Economic Reform for Urban Ills

Washington —(RNS)— Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle of Washington declared before a large gathering of business, labor, government and religious leaders here that the urban crisis goes far deeper than seething racial tension. The U.S. "cannot hope to solve the urban crisis . . . without far-reaching economic and social reforms," he said.

While Cardinal O'Boyle said he was not playing down the problems of Negroes in the large cities, the problem of poverty in the U.S. would still be a major one, embracing up to 20 per cent of the total population, even if there were no Negroes in the nation.

"What if there were no Negroes in American society?" he asked. "According to one competent labor economist, about one-fifth of our people would still be ill-clothed, ill-housed, and ill-fed—but they would be all white. Give or take a fraction, the fact is that poverty, illiteracy, disease and insecurity would still be with us even if there were no Negroes in American society."

Priests Back Father Groppi

Milwaukee — (RNS) — The senate of priests of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee has backed Father James E. Groppi's plea for a city open housing ordinance.

At a special meeting, the senate pledged to work for the immediate adoption of an open housing measure and said that such an ordinance would make Milwaukee "the moral leader necessary at this time to facilitate a countrywide open-occupancy bill and a more effective state open-occupancy bill."

THE SENATE also said it would work for:

- Immediate community relations programs in every parish and the participation of every parish priest, nun, layman, and organization in such programs.
- Courses in human relations for priests.
- A series of sermons on poverty and social responsibility to be used throughout the archdiocese.
- The assignment to inner city churches of teams of priests who have indicated interest in, and having the training for, urban parish work.

"The tensions which have developed during this last Summer within the city of Milwaukee have demonstrated clearly a need for the Church to address itself more directly to the causes of social unrest," the senate's statement declared.

Father Groppi, who is assistant pastor of St. Boniface Catholic church in the city's inner core, has conducted demonstrations daily since Aug. 28, demanding passage of an open housing ordinance by the common council.

Vowing that the demonstrations will go on as long as necessary, Father Groppi said on Sept. 6:

"We'll have massive demonstrations and massive civil disobedience until we get a bill that says black people can move anywhere without being questioned because of the color of their skin."

Father Groppi is adviser to the Youth Council of the Milwaukee Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, whose members have participated in the demonstrations.

Sydney Finley of Chicago, a regional director for the NAACP, said that Father GROPPI, who is white, had "complete and total support from the Negro community." He added:

"This is rare — even for a Negro leader — in these days."

The Catholic Interracial Council of Milwaukee, also has voted to endorse the NAACP Youth Council's open housing campaign. The group said it would participate in the marches and donate money to the youth council.

The open housing efforts of Father Groppi have received strong criticism from city officials.

Mayor Henry W. Maier has termed the priest a "white Uncle Tom who either hates poor white people or supports the white bigots in the suburbs."

Father Groppi's support of open housing, the mayor maintained, would only accelerate the flight of the middle-class to the suburbs, causing Milwaukee to become a city of Negroes and impoverished or lower-income whites.

Suburban bigots support the priest because they want the Negroes to stay in the city's core, the mayor said.

A member of the Milwaukee Common Council, Alderman James E. Dwyer, denounced Father Groppi as a "preacher of hatred" at a council meeting. Mr. Dwyer is a Catholic.

Psychology for Maturity

Washington — (RNS) — The leadership of the Roman Catholic Church was challenged here to take more seriously the potential role of the psychologist in effecting Christian maturity in the priesthood.

Father Paul F D'Arcy, M.M., president of the American Catholic Psychological Association (ACPA), said there are broadening avenues of service the psychologist can render in the modern era, laying particular stress on developing Christian maturity, bolstering the various phases of the community, restructuring the Church, and broadening its intellectual horizons.

He said "many in the Church are ambivalent toward psychologists," but laid some of the blame to the period in which many of the present leaders were educated, when psychology was a fledgling science and there was a feeling of antagonism between sciences of this nature and the Church.

"But today the Church needs psychologists," the education director of the Maryknoll Fathers told ACPA members at Trinity College. One of the principal reasons, he said, is a new emphasis on religious freedom, allowing a much broader avenue of academic and religious exploration, but bringing concomitant needs for stability.

Church leadership should encourage these Christian professionals, he said, engaging in dialogue with them and utilizing their abilities.

Men in the priesthood would be the major beneficiaries of such a program, Father D'Arcy said, since they could be helped in probing the depths of Christian maturity. Then, abetting the work of a better-equipped clergy, psychologists could be utilized in cultivating and fostering a Christian maturity among the faithful themselves.

Another main front of usefulness would be in the various phases of "community" — family, religious, parish, executive and administrative — in everyday secular and religious life.

Hear Jesuit

Perth, Australia — (NC) — Jesuit Father E. J. Stormon, S.J., rector of St. Thomas More's University College, preached at the fourth annual service for the parliament of the state of Western Australia. The service was held in St. George's Anglican Cathedral here.

