

U.S. Rabbi 'On Way Out' As Religious Leader

New York (RNS)—The Jewish clergyman in America today is losing his religious functions and is on his way out as a religious leader in the community, a leading American rabbi asserted here.

Dr. Arthur Hertzberger of Temple Emanu-El, Englewood, N.J., and faculty member at Columbia University, maintained that rabbis as well as Christian clergymen are steadily losing their influence and are becoming less and less a factor in this country's community life.

Declaring that the rabbinate cannot survive in its present form and with its present functions, he said today's rabbis will be replaced as were the priests in ancient Israel by Pharisaic teachers.

Although today's synagogues and Jewish congregations are larger than ever, he said, "there is hardly one rabbinic figure who commands the attention of the entire Jewish community."

"The status within the general community, and sometimes even within an individual congregation, is much more affected today by the relation of the rabbi to his denominational superiors than it was a generation ago. The result is that rabbinic careers today are ever more being made in semi-bureaucratic fashion. They tend to be safe, rather than picturesque."

Ecumenical Unit in Canada

Toronto (RNS)—A national secretariate for the Canadian Bishops Commission on Ecumenism has been established here with Father John J. Keating C.S.P., as director.

A similar secretariate to serve the French section of the newly established Bishops' Commission also will be set up, probably in Montreal, Father Keating told a press conference here.

Each national secretariate will serve the Commission and, through it, as far as possible, will assist local ecumenical undertakings, such as diocesan ecumenical commissions, the Paulist priest said.

British Religious Editors: Time to Rethink War in Vietnam

Time to Rethink War in Vietnam

London (RNS)—United States policy in Vietnam was sharply questioned here by two influential religious periodicals which agreed that the time had come for some rethinking.

One was the Catholic Herald, a weekly with more than 100,000 subscribers, and the other was the new interdenominational fortnightly, The New Christian.

The Catholic Herald devoted a long editorial entirely to

Vietnam, declaring that "the most urgent necessity now is for Mr. Johnson to get his objectives on Vietnam straight."

"Is the U.S. there to fight indefinitely a war it cannot possibly win and yet cannot afford to lose?" it asked. "Is it there to bring the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong to the conference table? Is it there to help the Vietnamese people, who are the real victims? Or is the whole business an elaborate tactical exercise on the part of China and the U.S., a game of testing one another's nerve and stamina in advance of a possible World War III as the Spanish Civil War was a prelude for World War II?"

"Whatever the U.S. policy is, it should be spelled out clearly for Americans themselves and the whole of America's allies to understand. For unless it is, more and more thinking people—and this will include more and more Christians—will be forced to obey a conscience which tells them that the present slaughter is both unnecessary and immoral so that they can have no part in it."

The New Christian devoted its lead editorial to Vietnam. It said both America and Australia are afraid that if the whole of Vietnam goes Red it would lead to a Communist take-over of the whole of Southeast Asia, and "there can be no disputing the validity of that belief."

However, it said that whether that justifies the U.S. policy in Vietnam is "quite another matter; for the fact that their presence in that part of the world has strengthened the Communist hand is beyond doubt. What is more, the entire U.S. policy in that country has done more to bring discredit to the democratic way of ordering society than anything devised by Communist propagandists. On at least three counts their action and policy in Vietnam stands condemned."



South Vietnam (RNS)—A U.S. soldier carries a statue of the Virgin Mary and Child from a village church in Binh Tan, South Vietnam, to a helicopter. The American First Air Cavalry Division used four helicopters to evacuate the church, its pastor and nearly all of its parishioners out of Binh Tan which had been occupied by the Vietcong. The church was moved to the village of Phu Phong—and to freedom—about ten miles away from its former site. Pastor of the church is Father Paul Huynh Bien, a Vietnamese priest.

Collection For Needy In March

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The 20th annual Catholic Bishops' Overseas Relief Fund Appeal will be conducted March 13 to 20.

This was announced here by Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington, chairman of the administration board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Proceeds from the appeal help maintain the worldwide relief and welfare programs of Catholic Relief Services-NCWC, the overseas aid agency of U.S. Catholics.

In a letter to the American bishops, Archbishop O'Boyle stressed "the emphasis our Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, and the recently concluded Vatican Council placed on the need for further concentration of the Church's efforts in the war against hunger and poverty in the world."

