

Holy City Topic For TV Debate

New York — (RNS) — The Middle East crisis may serve as an "instrument" for "even more meaningful" Jewish-Christian dialogue, a dialogue which "deals with many times with the peripheries" — the president of the American Jewish Committee and a top-ranking official of the National Council of Churches agreed here.

In that resolution, adopted by the Council's Executive Committee July 7, the Protestant Orthodox agency said it "could not condone by silence (Israel's) territorial expansion by armed force" nor "approve Israel's unilateral annexation of the Jordanian portions of Jerusalem."

The resolution called for the establishment of an "international presence" in the Holy City, although it did not spell out the definition of "presence."

Focus of a conversation on CBS Radio's "The World of Religion" between Morris B. Abram, a Jewish layman, and Dr. Robert Bilheimer, formerly of Rochester and now executive director of the NCC's department of international affairs, was the National Council's recent resolution on the Middle East Crisis.

However, the Council supported recognition of Israel by all international powers, free access to the Gulf of Aqaba and

the Suez Canal, strict arms control in the area and a means of solving the refugee problem.

In replying to a question from CBS moderator Alexander Kendrick, Mr. Abram called political internationalization of Jerusalem "totally impractical."

"Israel if it needs anything needs people," he said. "To think of internationalizing 200,000 Israelis (who are citizens of Jerusalem) is manifestly an impossibility."

Not Enough Changes Yet

Notre Dame — (NC) — The liturgical reforms thus far implemented in the Church do not "adequately fulfill the prescriptions of the Second Vatican Council," a liturgy expert told an audience at the University of Notre Dame here.

Speaking to about 350 summer session students, Benedictine Father Aelred Tegels, editor of *Worship* magazine, liturgical publication of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., said that current reforms are "helpful" but "essentially a restoration of traditional liturgical rites rather than authentic adaptations of the liturgy to contemporary culture."

Dr. Bilheimer, although still not specifying what the National Council of Churches meant by calling for an "international presence," said he personally "was not very happy" about the Jewish proposal that safeguarding of the shrines be carried out through the religious groups.

"The liturgy is always, in every age, an expression of the Church's experience," Father Tegels said. A change in culture should bring about changes in forms of worship, he added. Much adaptation has been con-



"The Monkees"—Mike, Micky, Davy, Peter

A Grown-Up Goes Ape Over 'The Monkees'

New York—Adults may think he's just monkeying around, but the executive director of the National Council of Teachers of English claims that "one of the most creative programs on television right now" is "The Monkees"—misspelling and all.

Mike Nesmith and David Jones, even though the four had never worked together.

But with the help of electronic manipulation, Monkees songs have become top record-sellers ("I'm a Believer," "Last Train to Clarksville," "The Monkees Theme"); director James Frawley, using the trick camera work used by Richard Lester in the Beatles films, won an Emmy; and a massive promotional campaign has produced a new set of teenage idols.

He also finds that "teenagers are quite perceptive in what they see in the show" and suggests that teachers and parents would get to know their youngsters better if they would "try to draw them out" as he did recently with a class of eighth-grade girls.

Hoopes, as he had done with other programs popular with his eighth-graders, asked for compositions on "The Monkees" and, among other things, discovered that "the lack of a definite storyline" is the series' strong point.

Several girls, he added, "liked the boys because they can laugh at themselves and because they never hurt anyone—even the villains." (A line in the Monkees theme song goes, "We're too busy singing to put anybody down.")

"One girl told me she realized the program was exploiting her and she went on to say that this didn't detract from the pleasure she got from a show but, rather, made her enjoy it more," reported Ned Hoopes, the executive director, who is known for his extensive classroom use of commercial TV programs.

"It seems to be what the media-oriented kids like," he said. "The Monkees' demand an extraordinary degree of participation by the viewer." Hoopes added, referring to the program's heavy emphasis on sight gags, sudden speed-ups and slow-motion, but—most of all—to loose plots that allow for frequent digressions, keeping the viewers alert.

"People get paid to write reviews of programs like 'The Monkees,'" Hoopes said, "but there are no real critics for programs like this except the kids who are watching them. Give them an opportunity to express themselves."

