

Freedom Topic Set At College

Jamaica, N.Y.—(NC)—The administration of St. John's University hopes to hold a conference on implementing academic freedom early next year but considers public discussion of the subject at this time "premature."

This was stated by Father Joseph T. Cahill, C.M., university president, in a letter explaining why he refused to let the campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors use campus facilities for an Oct. 28 "teach-in."

His letter, directed to faculty members, said a "teach-in" was "hardly the format that should be expected to achieve any useful results" in discussing and implementing academic freedom.

Father Cahill's letter was the latest development in the continuing controversy between the administration of St. John's and elements of the faculty who oppose its policies on academic freedom, tenure and other matters.

The school, largest Catholic university in the country, was the scene of protest demonstrations last spring. A self-study program aimed at resolving differences has been underway since then.



Dousing for a Card Burning

New York—(RNS)—Five pacifists are sprayed by a heckler's fire extinguisher as they seek to burn their draft cards at a rally in Union Square. New York, protesting U.S. military action in Vietnam. The men had trouble igniting the cards after the drenching, but after they were dried over cigarette lighters the placards burned crisply. Shown from left are Thomas Cornell, 31, Marc Paul Edleman, 19, and Roy Lisker, 27. The other two were David McReynolds, 36, and James E. Wilson, 21. Sponsoring the rally was the Committee for Nonviolent Action. The rally drew some 60 counter-demonstrators who picketed across the street.

Journal Terms Card Burning Close to Treason

Washington—(RNS)—Christianity Today, conservative Protestant fortnightly, charged that burning of draft cards to protest U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam is "perilously close to treason" and cited reports of Communist participation in such actions.

In an editorial, "Dodging the Draft," it said that "collegians and Communists decided to test" the policy of the U.S. which "has generally allowed conscientious objectors to forego military service."

"Pacifists," the editorial continued, "should be recognized as sincere people and promptly assigned to non-combatant work at home and abroad where they can bind up the wounds of those who are preserving their freedom to be pacifists. And the exhibitionists who express their frustrations extra-legally and under the cloak of pacifism should be allowed to do so in the confinement reserved for lawbreakers."

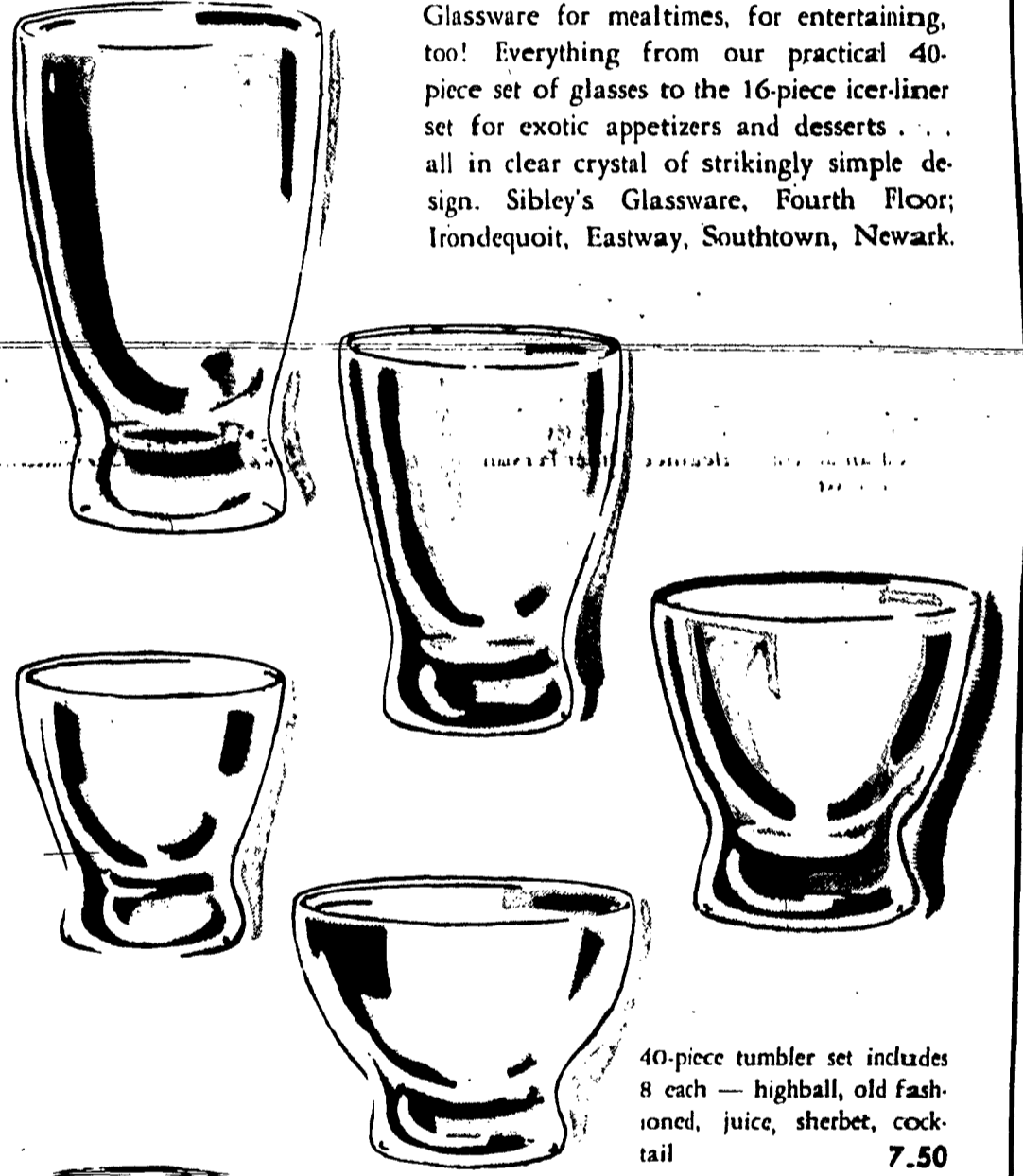
'Gift Lift'

