highly.

"Matt Ahmann has been the indefatigable, dedicated servant for the conference," said Rabbi Philip Hitt, vice president of the Synagogue Council of America. "He, probably more than anyone else, was responsible for the general spirit that pervaded the conference and for its real success."

Rev. J. Oscar Lee, executive director of the Department of

Racial and Cultural Relations, seriously tackle problems of segregation in housing, for example. "Mathew Ahmann's wisdom and excellent organizing dioceses do not earnestly tackle the problem alone," Ahmann stressed.

"But neither Southern Baptists nor Catholics can solve the problem alone," Ahmann stressed. "If religious groups have serious convictions about interracial justice, they must work together to increase their impact on our divisive racial patterns."

Ahmann concluded with the hope that the conference on religion and race "would really stimulate close interreligious cooperation on race relation problems in many cities."

"The possibility of such a meeting began to be explored by the convening agencies," Ahmann stated, "and we're really t-gan on it in March, 1962."

Asked about the preparatory work for the conference, Ahmann cited these items:

- The Interracial Justice conference, in working on the program for the meeting, had a phone bill in December, 1962, alone of \$1,200.
- There were at least 20,000 pieces of correspondence sent out to 70 organizations involved in the meeting, to delegates and to people on the program.

A Methodist minister, Rev. Gene Wesley Marshall, of the Ecumenical Institute of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, was hired by the interracial justice conference in October, 1962, to help in preparing for the national meeting.

AHMANN IS a native of St. Cloud, Minn., and an alumnus of St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. He and his wife, Margaret, are members of St. Thomas the Apostle parish in Chicago. They have four children.

Ahmann came to Chicago in 1952. He served as assistant manager of Today magazine and worked for the Chicago Department of Welfare before becoming a field representative for the Catholic Interracial Council of Chicago in 1957. He became executive director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice in 1959.

Asked to evaluate the racial problem in the South and in the North, Ahmann said:

"The South will never move more rapidly in the field of interracial justice if there isn't greater moral concern on race in Southern Baptist circles."

"The religious culture of the South is a culture strongly shaped by the Southern Baptist Convention, and anyone concerned with religion and race knows that heavy responsibility for racial justice in the South falls with this Christian body."

"THERE IS NO excuse, however, for Catholic institutions in the South that are still segregated," Ahmann continued. "There are still nine Southern dioceses that have segregated schools."

"In the North," he said, "the culture of many large cities has been heavily shaped by Roman Catholics and their institutions. No large northern city will

## Communist

## Congratulation

Berlin — (RNS) — The consecration of a bishop of the Roman Catholic Church received surprisingly cordial attention from officials of the Communist regime in East Germany.

Top government officials sent congratulatory letters to Bishop Gerhard Schaffran upon his consecration by Archbishop Alfred Bengsch of Berlin.

The East German Radio devoted part of a newscast to a report on the ceremony and the regime's reaction to Bishop Schaffran's promotion to the hierarchy.

## Four to One Wanted It

## Released - Time Canceled

Monterey, Calif. — (NC) — would indicate to us that no parents and the possible benefit of the public school board here rights of freedom of others are being infringed.

Kennedy also said: "Although we realize that there are arguments on the other side, we believe that the desire of so many time."

In spite of more than 1,000 letters requesting extension of the released time program, and only 27 opposing it, the board made its decision by a vote of three to one. In August, 1962, the board had decided to discontinue released time after January 25 and its latest action reaffirmed that decision.

Mrs. John J. Ryan, pastor of St. Carlos church here, called the decision "arbitrary." He estimated that opinions expressed by parents ran at least four to one in favor of continuing the program.

"The board just disregarded the wishes of the people," he declared.

Under the abolished policy, any students with approval of their parents, were released from classes one hour each week to attend religious instruction run by the churches.

In commenting on the situation, Edward Kennedy, assistant editor and publisher, wrote in the daily Monterey Peninsula Herald: "The fact that released time has been practiced in the Monterey schools for the past 18 years without, so far as we are aware, materially impairing the school system,

## Lay Missioners Win Praise

Chicago — (NC) — High praise for the Papal Volunteers working in Peru was contained in a message received here from Archbishop Romolo Carboni, Papal Nuncio to Peru.

## Freezing in Sunny Italy

Vatican City — (RNS) — Europe has been enduring a harsh, bitter-cold winter with freezing temperatures reaching down into Sicily. Rome, which usually has mild weather during winter, has been enveloped in the cold. As seen above, the fountain in the middle of the Vatican's St. Peter's Square is decorated with icicles: a rare sight in the Eternal City.

## Priest, Nuns Kidnapped

Saigon — (RNS) — A priest and three nuns being driven away from a 100-mile northeast of Saigon were kidnapped by Communist guerrillas, it was reported here.

Two of the nuns and the priest were Vietnamese and the fourth religious was a French nun. The driver and the car were released later by the Communists, but the four Catholics were still missing. Their names were not revealed.

Last May a Red guerrilla group captured three American missionaries when it attacked a leper colony 150 miles from Saigon. The missionaries — a minister, a layman and a woman doctor — served in a leprosy sanatorium of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in New York.

Although no reports have been heard concerning the missionaries, they are believed to be held as prisoners and serving as medical aides for the Communist Viet Cong.

## More Pay For Greeks

Athens — (RNS) — Archbishop Chrysostomos of Athens and All Greece has proposed a \$6130,000 pay increase to be distributed among some 8,000 priests of the Orthodox Church of Greece.

Based on educational training, the recommended pay scale would provide 67½ per cent increases at the highest level and 70 per cent at the lowest.

If Archbishop Chrysostomos' plan is accepted by the government, \$4,000,000 — or slightly less than two-thirds of the increase — would come from the state's budget.



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