

Arab Prelate Advises Calm

Haifa, Israel — (RNS) — The leading Arab Christian prelate in Israel, Roman Catholic Archbishop George Hakim of the Makke Rite Archdiocese of Galilee, urged his Christian Arab congregation to remain calm in the face of war dangers in the Middle East.

In a sermon, he told them not to be influenced by "propaganda from without which is not in the best interests of Arabs."

Prayers for peace are being offered in synagogues, mosques and churches of Israel.

Meanwhile, according to unconfirmed reports reaching here, the leader of Egypt's Coptic Church, Patriarch Kyrillos VI of Alexandria, was stated that he supports "all measures of Arab leaders which might lead to the regaining of the Holy Land from those who killed Christ."

In the past, Kyrillos has frequently made anti-Israeli public statements. During the Second Vatican Council, he violently denounced the Council's statement on Christian-Jewish relations.

Two Sides Heard on Blaine Issue

By JOHN C. BUTLER
(Special to the Courier)

Politicians at the Constitutional Convention are not the only people currently discussing the controversial Blaine Amendment. Since January, an ecumenical panel from Henrietta has been debating this same issue.

On last Thursday, this panel, consisting of two "diametrically opposed" groups held its first public meeting before 125 people in Guardian Angels School.

While the groups disagreed, the spirit of ecumenism resulted in what Rev. Charles Bixby, pastor of the West Henrietta Baptist Church, called a "unique event."

The uniqueness of these conferences lies mainly in understanding the reasons for and against the Blaine Amendment.

Charles Sumner, first vice president of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, felt that the meetings have

meant an end to "talking just to ourselves."

Edward Dakin, a parishioner at Guardian Angels and a member of the national, non-sectarian Citizens for Educational Freedom, said that while these discussions may not have altered anyone's views, they have modified the fears of those opposed to repeal of the Blaine Amendment.

Under the present law (Article XI, Section 3, of the New York Constitution), aid from New York State cannot be lawfully given to any denominational school, including parochial schools.

Currently, however, the Constitutional Convention is considering the elimination of this bill and granting of aid to private schools. The imminence of such legislation and the possible inclusion of a referendum on it in the November elections, has heightened both the interest and controversy on this point.

The panel of Catholics, all of whom are members of Citizens for Educational Freedom, con-

sisted of George Braun and Edward Dakin, both from Guardian Angels parish, and James Morris of Good Shepherd parish. Each of these three made mention of specific areas in the controversy. Mr. Braun held that "the American way is to be separate if you so desire," connecting aid to schools with freedom. He also maintained that a total religious atmosphere in learning tends to mold students better for their role as citizens.

Appealing to everyone's pocketbook, Mr. Braun went on to cite the lower cost of education in Catholic schools, and the strain that would be placed on the public school system, were the parochial schools to close.

Mr. Dakin emphasized the future legal aspects of the situation.

Saying, "We will have to live with it," Mr. Dakin reminded the audience that the decisions made in the next few months will have far-reaching effects. He sounded a pessimistic note concerning what may eventually happen if private schools do not receive aid on the local and state levels. He is afraid that eventually the federal government will enter the field of education. This he fears would result in a uniform national school system with little academic freedom, similar to "Nazi Germany."

The third member on the Catholic panel, Mr. Morris, sounded similar fears, and brought the situation back into its context of the current Constitutional Convention. He remarked that a number of the delegates, who had promised repeal of the Blaine Amendment in their campaign speeches, were failing to keep their promises. He then urged those in favor of the repeal to write to their representatives, as those opposed to its repeal had been doing.

Among those opposed to its repeal were, in addition to Rev. Bixby and Mr. Sumner, Rev. Bruce Bowen, Mrs. Ruth Smith, and Mrs. Florence Woodworth. All were from churches in the Rush-Henrietta League of Churches, composed of eight Protestant congregations.

Mrs. Woodworth, the most vocal of the group, felt that Catholic students could be assimilated into public schools at a reasonable cost. Argument developed over these costs since it was contended that the figures she quoted did not provide for construction of new classrooms. (Mr. Morris then jokingly suggested that perhaps Mrs. Woodworth would care to rent Guardian Angels school.)

