

LBJ Names Syracusan To Cabinet

Washington — (NC) — When John T. Connor looks ahead to his new job as United States Secretary of Commerce, he probably thinks of the old Breton fisherman's saying he likes to quote:

"Dear God, be good to me. The sea is so wide, and my boat so small."

In truth, although he is setting out on a vast new job, his boat is not so small. Connor, 50, a member of St. Theresa parish in Summit, N.J., has behind him long experience in education, business and government. Before accepting the post offered him by President Johnson, he was president of Merck and Company Inc., a drug company in Rahway, N.J., and a director of the General Foods and General Motors corporations.

When the U.S. Senate approves his appointment and he is sworn in, Connor will become the third Catholic in the present cabinet, joining Postmaster General John Gronowski and Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Anthony Celebrezze.

Announcing the appointment, President Johnson described Connor as "the kind of man I am proud to have in the cabinet. He is smart and he is loyal and he is patriotic. He will never discard a principle nor despair of doing what is right and ought to be done."

There is no doubt that Connor is smart. Born in Syracuse, N.Y., he graduated from Holy Rosary High School there and then took his Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude from Syracuse University in 1936. From there he went to Harvard Law School where he was known as one of the "happy hot dogs" who studied under Felix Frankfurter, now a retired Supreme Court Justice.

While at Harvard he met Mary O'Boyle of Milwaukee, who was attending Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in Purchase, N.Y. They were married soon after and now have three children, John Jr., 23; Geoffrey, 18, and a daughter, Lisa, 14.

Despite his activity in business and government, Connor found time to serve many charitable causes. He raised money for Seton Hall University's College of Medicine and Dentistry, and still serves as a trustee of his wife's alma mater.

Christmas Carols in Rome

Rome — (RNS) — Every Christmas many Italian "bagpipers," called zampognari, converge on Rome to play Yuletide melodies for an appreciative audience. Here, in Rome's Via Frattina, one of them teams up with a "Babbo Natale," dressed in traditional custom.

Churches Share In Poverty War

Washington — (NC) — The Johnson administration has brought more clearly into focus the pattern of public-private collaboration in the quickening pace of the war against poverty.

The second batch of projects announced by the new Office of Economic Opportunity totals 162 programs involving \$82.6 million and a host of governmental, private, religious and business groups.

The first, announced Nov. 24, involved putting \$35 million into a total of 119 separate projects, many of which hinted at further blending of public and private resources.

In the latest announcement to be made in the nine weeks since the anti-poverty effort got funds from Congress, collaboration is dramatized in new Job Corps Centers, in several major community action programs and in work-study projects for college students.

In Chicago, for example, the \$3,993,471 from the Office of Economic Opportunity will help support a broad program in which parochial schools have joined. These schools will serve with public schools as sites of pre-school centers for underprivileged children.

A similar community action effort will be launched with Federal grants to the Mayor's Committee on Human Resources in Pittsburgh. Catholic schools there will give facilities and staff to develop special programs to help overcome impediments to learning among all needy children and residents in the impoverished areas in which the schools are located.



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