"Last year," his letter stated, "the Bishops' Overseas Relief Fund Collection made it possible for us to maintain relief programs that had a value of \$173 million. This aid reached 40 million people in 80 countries, and was given freely, entirely on the basis of need, and without regard to race, religion, politics or color."

The appeal will officially open on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 23, with a radio message of Pope Paul VI to American Catholic and elementary high school pupils. They will be asked to participate in a separate 40-day Lenten campaign by making personal contributions.

Prelate's Reminder

Communists Are Our Brothers

Rome (RNS)—Priests have a pastoral responsibility even for the souls of those who profess atheistic communism, Archbishop Ismael Mario Castellano of Siena declared here.

He was addressing the Second National Conference of Priests in Italy which met under the chairmanship of Father Aniceto Fernandez, O.P., Master General of the Dominican Order. Read from Pope Paul VI was a special message wishing success to the conference, whose central theme was "The Priesthood and Communist Atheism."

Archbishop Castellano declared, "these men, convinced Communists or sympathizers, are always our brothers. Pastorally speaking, they are always our children. We cannot let them be. We have a responsibility for them before God and the Church."

Declaring that "we must be aware of the souls of Communists," he said, "stated these with renewed clarity. This same divine revelation brings to our notice that pastors will be asked to give a reckoning of the souls even of sinners and unbelievers."

"The prelate said the situation in Italy 'presents along with the other phenomena, of unbelief and de-Christianization, that of communism' and this was 'an important problem because of its size and tenacity.'"

"Those who embrace communism knowingly and in its entirety also embrace atheism," he said. "However, for most Italians this is not the situation, for many reasons. Many remain almost nostalgically Christian at heart and their soul may speak the final word when the hour of decision comes."

"But it is undeniable that an adherence to communism in particular and Marxism in general produces a distancing from the Catholic religion and in some cases from God Himself. It is undeniable that Communist leaders try to inject into the masses their own outlook on life and their own principles of conduct, and when these are accepted, they lead to the ruination of every Christian concept."

Rhodesia Expels Missionary

New York (RNS)—An American Protestant missionary who has served for 15 years in Rhodesia has been expelled from that country, it was disclosed here by the United Church of Christ's Board for World Ministries.

Speaking at graduation ceremonies at the University of Zambia, Kaunda said the white minority regime "Rhodesia has rebelled not only against Britain but also 'against decent human society and all its values.'"

Rhodesians are no longer free to express themselves or free to associate with friends or organizations of their own choice, he said. He added: "Except, indeed, for the time of Hitler's rule, we know of no Christian country where priests have had their sermons censored."



Pittsburgh (RNS)—A group of students held a Christmas to New Year's prayer and fast vigil for peace in Vietnam at St. Paul's Cathedral, Pittsburgh, Pa. Two of the first students in the vigil were Charles Strain of Duquesne University (left), and John Robinson of Ohio State University. After the vigil started other Catholic and non-Catholic students joined. Permission for use of the cathedral was given by Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh. The local Quaker peace and social action committee endorsed the vigil and sent a representative to join the students. During the vigil students subsisted on bread and water and vitamin pills.



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'Unwarranted' Says Po

Following is the letter from Rome master John G. Bittner to a recent Courier-Journal free copies of the Courier no longer be sent to chaplains, hospitals, firmaries, prisons, revised postal regu-

Courier subscribers minded that the postally to be delivered day. If there is a delivery, subscribers to contact Mr. Bittner, postal official, 4600-10th St., Louisville, Ky. Mr. Bittner's letter follows:

It was with deep concern that I noted your article, about the Courier, in December 17, 1965.

The article was a Post Office, and an attack against the reflecting most against the many stinging cooperation given. There is no paper failed to acknowledge practices reported, the worthy groups as being improper to the provisions of class permit. Also many offers to meet questions given to these problems, we accepted, considered tenton. Further, that to the readers fall to those in the category, were being proper advantage tribution of the Courier, to the La-

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Only a Fraction Are Christian

Tokyo (RNS)—in Japan number just over eight per cent of the population, according to a new survey released.

Protestants, are jority with 561,333, while there are 32 Catholics. The 18 United Church of dan) is the largest body. Next largest of Jesus' group members.

According to the Japan has 5,967 P 993 Catholic church infant religions in Buddhism and Shi-