Mrs. Woodworth's best suggestion—and perhaps the best suggestion of the entire evening—was that an ecumenical program be set in motion to observe the system for religious training that Rev. Leonard Kelly has established in Fairport. She said that, under this program, students receive their non-religious training in a public school and their religious training in an adjacent, low-cost Church-financed parochial school.

Without anyone's views being changed, the "ecumenical dialogue" ended with an optimistic note that possibly some sort of a compromise might be achieved through continued interdenominational conferences on the level of lay representatives, those most deeply connected with the problem of paying taxes.

New Concept At Seminary

(Continued from Page 1)

young men and women will unite to help one another solve their problems of a total commitment to God and mankind.

KING'S PREPARATORY will appeal to a certain type of young boy and girl who are prepared to enter into a tradition of bravery, and who with hardy souls and strong wills, are resolved to prepare themselves for a radical revision of youth for the sake of a spiritually renewed Church. Conviction, respectability and grandeur with righteousness of the present hour can be healed only by youths who who are no longer alienated from the wisdom of the past, nor the dreams of the future. It is for these brave and spirit kindled youths who wish to serve in some vocational way the King of Kings, who will be served by KING'S PREPARATORY. It does not take great men and women to do anything for the world; it takes only consecrated men and women whose minds and wills are so inflamed with love to be the decision makers of the future.

Montfort Day

A Montfort Day honoring St. Grignon de Montfort, noted for his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Youngstown, near Buffalo, Sunday, June 4, beginning at 4 p.m. Dornenck White is chairman of a Rochester Committee arranging for visitors to the shrine from the Rochester area.

A Miracle, Cure, From Pope John?

Naples — (RNS) — A miracle attributed to the intervention of the late Pope John XXIII has been approved as authentic by archdiocesan authorities here.

The document attesting its authenticity is signed by Auxiliary Bishop Paolo Sayino, vicar general of the Naples archdiocese. It states that the miracle occurred on May 25, 1966, in the illness of a nun, Sister Caterina Capitani, 25, of the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity, a native of Potenza, who formerly worked in a Naples children's hospital.

The report holds that the late pontiff not only cured Sister Caterina of peritonitis and internal hemorrhages after doctors had given up hope of saving her life but also removed from her body the scars of previous operations.

The report also describes in detail a vision of Pope John which the Sister says she had at the time of the miracle. Sister Caterina, who had been expected to die, has now resumed her regular work at a children's hospital in Fasano, near Brindisi. Her health is said to be excellent.

According to the report Sister Caterina's illness began with serious hemorrhages in March, 1964. She was examined by ten doctors, including some of

Italy's leading physicians, and in May, 1965, was admitted to the University Clinic in Naples where, on Oct. 31, she was operated on by Professor Giuseppe Zannini.

The operation dealt with her stomach and spleen and the disconnection of a main artery. After several days spent between life and death, the report stated, the Sister was sent to Potenza for convalescence.

New hemorrhages forced her to return to Naples where, despite further treatment, she reached the "point of no return" on May 25, 1966, according to the report.

As she lay on her deathbed, it is reported, a relic of the late Pope John was placed on her stomach.

The ecclesiastical report quotes the Sister's words on what followed. She says that she suddenly felt a hand placed on her stomach and heard a voice calling her, "Sister Caterina."

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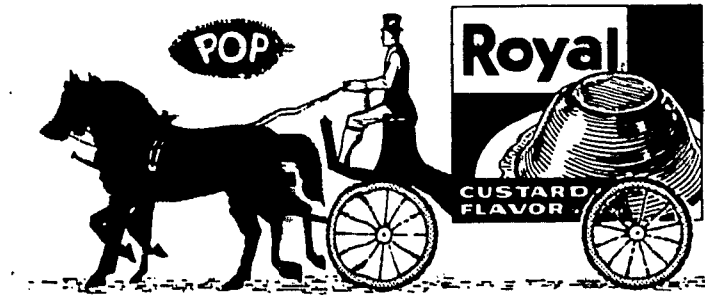
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