

N.Y. Cardinal Warns Against 'Compromise'

Philadelphia—(RNS)—Cardinal Spellman, Military Vicar to U.S. Catholics in the Armed Forces, who has visited here that until the stage can be set for peace negotiations with out a "shameful compromise" of freedom and dignity "someone must stand and make a defense with arms" in Vietnam.

Observing that "naturally we all want peace," the prelate said there is a "vast difference between honest negotiation and the abject surrender of the first values of freedom and human dignity which remain in the world."

He addressed a dinner marking the 25th anniversary of the United Service Organization (USO) which since 1941 has provided entertainment and welfare services to armed-forces members in this country and abroad.

Papal Encyclical
Paris—(RNS)—A National Eucharistic Congress at Bordeaux April 11-14 will focus special attention on directives contained in Pope Paul VI's encyclical, *Mysterium Fidei* (Mystery of the Faith), it was announced here.

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Similar awards were made by other regional CYOs at anniversary dinners around the country. In New York, Vice President Humphrey received a gold medal and former Gov. Thomas Dewey, a silver medal.

Cardinal Spellman, who received a CYO award in 1961, told the dinner here that he was accepting the silver anniversary medal as a tribute to American servicemen in Vietnam who "are fighting a war which is terribly unpopular."

"There is," he said, "a real danger that the longing for peace and the voices which call out for it on every side may cause us to forget their sacrifices, and if this ever happened it would be a tragedy of in gratitude."

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, Feb. 18, 1966

Hanoi Quotes Pittsburgh Priest

Saigon—(NC)—Communist North Vietnam's radio station has used the words of an American Catholic priest to back up its contention that U.S. intervention in Vietnam is illegal and immoral.

In an English-language broadcast to American servicemen here, Hanoi radio quoted from Msgr. Charles Owen Rice who, it noted, is a columnist for the Pittsburgh-Catholic, official publication of the Pittsburgh diocese. Taken from his April 22 edition of the newspaper, the quote said:

"What are we doing? What the dinner here that he was accepting the silver anniversary medal as a tribute to American servicemen in Vietnam who 'are fighting a war which is terribly unpopular.'"

"There is," he said, "a real danger that the longing for peace and the voices which call out for it on every side may cause us to forget their sacrifices, and if this ever happened it would be a tragedy of in gratitude."

(A newspaper-spokesman in Pittsburgh said the quotation was accurate. Msgr. Rice was in New York to offer the funeral Mass for labor leader Michael Quill and was unavailable for comment.)

Births, Food - A Precarious Race in Future

(This is the first of three articles)
By RUSSELL SHAW
(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Washington—Future U.S. foreign aid policy and the economic health of developing nations now hinge to a considerable extent on the answer to a variation on the old chicken-and-egg question.

The question essentially is this: does a higher standard of living result in a lower rate of population growth, or does a lower population growth rate lead to a higher standard of living?

Those who advocate large-scale high-cost programs, including many in the U.S. government, have opted for the latter answer that cutting population growth is the key to raising living standards in the developing nations.

But there is a significant body of economic and social thought which holds the opposite: that a rising standard of living will foster a lower birth rate and that the emphasis in aid to the developing nations should be on seeing to it that living standards do rise, rather than that, initially, the birth rate is reduced.

A corollary is that agricultural development, long neglected by poor nations in favor of industrial growth, is the key to success or failure of efforts to raise the living standards of the "third world."

The essence of standard of living, it is explained, is the ratio of food to population. Where there is more food, the standard of living is higher; where there is less food, it is lower.

Such considerations give rise in turn to a second matched set of questions: should developed and developing nations seek to reduce population growth in the poor countries in order to bring it in line with the present rate of food production, or should they instead seek to raise food production dramatically in order to accommodate expanded population?

An obvious apparent alternative is to try to do both at the same time: raise food output and cut population growth. But some economists would insist that, as a matter of fact, there must be an order of priorities. In that case, the problem remains—which comes first?

Such questions have considerably more than academic interest. They are at the heart of an emerging debate over the aims and methods of the U.S. foreign aid program—a debate in which the role of the government in supporting birth control plays an important part.

The Catholic Church has a large stake in this debate. This is so not only because of its stand on the morality of birth control and the propriety of government support for it, but also because of its inherent commitment to human welfare.

