

More Church-State Alliances Than Tension.

New York — (RNS) — The "source of tensions" in Church-State relations in this country is found in the fact that neither churches nor the American state knows what to expect from the other, according to the Rev. Robert F. Drinan, S.J., dean of the Boston College Law School.

Father Drinan makes this point in his new book, "Religion, the Courts and Public Policy" (McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.).

'Bear Trials With Love'

Castel Gandolfo — (RNS) — High praise for those devoted to the care of the sick was blended by Pope Paul VI with an exhortation to the suffering to bear their trials "with love and for love."

The occasion was a trip he made from the papal summer residence here to celebrate Mass in the Regina Angelorum hospital on the outskirts of Albano which cares for sick nuns.

In a homily after reading the Gospel, the pontiff said that "among the several visits which we are making from our summer residence, we have decided to give preference to this house, because it stands out from all the others, due to the sufferings that it contains."

"My blessing," he said, goes out to all those who carry out charity in the medical arts. Each time I have visited hospitals and asylums, even during my pastoral life, I have experienced feelings of respect and reverence toward those who make the nursing of the sick their actual profession and, I would add, their actual mission.

The Jesuit scholar states that there are "vast, non-controversial areas where an almost universally accepted understanding on Church-State relations exists in the American mind." This "remarkable" consensus, he says, has been "almost unchallenged" and "virtually unexplored."

A few of many "friendly alliances between Church and State," he notes, are tax exemptions for religious institutions, military exemption for seminarians, clergy and conscientious objectors, chaplaincies in prisons and military institutions, and tax assistance for the work of sectarian social agencies.

No such alliance, Father Drinan says, "has ever been interdicted—although the Supreme Court has warned more than once that it is prepared to do so if necessary."

Each major religious group has a "complex problem and a profound anxiety" over how the First Amendment will be applied by the nation's highest tribunal to some particular question. The Jesuit observes:

"Protestants find their fundamental problem in the place of religion in public education . . . Catholics confront their basic problem in the financing of parochial schools for some 6 million children . . . Jews have the problem of being required by their religion to abstain from labor on Saturday and being obliged by law to refrain from business activities on Sunday."

Several "attempted solutions" to the "theory" question of religion in public education, he says, "have left educators, religionists and jurists dissatisfied both as to their effectiveness and their constitutionality."

Both Protestant and Jewish groups have sought to "broaden the bases of democracy

and make more sacred the foundations of our rights" in their positions on the issue. But they have "widely differing means" to achieve this objective.

Whether Catholics have come up with another solution is debatable, according to Father Drinan. The Catholic philosophy of education differs so much from the outlook of public school educators, he observes, that any solution would be "exceedingly difficult."

The author expresses regret that the claims of Saturday Sabbath observers were rejected in four cases by the U.S. Supreme Court. The "difficulties" which might be created by granting Sunday-law exemptions to Sabbatarians, as held by the Court "seems to be more fanciful than real."

He discusses in detail the advantages and disadvantages of the "absolute separation of Church and State" theory, of government "neutrality" toward religion and of the view that the First Amendment means "cooperative separations" of Church and State.

The "absolute" theory, he says, "can not resolve all the conflicting problems in Church-State relations" in a pluralistic society. "Neutrality" while inadequate to answer the complicated claims of sectarian schools for financial help, is "at least . . . an interpretation of the First Amendment" which resolves some of the dilemmas posed by the Amendment. "Cooperation" is not an "inappropriate" word to describe the fluid relationship between Church and State in the U.S.

"Clearly all plausible theories and theses on which to base a Church-State jurisprudence for a pluralistic America are valuable," he says.

FATHER DRINAN has some questions and suggestions for Protestants, Roman Catholics, Jews and non-believers in their study of Church-State problems. Some follow:

• To all citizens, he asks: "Is it not reasonable to suggest that all citizens in their thinking about Church-State matters seek to promote a relationship between government and religion which is certain to guarantee the preservation of a free society?"

• For Protestants: . . . the Protestant confronts the question of whether or not his resistance to the rise of non-Protestant forces will be so strong that it will bring about the secularization of public education and eventually the destruction of the religious nature of American society. . . . If confusion and disagreement about the basic principles involved continue . . . it seems possible that serious harm to the public peace and to interreligious harmony will result."

• For Catholics: . . . Catholics should avoid the omnipresent temptation to oversimplify the issues . . . be careful not to be . . . preoccupied with their own interests (such as federal aid for Catholic schools) . . . it is proper for Catholics to remain calm and, without a trace of hysteria, to prepare themselves for a long series of Church-State decisions . . . If there is any single suggestion or warning that is appropriate for Catholics, it is the counsel not to contemplate the use of the power of population or politics to secure the ends which they may seek . . ."

• For Jews: "Jewish leaders have presumably concluded that the positions they advance are in the best interests of the Jewish community and

of the nation. It is consequently their duty to present their views and to work for their adoption . . . At the same time, however, Jewish spokesmen have an obligation to address themselves to the contention that public morality and the moral health of the nation may be endangered by that divorce of religion from society which may result from the continuous application of the doctrine of absolute separation of Church and State.

