

Will Brazil's Rich Pay Their Share?

By GARY MacEON

Maaos, Brazil—If the military-business government is to fulfill its commitment to stop inflation, this is going to demand from Brazilians a level of sacrifice they have refused to accept up to now.

Capital needs for renewal of basic facilities are enormous, because everything has been allowed to run down.

As I have myself experienced, the domestic airlines are in a shocking state. One flight I had booked was delayed 24 hours by engine trouble and lack of spare parts.

As I write, my onward flight is "at least" 48 hours behind schedule, may be postponed a week. (Incidentally, the airline disclaims all responsibility even for hotel costs resulting from its delay.) And air service is basic to a country lacking rail and road communications. Many of the aircraft are over twenty years old.

That Brazil has to pay for living above its income and creating this kind of situation is now agreed. The question is who is going to pay. And the danger is that

the businessmen, who are making economic policy, will try to unload the burden on the poverty-stricken masses. That is what many socially conscious Catholics with whom I have spoken consider the crux of the situation.

"The military control is now so absolute," said one, whose identity must for obvious reasons be hidden, "that I believe they can impose any policy they choose and maintain it for six or eight years. But if they rely on their strength to deny justice to the starving masses, then I prophesy that our next government will indeed be Communist."

There is still a great deal of wealth in Brazil. Industry has expanded to a point that justifies calling the country semi-developed rather than under-developed. It produced 185,000 automobiles last year. It exports both light and heavy manufactures to its neighbors in the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA).

The immediate problem is that not enough of this wealth is being used in the national interest. Much escapes taxation. Much has fled to other countries as a hedge against the inflation which in

the past 15 months alone has raised the price of the dollar from \$20 to \$180 cruzeros. The government last month offered a guarantee to get this money back. Anyone who sells foreign currency to the Bank of Brazil can rebuy it at the same price within an agreed period. The response to this proposal will be a measure of real confidence in the stability and good faith of the regime. There have been some takers, but most Brazilians and foreign investors are waiting to see what will happen.

Yet another way in which much money is held is in the form of inventories and durable consumer goods. People have eight cars who use only two. Such hoarding is bad for the economy because it slows down the velocity of turn-over. And ending it creates a new problem. If inflation is controlled, business will unload the excess inventories, cutting new orders and slowing the rate of industrial production.

The business men now in the government are probably the best equipped people the country has to face these problems. Already, however, they are splitting among themselves and jockeying to pro-

tect their partisan interests. The answer of the military, the final authority, is to threaten indefinite postponement of promised elections and an institutionalization of dictatorship.

During this month there were two incidents which look ominous to me. An army commander in Recife forced the local legislature to unseat a member who is held by the army on charges that have not yet been heard. In Rio, a major held up a commercial plane (loaded with passengers and ready to take off) for 90 minutes because it would not change its route to convenience him, yet no action was taken against him. This is getting like the dictatorship of General Rojas Pinilla in Colombia in the 1950s. He began with a magnificent social program, soon became one of Latin America's most corrupt and arbitrary caudillos.

What the Brazilian Revolution obviously needs is a conscience. The logical and indeed only one available is the Catholic Church. But, as I shall try to explain next week, it is not too well equipped to perform a function that is equally required for the country's future and its own survival.



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Latin Exhibit at Seminary
LATIN EXHIBIT at St. Andrew's Seminary last week included the awarding of this trophy for a Latin translation contest. Looking over the trophy are from left Stephen Kraus, Robert Kennedy and the Rev. Raymond Kenny, moderator.



Communion Breakfast Set
NOCTURNAL ADORATION Society will hold its annual breakfast April 4 at 8:15 a.m. at Bausch & Lomb Co. cafeteria. Bishop Kearney will be guest speaker. Committee includes from left Robert H. Kalk, John C. Riesenberger, Joseph P. Vang, chairman; Urban G. Kress, and Angelo L. DiNieri, floor chairman.

French Town Planners Consult Clergymen

Paris — (RNS) — French Catholics, Protestants and Jews met here for the first time with government officials, town-planners, architects and sociologists to discuss where churches and synagogues should be built in future.

The occasion was a two-day conference held under the auspices of the National Committee for Church Building (Catholic), the Protestant Federation of France, and the French Israelite Consistory. Some 1,200 delegates participated.