He is TV editor of "Media and Methods," a mass-media guide published for secondary school teachers, and was recently invited to address Fordham University's annual film-study conference, where he led a discussion on "The Monkees" TV series after showing one of the half-hour episodes from the NBC-TV program.

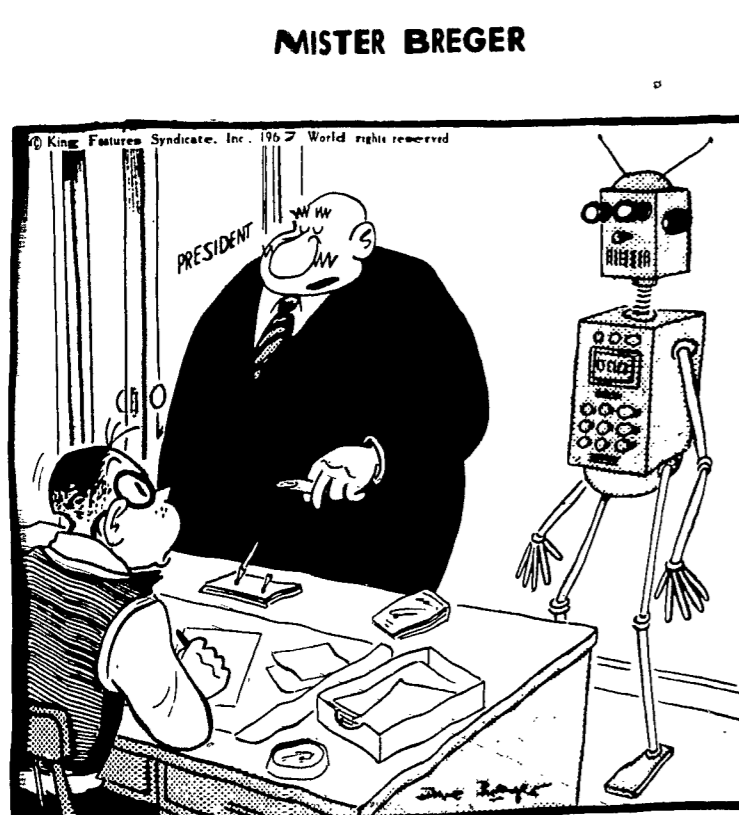
Hoopes cited one girl's composition, which said in part: "I don't like programs that do all the work for me."

Hoopes nevertheless observed that one of the best commentaries he's heard on "The Monkees" came from his 89-year-old grandmother, who remarked to him: "It doesn't make sense, but isn't it wonderful?"—(Catholic Press Features)

Quoting excerpts from several other compositions: "There were almost no grammatical errors, because they cared about what they were writing about," Hoopes said in this response from a girl who, like the others, had been asked to consider the show's "moral values."

"Older people might think that 'The Monkees' has no real significance," she wrote. "Well, it doesn't."

Hoopes thinks that she's right—and wrong; that for teenagers "The Monkees" has no real significance and that their



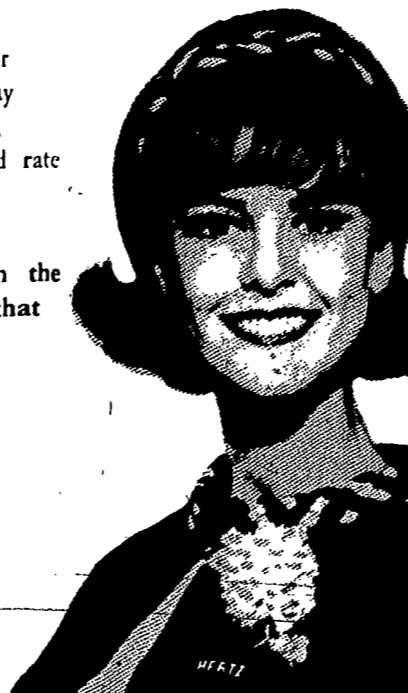
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RIT art instructor, Donald E. Lumbert won Best of Show prize in the Lincoln Rochester Fine Arts Show, on exhibit July 21 through August 4 in Midtown Plaza.
The award was presented at the opening of the show, July 24. Lumbert is a graduate of Massachusetts College of Art and Syracuse University. The winning entry was an untitled collage of oil on wood.

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