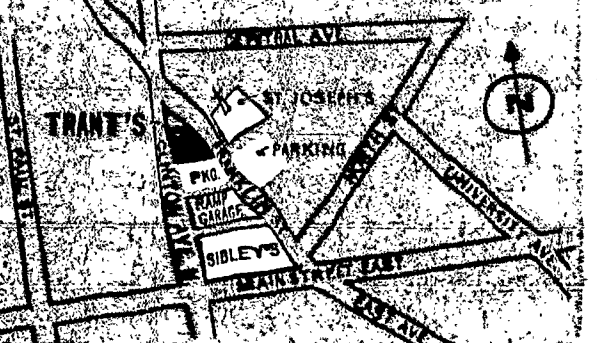
It is not an adequate answer to state that the home and the church are the natural seedbeds of the moral and religious life of the nation . . ."

• For non-believers: "The rights of non-believers in America, seemingly conceded in principle by most believers, have attained very little recognition in American law . . . (this fact) supplies no reason for believers to deny the validity of the claim of the agnostic or non-believing citizen . . ."

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Buddhist Monks Protest

Salon, South Vietnam — (RNS) — The policies of the Diem government are assailed by Buddhist monks before a huge crowd attending memorial services outside the Xa Loi Pagoda in Saigon. Services were held for a monk who had burned himself to death as a sign of protest against alleged religious persecution of Buddhists by the South Vietnamese regime headed by President Ngo Dinh Diem. Rioting, police raids on pagodas followed demonstrations in main centers. The U.S. State Department charged that the Diem government had violated assurances that it would pressure a policy of reconciliation with the Buddhists.

Legion of Mary Project

Faith at an Intersection

Philadelphia — (NC) — Christ comes to downtown Philadelphia every Saturday morning when members of the Catholic Information Center's Legion of Mary set up their book barrow at one of the city's busiest intersections.

"Arca" you're embarrassed, asked one lady, "talking about God in the middle of Broad Street?"

Others express pleasant surprise that Catholics are emulating the "street corner apostolate" of the Pentecostal sects.

In their first 10 months of religious contacts with the "man on the street," the legionaries report 1,260 conversations with passers-by—including 789 Catholics and 581 non-Catholics of varying shades of belief and disbelief.

THE BOOK BARROW, an apostolic instrument developed by Irish Catholic Actionists, is a portable book and pamphlet rack of Catholic literature designed to inform Catholics and non-Catholics alike of the Church's teachings.

Questions the legionaries report that meet range from the Catholic "customers" at the book postbox on birth control to the nature and value of confession. Many inquiries are made regarding devotion to the Blessed Mother.

The legionaries, however, do not wait for inquiries to come to them. Window shoppers and others in no apparent hurry are approached with the disarming introduction, "May we talk with you for a few moments? We are Catholics and members of the Legion of Mary."

The conversation which follows is always courteous and notable for the absence of controversy. The legionaries are instructed to terminate the conversation graciously at the first sign of annoyance or argument.

Frequently, the legionaries will be asked for literature or for a Catholic sacramental—a rosary, a crucifix or a medal. Nearly 170 booklets on some phase of Catholic teaching have been distributed through such "contacts for Christ."

Formosa Bishops OK Chinese Funeral Rites

Taipei, Formosa — (NC) — The apostolic administrator of the bishops of Formosa has issued Taipei archdiocese, and other instructions to the clergy here bishops laid down five rules regarding Catholic participation in traditional Chinese rites and ceremonies.

A joint statement signed by Thomas Cardinal Tien, S.V.D.,

Rosary, Medal For Miners

Hazleton — (RNS) — A Rosary and St. Christopher's medals were lowered through a six-inch lifeline hole to two of three miners trapped some 330 feet underground in a coal mine near here.

Father Edmund Roman, a local priest and former missionary, provided the religious articles which had been given to him by a family in Hazleton. The family said the article had been blessed by Pope Paul VI on a recent visit to Rome.

Meanwhile as efforts to rescue the three men continued, their families received many letters saying that prayers were being said for the miners, who were still alive after being trapped for nine days. Two of the miners were separated from the third by debris.

Bible Closed In New York

New York — (RNS) — A practice followed here for more than a century—the reading of portions of the Bible "without comment" at school assemblies—has been abolished by New York City's public schools to conform with the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling against devotional practices.

The Board of Education also removed its requirements that the fourth stanza of "America" be sung at daily opening exercises. That stanza, which recognizes God, had been required since 1953. Any patriotic song may now be sung.

New York's public schools had never adopted the voluntary 22-word nonsectarian prayer devised by the State Board of Regents and ruled unconstitutional by the Court in 1962. Use of the "America" stanza had been substituted for the prayer.

U. S. Missioners 6,000 by 1970

Davenport, Iowa — (NC) — The Catholic Church in the United States will have some 5,000 priests, Brothers and nuns plus more than 1,000 volunteers from the laity working in the mission fields of Latin America before the close of the 1960s.

This estimate came from Father John J. Considine, M.M., director of the Latin America Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference, in an address (Aug. 21) at the annual Study Week of the Apostolate sponsored by the Davenport diocese.

Father Considine's topic was "North America's Response to Latin America's Needs." He said the Church in Canada now has some 1,000 priests, Brothers and lay volunteers working in Latin America.

Record Number

Chicago — (NC) — Chicago archdiocesan Catholic schools will enroll a record 359,925 students next month, about 30 percent of all students in Cook and Lake counties which "make up the Sea."

Mgr. William E. McManus, head of Chicago Catholic schools, one of the largest school systems in the nation, said the anticipated enrollment in the 340 schools here will be a 3 percent increase over last year's total of 378,294.

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