

Laymen Levy \$1 Tax for School Fee

Vancouver, B.C. — (NC) — Parish lay school boards have voted to ask each Catholic wage-earner for \$1 a month to finance transfer of the administrative control of Catholic schools here from clergy to laity.

In a meeting in Holy Name parish hall, school board representatives from 55 parishes in this northwest Canada archdiocese voted 51 to 4 to make the levy.

The boards hope to raise \$25,000 to establish a diocesan school board office and hire permanent staff, including a lay superintendent of Catholic schools.

On June 6, adult Catholics here voted overwhelmingly in favor of a proposal, made with the approval of Vancouver's Archbishop Martin M. Johnson, that lay people operate the school system and pledge themselves to its support.

An interim archdiocese education commission was then appointed. Under its direction, Catholics in each parish have elected school boards.

The meeting here was attended by an estimated 200 delegates. Voting was done on a parish basis.

T.N. Beaupre, the Vancouver businessman named by the archbishop to head the interim committee, told the group: "If we're going to get the job done, it is going to cost us some money."

He said the levy must not be taken from parish collections or financed by bingo or raffles. It must be, he said, a direct contribution which will gauge the people's support.

Nurse Gets Medal

New Delhi — (NC) — A Catholic nurse, Miss F. C. Watkins, serving in the Indian armed forces has been awarded the Florence Nightingale medal by the international committee of the Red Cross.

Clergy Role Not Clear In Civil Rights Issue

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gies is being "besmirched by the happenings of recent days." He said the riots were "unjustified."

The Tidings, archdiocesan newspaper, blamed the riots on a "spirit of incredible lawlessness." It flatly denied that Negro segregation or poverty triggered the outbreak, stating that "statistics speak otherwise." The paper said investigators should probe not for economic and social remedies but to look for the reason for an increasing disregard for the law.

Cardinal Lawrence Shehan, speaking in Baltimore to the national convention of the Knights of Columbus, said all forces in every community must be coordinated to avert outbreaks of violence like the Los Angeles and Rochester riots. He said the heart of the problem is poverty which breeds "crime and racial tension."

He listed religion as one of the chief forces which can aid in righting the racial crisis which threatens to erupt in scores of cities across the country.

"Unfortunately, in the past the religious bodies of this country have been so divided as to make any effective co-operation impossible. Now, with the new ecumenical spirit of understanding and friendliness, co-operation is not only possible — it is necessary. It should be all the more effective because in these areas there can be no question of compromise in doctrine or principle."

But he didn't specify what he considered the clergy's role to be in the placid-carrying and sit-in demonstrations. He did, however, say lay people

Bishop Honored at Fair

Bishop Kearney was the recipient of an "Achievement Citation" at the recent Monroe County Fair.

More than 300 civic and religious leaders signed the citation given to him at an interfaith rite opening the Fair. Signatures include those of Governor Nelson Rockefeller, Congressman Frank Horton, Mayor Frank Lamb, Episcopal Bishop George W. Barrett and Rev. George Hill of the Rochester Council of Churches.

Honored with the Bishop with a similar citation was Gaylord Whitaker, board chairman of Graftex, Inc.

The citations were awarded by the Monroe County Citizens Civic Committee headed by Barton Baker.

In his talk at the interfaith rite, Bishop Kearney answered the question he posed, "What place does a religious service have at a county fair?"

He cited the complaint once lodged against a prelate's plea to his king on a point of justice. The monarch advised him to "plead in court because, he said, 'this is no place for bringing your claim.' The prelate replied, 'For justice, every place is a court.'"

So also, said Bishop Kearney, "For prayer to God, every place is a chapel — whether it be a cathedral or a battlefield altar or a tent at a county fair."

He listed three reasons why prayer is important — because it is "the duty of a child to speak to his parent and God is our Father," because of His continuing gifts of life, knowledge, progress, and because "as Americans we are publicly committed by the Founding Fathers of our nation to appeal for God's help particularly in those times when we realize in an emphatic way our need for 'a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence.'"

He cited the Vietnam War, racial tensions at home, and other areas of concern as "more than enough evidence" that the nation needs to pray.

