

CYO Merger With YMCA Proposed

San Francisco—(RNS)—A unique plea for unity in areas of witness and service to the community was proposed here to Roman Catholic and Protestant Episcopal clergymen at an unusual "ecumenical banquet."

Closer collaboration in what he described as "areas of para-ecumenical activity" was advocated by Father George Hagmaler, C.S.P., associate director of the Paulist Institute for Religious Research in New York.

Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken of the Catholic archdiocese of San Francisco and Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike of California were among the 100 clergyman guests who heard the following proposals by Father Hagmaler:

1. The possible merger of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and the 5-million-member Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)
2. Unified religious campaigns against alcoholism, pornography and indecent films.
3. Study of the possibility of church groups working with Masonic welfare programs.
4. Establishment of interreligious family clinics.
5. Joint legislative recommendations by church bodies on such civic problems as civil rights, the so-called prayer amendments, and aid to church-related schools.

Held at St. Peter's Episcopal church here, the ecumenical banquet furthered Roman Catholic-Episcopal ties begun in January when the Paulist Fathers sponsored a Christian Unity Week program featured by a dinner attended by representatives of many Churches.

Home on Leave

Anthony F. Mancine Jr., S.A., board of the USS Sampson (DD G 10) home on a week's leave returned June 3 to Norfolk, Va. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony F. Mancine.

Bible Scholar Named For Theological Award

New York—(RNS)—Father Barnabas M. Ahern, C.P., of the Pastoral Fathers' Sacred Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was named to receive the Catholic Theological Society of America's annual Cardinal Spellman Award for distinguished work in the field of Catholic theology.

Announcement of the award was made at the society's 19th annual convention. The presentation date and place were to be announced later.

Father Ahern, a peritus (expert) at the Vatican Council's first and second sessions, is now in England where he has been participating in ecumenical meetings in London and Liverpool. He is a member of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.

A professor of New Testament at the Pastoral Seminary, Father Ahern is Scripture editor of "Worship," a liturgical magazine published in Collegeville, Minn. He has been a contributor to a number of theological and Biblical publications.

Nation's Strength from Many Roots

A recent review in "Theological Studies" magazine of the book "American Pluralism and the Catholic Conscience" states that the work demands the combined talents of a theologian, a constitutional lawyer and an American historian.

While its author, young Father Richard J. Regan, S.J., is all of these to a remarkable degree, the rest of us are not. That is precisely why we need him.

We need him as average, intelligent readers who might be misled or less intellectually alive while the headlines blare with birth control, federal aid, obscenity movies, and Father Dubay.

We need a book that will reward long hours of plodding through ponderous prose with some profound analysis of the critical issues in the century-old shuffling between Church and State.

A pupil of Father John Courtney Murray, S.J., Father Regan is one of those in the new school of more liberal theologians who have thought through the problem of pluralism in its modern American context. As many Americans began to realize perhaps for the first time, during the election of 1960, modern American civilization presents, in some ways, a unique historical phenomenon: its institutions draw their strength not so much from a single enduring tradition (like the Church has long provided for most of the Western world) but from the interacting influences of several religions and cultures.

We are a pluralistic society; we can speak not so much of an American way of life as of American ways of life.

The question has been asked, can a Church with an allegedly non-political government harmonize with a democratic society? For most of our history we had hardly bothered to discuss the issue. Why should we? Catholics were obviously loyal citizens.