The conference was presided over by Claudius Petit, former Minister for Construction. Serving in turn as moderators of three major discussions were Maurice Cardinal Feltin, Archbishop of Paris; Pastor Charles Wesphal, president of the Reformed Churches of France; and Grand Rabbi Jacob Kaplan of Paris.

Outlining government and municipal plans for urban development were Philippe Lamour, president of the Government Planning Committee for Building, and Paul Delouvrier, who stressed that every extension of an old town or the creation of new ones made necessary not only the erection of churches but of convents, seminaries and community centers.

Moreover, they noted, such structural changes in urban administration, as well as the movement of population, also made necessary a division or regrouping of parishes.

Discussing the problem of sites for religious edifices, M. Delouvrier announced that a general detailed listing of government and municipal plans would shortly be issued to religious authorities so that they could buy sites in advance of general building and so acquire not only the necessary space but

New Study Of Hus Asked

Vienna — (RNS) — A German Protestant churchman was reported by a communist newspaper in Prague as proposing that the Roman Catholic Church review its condemnation of Jan Hus 15th century Bohemian reformer and martyr, for "human, religious and legal reasons."

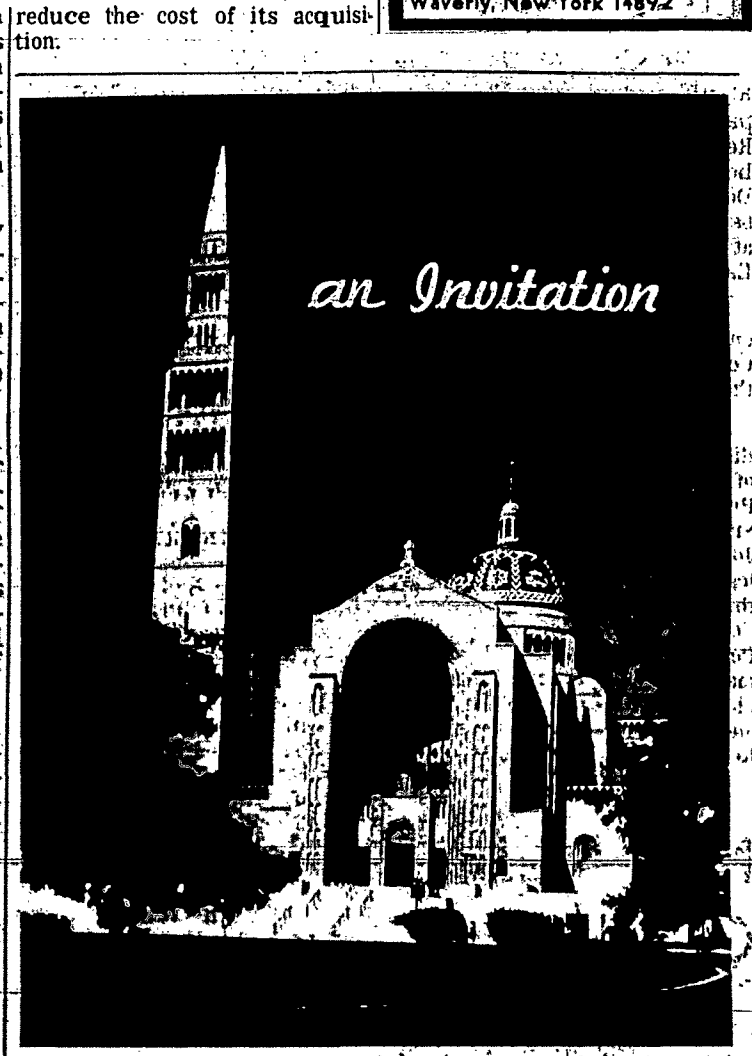
Pope Cautions Workers

Vatican City — (RNS) — Unity in the world of labor must not be accomplished at the sacrifice of the Catholic worker's "high ideals, his faith, his freedom or his Christian concept of life," Pope Paul VI cautioned.

His warning apparently was prompted by drives under way in some European countries to establish a dialogue between Christian and Communist or Socialist workers.