He also rapped pacifist demonstrators who tried to block a troop train in California. The Bishop told of his at-



Bishop Kearney and Gaylord Whitaker admire the plaques given them at the Monroe County Fair by a Citizens Civic Committee honoring the two for their community-wide leadership.

tendance at a military rite in New York City where a Marine officer, killed in the Vietnam fighting, was honored posthumously. "His companions on the battlefield, cry out to us to send

them help. We must not let these enemies within prevent us from sending to our boys on that distant battlefield all the help they need in these difficult days for our country."

425 Laity to Work In U.S. Missions

Chicago — (NC) — A record 425 Extension Society Volunteers have completed training here and are heading for mission posts in 32 U.S. dioceses. The volunteers, who total 80 more than last

year, have forfeited salaried positions to serve as teachers, nurses, medical technicians, campus workers, parish helpers and social workers at 164 U.S. parishes and institutions.

Sponsored by the Catholic Church Extension Society here, the volunteers are drawn from 98 dioceses and 185 colleges. They will serve in major cities, remote migrant worker camps and racially tense areas, such as Selma, Ala.

Sixty-two members of this year's volunteer corps have already served at least one year in the four-year-old program.

Officials said that the increased number of volunteers has made possible some new ventures, notably a sharp rise

in inner city and interracial work. Volunteers trained in these fields last year went to Chicago, but this year they also will go to Detroit, Oklahoma City, Wichita, Kansas City, Omaha and Salt Lake City.

Teachers, nurses and parish social workers will go into Appalachia, the area where illiteracy and unemployment are the highest in the nation and where a special federal effort to assist development has been launched.

The volunteers are men and women between the ages of 21 and 45, single or married without dependent children. More than 90% are college graduates. They will be given room and board, transportation costs, hospitalization insurance and a monthly stipend of \$50.

Slovak Prelate, Often Jailed, Dies at 87

Prague — (RNS) — Bishop Jan Vojtassak of Spis, Slovakia, who was one of five prelates released from detention by the Czechoslovak government in 1963, died in a home for retired priests at the age of 87, according to a Czechoslovak broadcast.

Bishop Vojtassak was first arrested in April, 1946, but released in a short time. He was arrested again in the summer of 1950 and the following January was sentenced to 24 years' imprisonment on charges of "treason and espionage."

In 1956 he was liberated, apparently because of his advanced age, but was not permitted by the Communist authorities to return to his diocese.

Four years later, Bishop Vojtassak was reported to have been arrested once more — this time for allegedly refusing to obey orders of the State Office for Church Affairs. He remained in detention until 1963.

Bishop Vojtassak was known as an exemplary prelate and a man of great charity and apostolic zeal. In 1926 he visited the U.S. and was made an honorary member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, which fosters athletic activities and has headquarters in Passaic, N.J.

Baltimore Clergy Urge Race Amity

Baltimore — (RNS) — Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders joined here with residents of the bi-racial West Baltimore section in a call for increased understanding and cooperation at the neighborhood level.

Called by the year-old "West Baltimore Interfaith, Interracial Council," the meeting featured the participation of Cardinal Lawrence Shehan, Archbishop of Baltimore; Episcopal Bishop Harry Lee Doll of Maryland, and Rabbi Uri Miller of Baltimore, past president of the Synagogue Council of America.

The three churchmen, together with Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist ministers, stressed the responsibility of all religious groups to combat prejudice and discrimination.

Cardinal Shehan commented that a "great society" is possible in America, but not until true equality for all citizens is achieved.

"Certainly we have been slow in our legislation," the prelate said, but added that what we need above all else is a spirit of cooperation, good will and understanding on the neighborhood level."

Bishop Doll also emphasized the need for individuals to "bear witness . . . make a radical break in the society around."

He asserted that criticism of clergymen for participation in civil rights activities "borders on blasphemy . . . to infer that God is not concerned with . . . sociology and politics as well as religion."

Rabbi Miller branded racism as blasphemy, commenting: "It's saying one god created the white people and another, an inferior god, created the colored."

Scholars to Study Aquinas Books

Rome — (RNS) — An International Thomistic Congress will be held here, Sept. 6-11, with the participation of theologians, clergy and laymen from many parts of the world.

About 20 papers will be read and discussed, all centering on the theme: "The Existence of God in St. Thomas and in the Philosophy of Today."

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