Philadelphia—(NC)—A La Salle College student group here opened "Operation Gift Lift," a drive to collect Christmas gifts for the soldiers of Battery A of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.

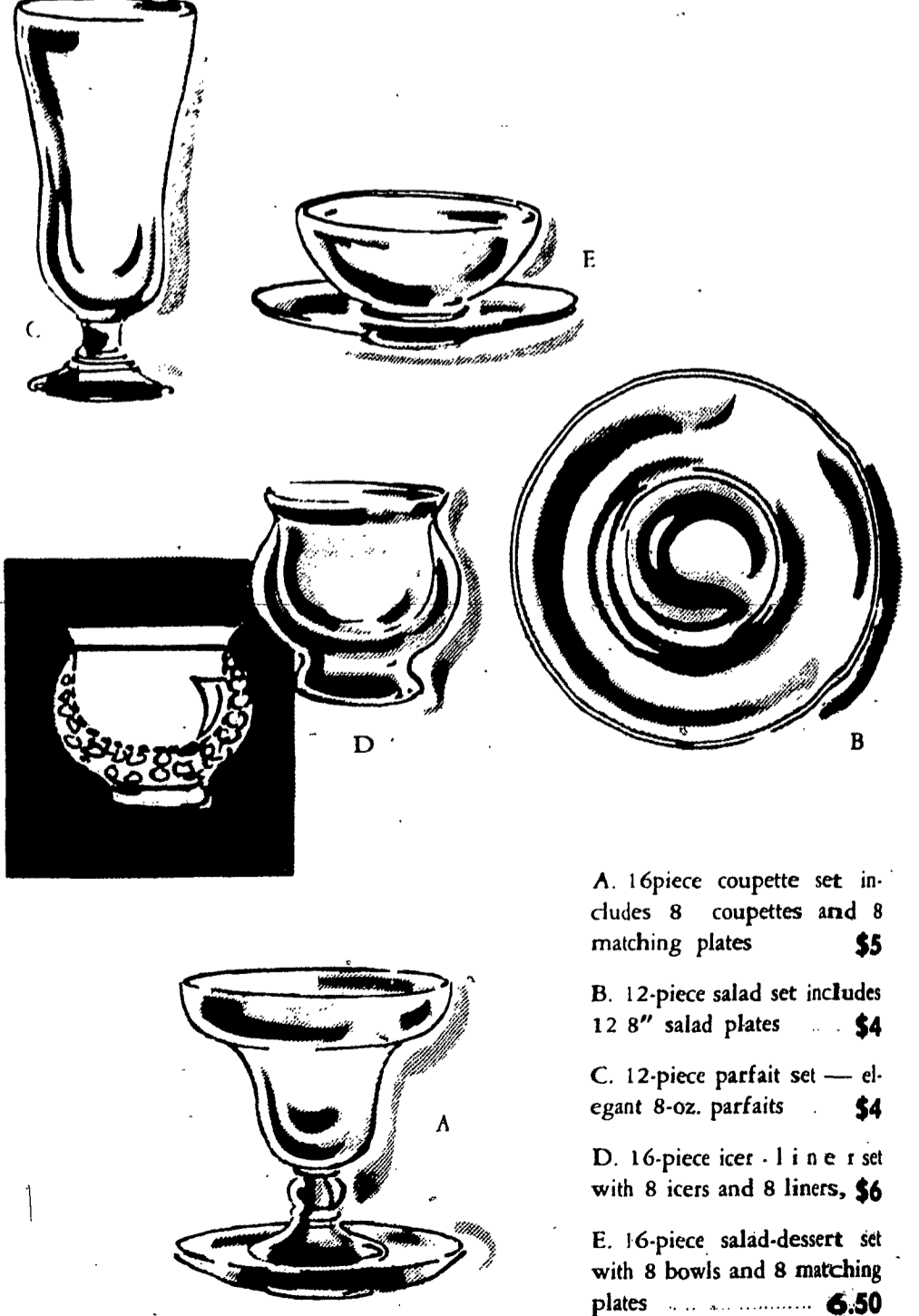


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Rusk Explains Decision Roots

Washington—(NC)—Secretary of State Dean Rusk is noted for a talent for stating complex things simply. He recently told here how this country's foreign policy decisions are arrived at. They are certainly not hit or miss decisions.

A great amount of thought and experience go into their formulation, he said.

In the very barest essentials, foreign policy decisions are arrived at by stating the question properly; by weighing the involved interests, objectives and responsibilities of the U.S., by considering the views of other countries directly involved; by examining our past experiences; by determining what principles of international law are involved; by asking what will be the reaction of the American people of Congress; by obtaining the judgments of those whose interests and responsibilities are involved.

In giving this outline, Secretary Rusk uttered some expressions that are worth remembering:

"The first requirement is to identify accurately the question which has to be answered. In many situations the very forming of the question strongly affects the answer... Let me emphasize that it is not easy to pose the question accurately."

"We will not get very far in dealing with any problem unless the 'point to settle' is clearly defined."

"The military and economic facts of life increasingly contradict the notion of national self-sufficiency which underlay the world's political organization before World Wars I and II."

"A willingness to ignore the past is sometimes described as 'imaginative' policy. It can just as easily be the prescription for disaster."

"We can only shape what happens in the world by influence."

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Pope's Gift Aids Victims

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI has contributed \$50,000 to help war victims in both North and South Vietnam, Vatican Radio reported.

It said the money was donated to Caritas International, which had launched an appeal from its headquarters in Rome urging people the world over to aid the people of Vietnam.

Peace Theology Still in Infancy

