

'Open Occupancy' for All

Omaha — (NC) — Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan directed all Catholics to observe the policy of open occupancy for all racial living which he declared for all parishes within the Omaha archdiocese.

The necessary directives were contained in a five-point program outlined in a pastoral letter by the prelate to combat racial segregation and discrimination within the archdiocese. The letter was read at all Masses in all churches of the Omaha area Sunday, July 7.

The archbishop said in this pastoral year of the "Racially Open Occupancy" that every citizen will experience the fruits of this policy.

... indeed, the canonical law — of a moral and legal nature — is being violated. United States citizens are being denied the right to live in any part of the country because of their race, color, or religion. This is a violation of the Constitution of the United States and of the principles of justice and equity which are the foundation of our society.

"I wish to call attention of all my Catholic subjects to the fact that racial injustice is, in the words of the U.S. Bishop's statement of 1957, a moral issue and therefore a matter of conscience."

"I wish to make a protest to the community at large against the indignities perpetrated against members of minority groups who suffer injustice, whether by segregation or by discrimination."

"I urge the leaders of our community, both civic and business, to come to grips with this major social problem not by words but by action."

The archbishop said that in the Omaha area, "those who have eyes to see know full well that there is discrimination in employment opportunities and segregation in residential housing."

Buddhists Seek Diem Overthrow

Saigon — (RNS) — A secret organization calling itself the "Free Democratic Party" is reported to have been formed here to rally Buddhists against the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem, which Buddhist leaders have charged with religious discrimination.

The President and many of his aides and colleagues are Roman Catholics. Recently the government signed an agreement with the leaders of the nation's Buddhist majority guaranteeing more religious freedom.

The new party was said to have been responsible for distributing leaflets addressed to soldiers and various Buddhist groups urging them to join in destroying the present government.

The leaflets bore a symbol showing a red flag with a yellow cross.

The Saigon Radio reported that Thich Thien Minh, high-ranking Buddhist priest, had asked Vice President Nguyen Ngoc Tho to release the estimated 200 Buddhists believed to have been imprisoned as a result of the anti-government riot.

... the government will make payments to the families of those persons killed when troops fired into a crowd of Buddhists at Hue on May 8, a government commission to be set up to decide the extent of government responsibility.

Authorities will promise not to interfere with Buddhist priests teaching their religion, but give them the same rights granted Christian missionaries and pastors.

Arrests and mistreatment of Buddhists will cease and those in custody will be released.

Buddhists may fly their religious flags on appropriate occasions, provided the national emblem is displayed at the same time.

The National Assembly will study an ordinance which the Buddhists have denounced as favoring the Christian religion over their own.

Unity

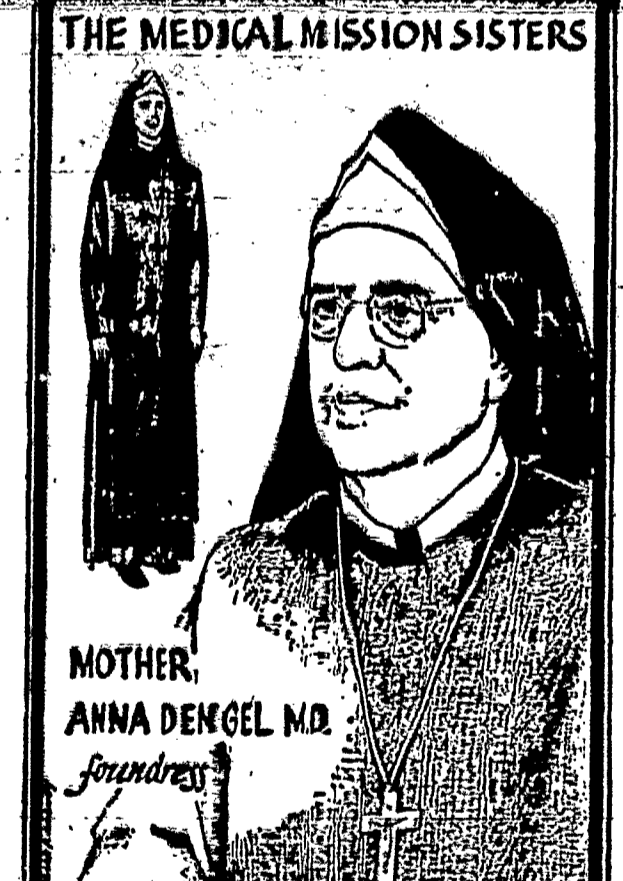
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State Bill

Montpelier — (NC) — The Vermont House of Representatives passed a bill outlawing discrimination in employment practices in this state.

Two years ago the legislators rejected a bill for the same purpose which was sponsored by Rep. Philip Hoff of Burlington, who is now Governor of Vermont.




THE MEDICAL MISSION SISTERS

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Sourness

In The Vineyard

The Medical Mission Sisters — The Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries was founded in 1925 in Washington, D. C. by Dr. Anna Dengel, with the help of Rev. Michael A. Mathis, C.S.C. In 1928, Dr. Dengel went to Rawalpindi, India to take charge of a hospital for women and children. During her work there she came face to face with a tremendous amount of untended and preventable suffering. To bring this to the attention of Catholics, Dr. Dengel came to the United States in 1931 and founded the Society and year later, Medical Mission Sisters have centers in Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Africa and the United States where they conduct hospitals, dispensaries, maternity and child welfare centers and leprosanatoria. Most of the sisters are doctors, pharmacists, nurses and technicians.