THE DEBATE is accentuated by events in this country and abroad. Internationally, there is the growing specter of large-scale famine in many parts of the world. This prospect is receiving a dramatic illustration in the current drought-produced food crisis in India.

Nationally, there is the controversy over government support of birth control, along with President Johnson's repeated endorsement of a government role in this field. Mr. Johnson has pledged to seek an International Health Act of 1966 including support for birth control among its provisions.

In addition, there is the fact

that Public Law 480—the legislation authorizing the U.S. Food-for-Peace program—expires at the end of this year. Moves are now underway to extend and expand Food for Peace, which for more than a decade has been the major U.S. foreign food aid program. Congressional hearings and debate will open up still further the whole

question of U.S. agricultural aid, the world food and population problems, and related issues.

Much of this was freshened in the President's foreign aid message to Congress. There he gave major emphasis to the necessity for developing nations

to expand their ability to supply their own food needs. Declaring that the United States "cannot meet the world food needs of the future," the President called for steps to "redress and strengthen" U.S. food aid programs by emphasizing "self-help" in developing nations. But along with his stress on

expanding the agricultural capacity of poor nations, Mr. Johnson also reaffirmed that the U.S. is "ready to help" other countries with their population problems. "Population policy remains a question for each family and each nation to decide," he said. "But we must be prepared to help when decisions are made."

THOSE WHO oppose birth control as a solution to the world population problem (they would say that it is better described as a world "resources" problem) agree on several basic propositions. Simply stated, these include the following:

- Population is outstripping resources in many poor nations. This creates the real possibility—even probability, in the absence of immediate action—of global starvation on an unprecedented scale in the 1970s. The current famine in India is only a foretaste of what soon may be happening in many places. At present growth rates, world population will double by the year 2000 to a total of 6 or 7 billion. Moreover, population is, in general, growing faster in the poor countries.

- Birth control is not the answer. Even if there were no other objections, it simply will not work fast enough. The challenge is to feed the people who are already here. Even the biggest birth control programs could not possibly begin to show meaningful results before the turn of the century—and the crisis is at hand right now.

- Even over the long haul, birth control is no solution. It is deceptive because it looks like an easy, one-shot answer. But it is inadequate because it fails to come to grips with the problem of expanding resources in the poor nations.

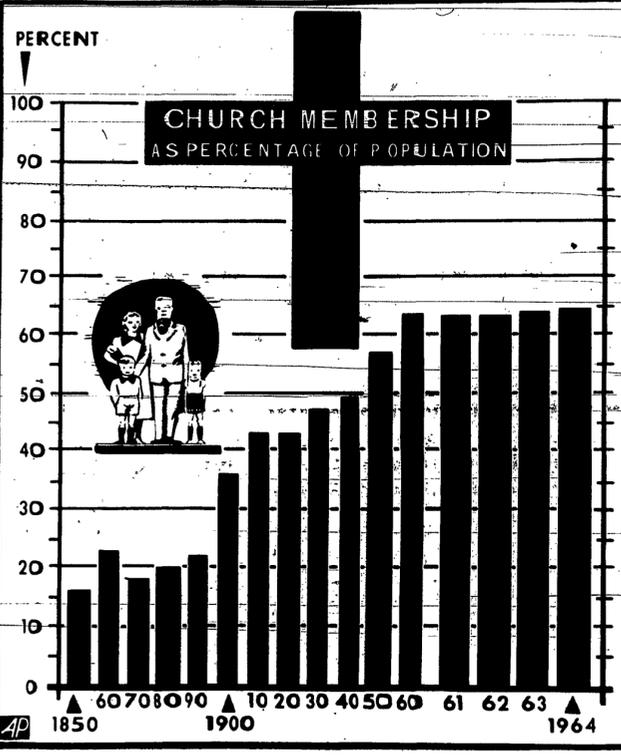
- The solution to the population/resources bind lies in increasing resources and thus raising living standards. When living standards begin to rise, people begin to limit the size of their families on their own initiative—because then they can see some reason for doing so. The history of the western nations confirms that, where people are prosperous the birth rate goes down; where they are poor, it remains high.

- The key to expanding resources is expanding food output. Agriculture is at the heart of the development problem. The poor nations and their western benefactors must shift emphasis from industry to farming.