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Sister in Meditation Room!

New York — (RNS) — Roman Catholic Sister Lenore Navarro of Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles, Calif., holds a cardboard box which was part of a meditation room at the first Congress on Religion, Architecture and the Visual Arts in New York City. The exhibit was to illustrate a "now" church, expressed through the odd and provocative.

Celibacy Topic For Bishops?

Notre Dame —RNS) — Delegates at a symposium here asked the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to present the question of clerical celibacy to the international Synod of Bishops which will convene in Rome Sept. 29.

The symposium was held at Notre Dame University's Center for Continuing Education under the sponsorship of the National Association for Pastoral Renewal. Its resolutions, addressed specifically to the bishops' conference, related the question of celibacy to "a clergy now declining in numbers" and to "recognition of the dignity and freedom of the individual priest."

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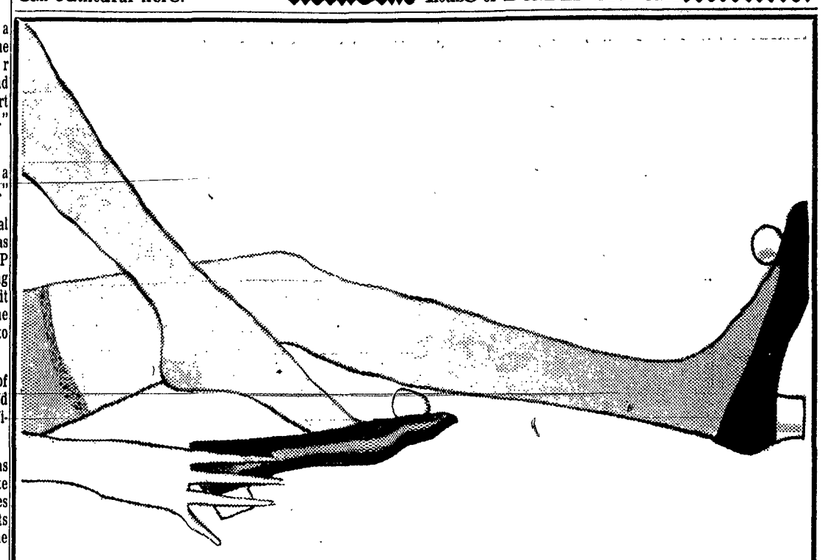
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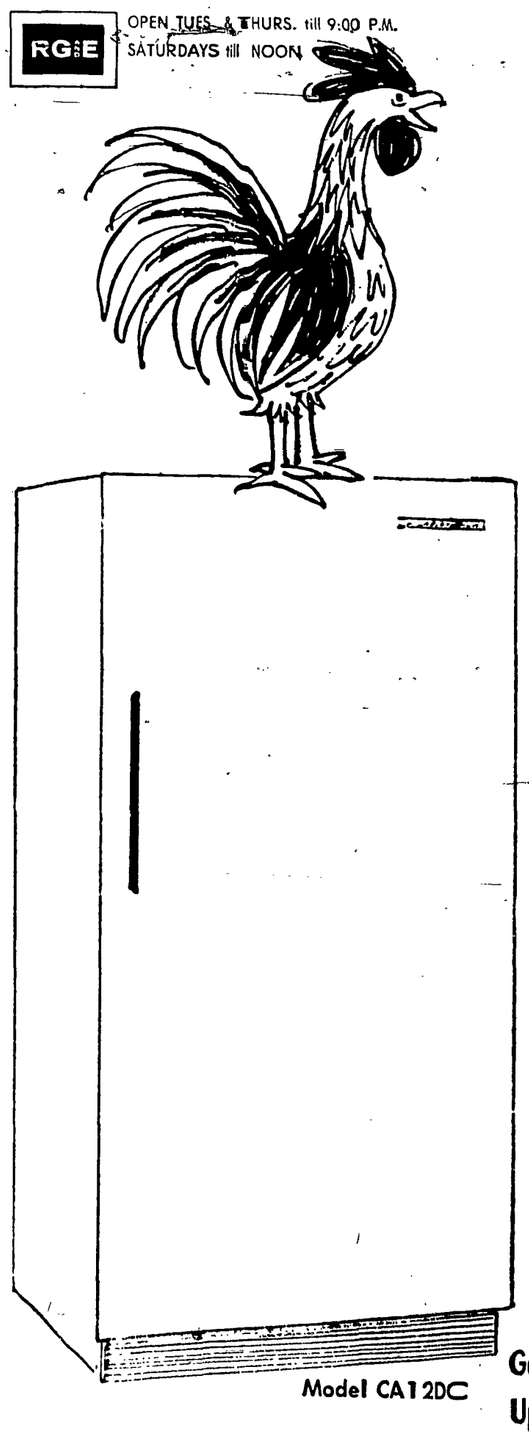
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