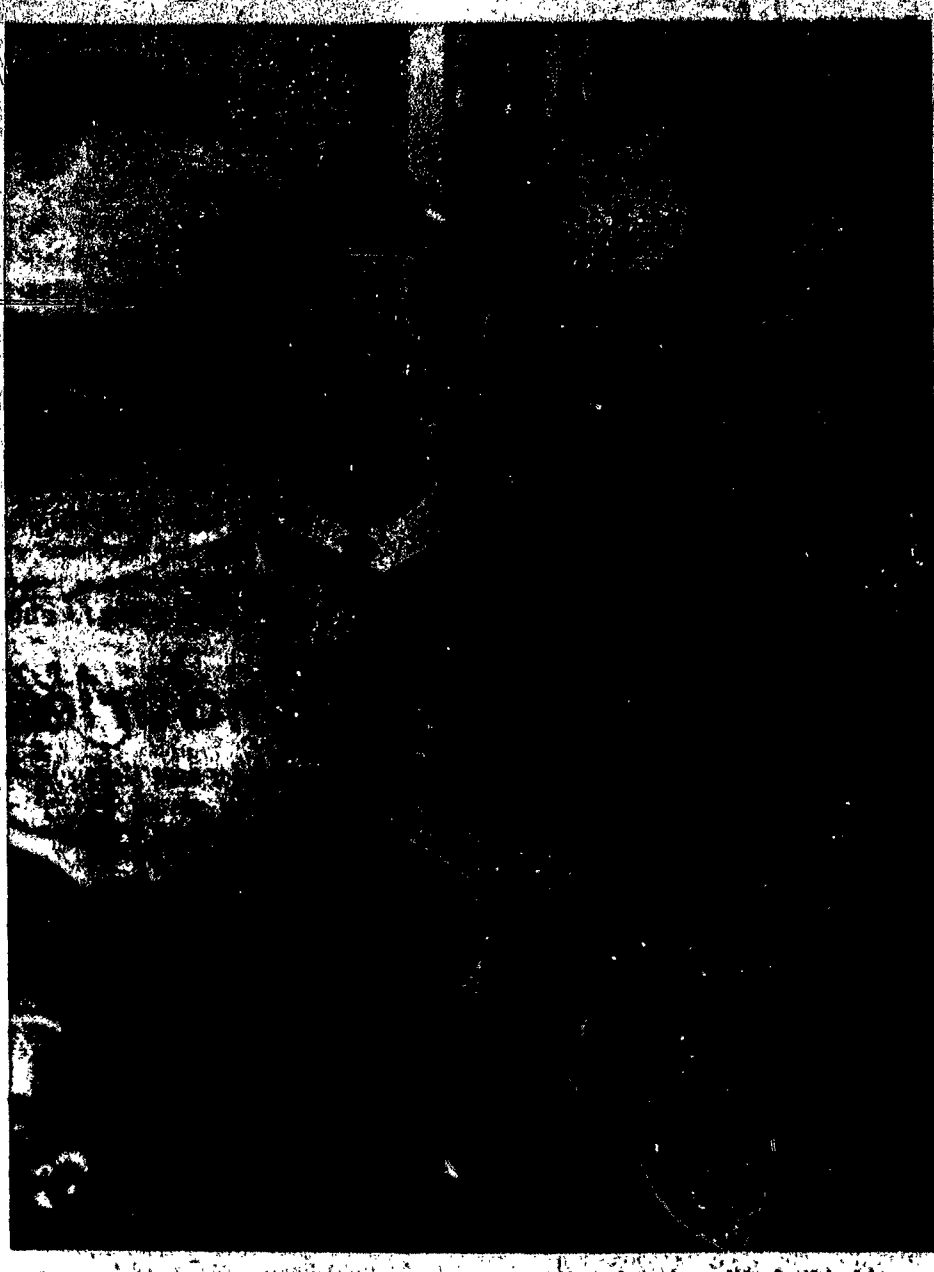
But, in 1960, when an Irish Catholic was reaching for the heart of America's political power, some feared our religious pluralism would be threatened.

Father Regan states modestly that the nature of the church-state relationship is certainly not one of the most pressing, like man himself, are social as well as individual, religious and civic activities must intersect, and the state's attitude toward religion must be one of cooperation and friendship.

He analyzes the Everson, McCollum and Zorach cases where the Supreme Court first supported the allotting of state funds to transport parochial school in New Jersey, then outlawed religious instruction during school hours in Illinois, then finally approved the "released time" program in New York. Justice Douglas' Zorach decision should be cited: "When the state encourages religious instruction or cooperates with religious authorities by adjusting the schedule of public events to sectarian needs, it follows the best of our traditions. For then it respects the religious nature of our people and accommodates the public service to their spiritual needs."

The day has passed when the government can be expected to foster religion actively, but America does have a tradition of supporting religious institutions because they are charitable, of providing chaplains for servicemen, of exempting church property from taxation, in short, to do otherwise would be to establish secularism as the religion of the state.

Father Regan bases his argument for state aid to private schools on the principle that the private school is not a competitor but a cooperator with the public school in the task of educating the nation's children. He encourages the advocates of the private schools to press their



Typical of the "pluralistic" aspect of present day American life is this historic photo of President Johnson at the signing of the new civil rights law which had the strong backing of all the nation's major religious and ethnic groups. The President gave the pen he used to sign the law to Baptist minister Dr. Martin Luther King while Senator Jacob J. Javits, a Jew, and AFL-CIO chief George Meany, a Catholic, witness the event.

He traces the history of disestablishment in the colonial period and rejects as an unacceptable historical thesis Justice Rutledge's doctrine of "complete separation" of church and state that would make the state's attitude toward religion one of tolerant hostility. He points out that since religious activities,

like man himself, are social as well as individual, religious and civic activities must intersect, and the state's attitude toward religion must be one of cooperation and friendship.

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On the program is based with a democracy that respects the equality of all groups.