St. Paul—(NC)—A possible Vatican Council condemnation of modern warfare needs to be accompanied by an equally clear development of a theology of peace, students at St. Catherine's College were told.

Hildegard Goss-Mayr of Vienna, secretary of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, said however, that "we haven't begun to discuss creative peace-making power."

THE GUIDANCE of the Church is needed to build the political instruments of peace-making, Dr. Goss-Mayr said. She called the need for theology of peace and of "three points at the basis of discussion" on war and peace in chapter five of the Council's schema on the Church in the modern world.

Dr. Goss-Mayr, who has attended Vatican Council sessions and is on a lecture tour of the United States, noted disagreement among Council Fathers on whether to condemn modern weapons entirely, or to justify their retention as deterrents.

"We've come to accept things contradictory to our conscience," Dr. Goss-Mayr stated. "But if the task of Christians is to work for the good of men, we must be prepared to say 'no' to orders against the good of men."

In an interview following her talk, Dr. Goss-Mayr said she "would not stand for the burning of draft cards, this being a violent means of expressing one's objection to a law. Peace-makers, she said, "cannot accept violence in their own actions." Asked what a Council condemnation of all nuclear warfare would mean in countries having nuclear defense systems, Dr. Goss-Mayr said: "It is the task of the Church to point out what is good and wrong in the light of the Gospel."

It would not be anticipated that the United States, for example, would disarm, she said, but the Council statement

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Missionary to the Poor

Lima, Peru—(RNS)—Columban Father Ernest Speckhart of Newark, N.J., looks over his parish of Pampa de Cueva on the outskirts of Lima. The parish is in the worst slum areas of Latin America. Father Speckhart and 15 other Columban missionaries work in Lima. They are assisted by 14 volunteer priests from England and Ireland.

Blood Campaign
Washington—(NC)—More than 100,000 students on some 75 campuses have expressed interest in donating blood for American servicemen, according to Gen. James F. Collins, president of the American National Red Cross.

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