Courier-Journal
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOP

Vol. 74 No. 42 Friday, July 19, 1963

ROBERT HENRY JAMES B. KEENE, D.D., President
MANAGING EDITOR: ...
CIRCULATION: ...



Knights' Bells Dedicated

Washington — (RNS) — Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington blesses bells of the new 56-bell carillon installed in the Knights' Tower of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in the nation's capital. As year ago prelates, nuns and Knights of Columbus. The carillon, costing \$150,000, is a gift of the R. of C. East in France, the bells were shipped to Baltimore and trucked to Washington. The largest bell, called the Bourdon bell, weighs 7,200 pounds.

Renovation in Hungary

Kalocsa — (NC) — Restoration as well as by government funds. The cathedral serves the Archdiocese, a project expected to take two years, is being aided by private gifts from clergy and laity of Hungary.


Priest Battles Red-Tape

Pateron — (RNS) — Mgr. William N. Wall, the Catholic priest who runs the Mount Carmel Center and Hospital for Alcoholics here, is still at odds with the federal government over its operation.

Some time ago the center signed a contract with the New York City Transit Authority to provide white rags for cleaning purposes. Derelicts are hired to collect, clean and process the old rags. They receive, in return, food, clothing, a bed and a small allowance.

The federal government claimed that Fair Labor Standards were not being met.

After a conference with Labor Department officials in Washington, Mgr. Wall said the issue had not been resolved.



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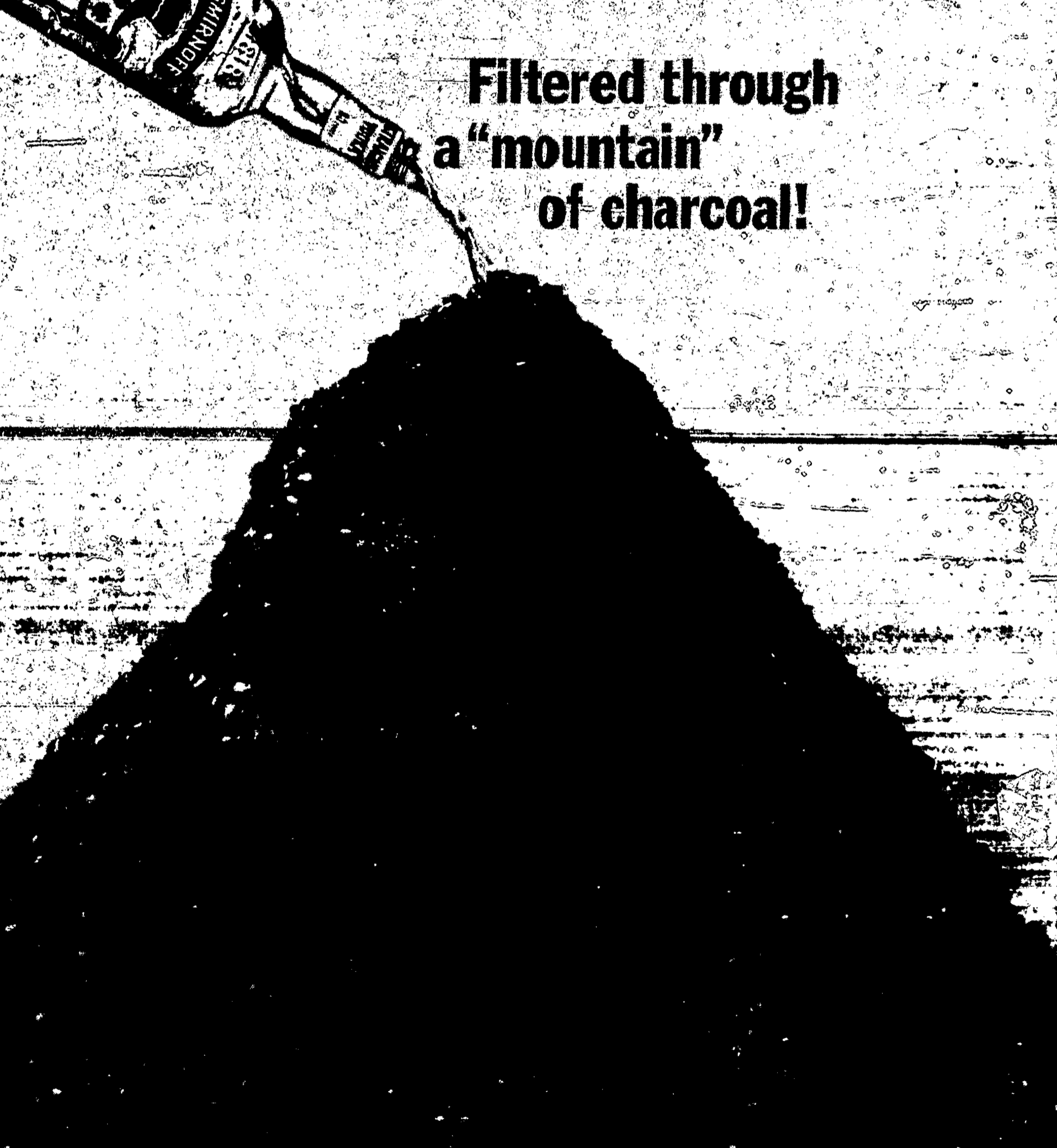


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