The public authorities may sponsor religious instruction for those who wish it, but they cannot sponsor a religious instruction program designed for all students. Nor can the state compose and prescribe a prayer to be read in class. Father Regan supports the decision of the Supreme Court in the recent New York Regents prayer case.

He is a student on natural law. He believes some of the more conservative applications of the law. He believes Catholic teaching in Massachusetts and Connecticut should support reasonable regulations of the public use of religious symbols in their states but that Catholics should not have a direct use of public funds to promote the practice of artificial birth control.

On responsibility, he recognizes the state's obligation to protect the freedom and integrity of the artist as well as its obligation to protect society from insanity.

He goes along with the notion that the movie "Lady and the Tramp" was a "rather silly 'love triangle'" rather than an indictment to sexual immorality. He states: "The Jewish tradition has long held that restraint should be the rule and freedom the exception, that a man is presumed to act responsibly until he gives proof of an irresponsibility in need of legal correction."

This is but a sampling of this young Jesuit's ideas. Obviously he is an independent thinker as well as a profound one. The book, with its dry, Latinized style, long sentences and formal organization, is hardly light reading, but it will reward a good day's concentration with a broader awareness and more mature understanding of the riches of the Church's theological tradition, the beauty and complexity of the American democratic system and, finally, the richness of the harmony the two have achieved.

"American Pluralism and the Catholic Conscience" belongs in every public library, every school and convent and the home of every Catholic layman willing to study seriously and talk intelligently about the challenges facing the post-Council American Church.

The issue of nonsectarian religious instruction in public schools, he says, is more complex than its advocates indicate. Whatever its abstract merits

but he urges the not heads not to play Russian roulette with many of the nation's children by threatening to seal the support of public education unless private school children get their share.

Raymond A. Strobel, S.J., McQuill Jesuit High School

World Council Names Four Vatican Observers

Geneva—(RNS)—Four World Council of Churches delegates-observers to the third session of the Second Vatican Council were named here at headquarters of the Protestant-Orthodox agency.

Returning to the Roman Catholic concave will be Dr. Lukas Vischer, research secretary in the WCC's Faith and Order Department, and Prof. Nikos A. Nissiotis, associate director of the Ecumenical Institute of the WCC at Bossey, Switzerland.

Serving consecutively in a third observer post will be Dr. Zachariah K. Matthews of South Africa, Africa secretary of the WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service, and Dr. Gerald C. Brauer, dean and professor of church history at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Pope, Primate Meeting Soon

London—(RNS)—Although informed Anglican and Roman-Catholic sources say that the Archbishop of Canterbury will visit Pope Paul VI soon at the Vatican, it was confirmed here and in Rome that no arrangements have yet been made for such a meeting.


The Archbishop, Dr. Michael Ramsey, recently told newsmen in an interview here that he is more than likely to visit the Pope in the near future.

Some Catholic observers here feel Dr. Ramsey might consider it advisable to wait until the third session of the Ecumenical Council concludes in late November. This session is considered a "vital" one, they said, and out of it could emerge much that Dr. Ramsey and Pope Paul could discuss.

One subject could well be that of reunion. Dr. Ramsey spoke of this in an interview when asked what form of reunion he could foresee. "Given the solution of the major dogmatic difficulties," he said, "unity could take the form of the provinces of the Anglican Communion being in communion with Rome, accepting the Pope as the presiding bishop of all Christendom, but being allowed to have our own liturgy and married clergy and a great deal of existing Anglican customs, that is to say, it would be a position rather like the Eastern Uniate Churches in relation to the See of Rome."

Reports from Vatican City have been along the same line—that the Pope would be happy to receive the Archbishop, but no plans have been made for a meeting.

One Vatican official said, it had been taken for granted that if Pope John XXIII had the



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State and Municipal Obligations	16,074,302.91	Undivided Profits	5,889,376.02
Stock of Federal Reserve Bank ..	279,000.00		
Loans	87,599,826.34		
Mortgages	21,648,790.61	Reserve for Payable Loan Losses	2,161,194.22
Bank Premises and Equipment	449,443.71	Unearned Discount	4,913,644.16
Accrued Interest Receivable	755,718.04	Taxes and Other Liabilities	1,486,376.32
Other Assets	841,119.27	Deposits	162,737,398.88
	\$186,489,185.30		\$186,489,185.30

*Other valuations referred have been applied to write down items.

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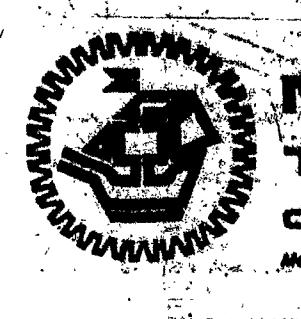
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