He spoke to members of the Christian Worker Association in Italy and a group of pilgrims during a Mass he celebrated in St. Peter's Basilica to mark the Feast of St. Joseph, patron of workers.

French Town Planners Consult Clergymen



When in Washington, D.C. be sure to visit the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

GOD LOVE YOU

Most Reverend
Fulton J. Sheen

In one of the most frightening pages in all literature, Dostoevsky pictures the return of the anti-Christ in our times to taunt Christ: "You refused to turn stones into bread, offering instead Heavenly Bread. How few want that Bread now! You failed to win the mob by becoming a bread-King and you will never get the mob back!" This imagery points up the intensity of Satan's temptation when Our Lord had fasted 40 days. Why not satisfy His own hunger? Was He not seeking to be a Savior? Then be an economic Savior! The Cross is not necessary. Men know they have bellies; most of them do not care about their souls.

Later on in His public life, Our Lord did multiply bread to feed the hungry. He looked at those who had gathered to hear Him and had compassion on them. But in the temptation Satan used the argument of hunger as a proof that God was not merciful because He allowed starvation, and that He, Jesus, was not the Son of God; otherwise He would immediately have relieved His own hunger. Satan was no more interested in giving bread to the hungry than the Communists are interested in the poor when they incite bread riots. The devil merely wanted the absence of the miracle to prove that Christ was not God. Satan was arguing: "Man lives by the economic and only that." Our Lord was saying, "Not by the economic alone does man live, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Man's real support is not in gifts, but in the Giver.

Ask the average American what is most important in life and he will say: bread, the economic, profit, the "almighty dollar," cutting corners to make money, and more and more of what can be seen, felt and counted. You, average American Catholics, with which side do you ally yourselves? Do you look, and looking have compassion? Or do you live by the dollar sign, saying that you are not your brother's keeper? Write to us and let your sacrifice be your answer. God love you!

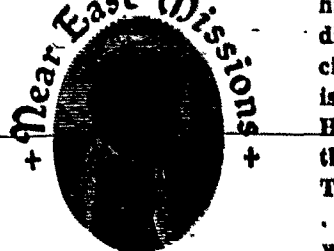
GOD LOVE YOU to R.C.L. for \$16 "This is part of the money that I saved by giving up cigarettes. Knowing that by sending it to you I would be able to help the Holy Father aid my unfortunate brothers throughout the world, gave me the will power to keep from smoking. It was MISSION magazine that helped open my eyes to the suffering of the world." ... to M.L. for \$3 "I am not a Catholic, but I read about lepers in your magazine and would like to help. This is so little to me that it's hard to believe it's a year's cure for them!"

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HOLY LAND: NEW REFUGEES

NO LAND ON EARTH IS HOLIER THAN PALESTINE—AND YET IT HAS ALWAYS KNOWN THE HOMELESS, THE WANDERER, THE REFUGEE... Jesus Christ Himself was one of them. He fled before a tyrant into Egypt, had nowhere to lay His head, and died nailed on a cross outside the city of Jerusalem... Today there is a new crop of refugees in the Holy Land. There are a million of them—men, women, and children. They are refugees because of war... Look at this 36-year-old mother who has no answer to the thin cry of her hungry child! Look at this deaf-mute boy in Lebanon, the blind 10-year-old in the Gaza Strip! The Holy Father asks help... For 15 years the Pontifical Mission for Palestine has cared for refugees, midwives are at hand when they are born, priests administer the sacraments when they are in danger of death... Make this your mission of mercy during Lent? \$4,800 will help bring into being (in memory of your loved ones) a new school the Holy Father hopes to build in Lebanon. \$2,800 will pay for the school bus. \$300 will establish a memorial scholarship in the Salesian Fathers' school for carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, in Bethlehem. For only \$10 (thanks to sharp economies) you can feed an entire family for a month!... Your Lenten sacrifice this week, in any amount (\$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5, \$2), will erase the misery Christ suffers in His refugees. Please do as much as you can.



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- \$600... Feed five families for one year.
- \$300... Train a blind boy for one year.
- \$50... Teach four refugee girls stenography.
- \$10... Feed a refugee family for one month.
- \$5... Buy clothing for a refugee.
- \$1... Buy pencils, catechisms, for a refugee-camp school.

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