Many of these propositions are developed in "The Rich Nations and the Poor Nations," a book by the influential British economist and political scientist Barbara Ward. Miss Ward is a Catholic, but no one yet has been known to challenge her conclusions—let alone to dispute her basic premises.

"Lower birth rates are more likely to be a consequence than a cause of economic expansion," Miss Ward writes. "It is above all by the thrust of development and literacy in the modernizing economy that conditions can be achieved in which parents begin to choose smaller families."

The question of whether the chicken or the egg came first remains an engaging conundrum that requires no answer. The population/resources dilemma, by contrast, is pressing for solution right now. The world does not have much time to come up with an answer.



U.S. Church Membership Gains

New York—(RNS)—This chart shows that church and synagogue membership in the U.S. in 1964 reached a record 64.3 per cent of the population. In actual figures the total was 123,307,499, an increase of slightly less than 2 per cent in 1964 when the population rose by less than 1.5 per cent. Also indicated in the chart are the percentages of church membership in relation to the total population every ten years, starting with 1850. Annual church membership statistics are released by the National Council of Churches, based on its Yearbook of American Churches. Total number of Protestants for 1964 was given as 68,229,478; Catholics, 45,640,619; Orthodox, 3,166,715, and Jews, 5,600,000.

Evangelicals They Oppose Superchurch

Washington—(RNS)—Dominica, a leading Roman Catholic magazine published here held that the World Congress on Evangelism, to be held in West Berlin in October, "in part will serve as a measuring device for the ecumenical progress made recently by many conservative denominations in this country and abroad."

Although the writer, Brother Barnabas Davis, O.P., in his article appearing in the theological quarterly, gave no indication there is widespread sympathy for ecumenism among conservative Protestant groups, he cited the recent decision by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join with other Lutheran groups in official dialogue with the Catholic Church as "a good omen" for the conference.

The Rev. Billy Graham, famed evangelist is honorary chairman of the Congress on Evangelism. He is an ordained minister of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is non-ecumenical in its stance.

Brother Barnabas quoted Dr. Wayne Dehoney, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, as sipping up the dilemma ecumenism poses for his and other conservative bodies. Dr. Dehoney said: "... if we want unity we must scrap our doctrinal convictions, and if we uphold our convictions we can not have unity."

The author discussed at length this basic problem facing the approximately 20 million fundamentalist-conservative-evangelical believers among America's 68.2-million Protestant population.

"Many American conservatives," he wrote, "argue that although oneness of Christians is a biblical teaching, this unity should be accomplished through spiritual as opposed to ecclesial means."

"They tend to interpret the current ecumenical thrust as the embryo of a superchurch that would eventually assume authority over every Christian, destroying their understanding of the traditional Protestant principle of the 'priesthood of all believers.'"

"Christians in fundamentalist communions are wary of joining in efforts which they feel are more concerned with a blanket unity of believers than with doctrinal integrity."

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Faith, Order 'Colloquium' Reports Local Interest

Chicago—(RNS)—Plans for a permanent national "colloquium" on faith and order, with "full Roman Catholic participation" were announced here at the second annual program board meeting of the National Council of Churches' Division of Christian Unity.

The newest of four major units within the NCC, the Christian Unity branch, received reports from several related groups—virtually all of them outline advances in interdenominational and Protestant-Orthodox-Catholic cooperation.

Creation of the permanent "colloquium" was announced by the division's faith and Order Department. Some 100 delegates are expected at the first meeting of the group, next June 12-17 here, it was stated.

Growing interest in interreligious and cooperation at the local level was stressed in a report from the division's Council of Churches department. Also, the Rev. John B. Ketcham, executive director of the department, announced a forthcoming document on "ecumenical guidelines" to aid Protestant church councils in their cooperative relations with Catholics.

Dr. Cynthia O. Wedel, associate NCC general secretary for Christian Unity who was a guest observer at 1965 sessions of Vatican II, called attention in an address to the new "living room dialogue" movement launched last Fall on a nationwide basis by the NCC and the National Fraternity of Christian Doctrine, Catholic educational agency.

"Not the least exciting aspect of this pioneering venture is that it comes largely in response to a resounding demand on the part of local church groups across the country," Dr. Wedel said.

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