Clothing Drive in November

New York — (NC) — The 19th annual Catholic Bishops' Thanksgiving Clothing Campaign for the Needy Overseas was opened officially (Sept. 27) by Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, chairman of the administrative board, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.

The clothing appeal will be conducted in more than 17,500 Catholic parishes throughout the nation during November.

In a letter to his fellow American bishops, officially launching the 1967 appeal, Archbishop Dearden pointed out that support of this campaign will bring "comfort, help and hope to hundreds of thousands of the poorest of God's poor, especially to the peoples of the underdeveloped lands for whom our Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, has manifested such sympathy and concern."

"None of us needs to be reminded of the outstanding and effective work of Christian charity accomplished with the clothing, shoes, blankets and other items gathered in this campaign each year," the archbishop wrote.

Clothing donated to the campaigns is distributed to the poverty-afflicted of all races, religions and colors in Asia, Africa and Latin America through the worldwide facilities of Catholic Relief Services, overseas aid and development agency of American Catholics.

The clothing is shipped by CRS to more than 80 countries overseas, with reserve supplies kept in the agency's warehouse in Brooklyn, N.Y., to meet emergencies throughout the year caused by disasters.

Fairness Issue In One Package

By Wednesday, Nov. 8, Anthony J. Travia of Brooklyn will be rated a legislative genius or a very poor prophet.

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, the voters of New York State will decide whether they will accept the proposed new State Constitution or not.

By a 94-81 margin, the Convention delegates voted last Tuesday (Sept. 26) to place the Constitution on the ballot as a single item.

The decision was a victory for Travia, backed up with the necessary votes. He had long insisted that the new document be proposed to the electorate as a single package—all or nothing at all. He is confident that the voters will decide to approve the entire Constitution.

As president of the Constitutional Convention, the Brooklyn Democrat, who is also speaker of the State Assembly, was the key figure in the Con-Con proceedings.

The Democratic majority of the delegates backed Travia in his original position that the new Constitution should stand or fall as a total product. Some of their arguments were:

- That the new document has too many interrelated articles, with many cross-dependencies, to break it up into separate packages.
- That to focus separately on the church-state issue, exemplified by the repeal of the Blaine amendment, would only foment a state-wide religious confrontation with long-lasting reverberations.
- The very selection of items for separate voting tends to be prejudicial, as past experience shows that voters are inclined to vote against items they're not well informed on.

The Republican minority at the Con-Con meeting held out, unsuccessfully, for separate submission of at least certain key issues. They argued:

- That the voters had a right to make separate decisions on certain sections about which they had strong views, one way or the other.
- That the single package approach might jeopardize the entire Constitution, as voters strongly opposed to individual sections might be inclined to reject the whole document rather than accept items they opposed.

Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller made a late attempt to keep the Blaine amendment a separate voting item, when on Sept. 19 he said he was prepared to support the repeal of Blaine "if put up on a separate basis."

He had not previously taken a stand on the issue during the Con-Con's deliberations. When asked why he supported repeal now, the governor stated:

"We are faced with a situation in New York State where the present limitation imposed by the Blaine Amendment can have serious implications on providing the best opportunities for the education of all the children of this state. I think we need to examine this whole question without the shackles of the present amendment."

—Father Robert Kanka

Nobel Winners In Peace Bid

Oslo — (NC) — A peace mission headed by two Nobel prize winners is slated to meet all parties involved in the Vietnam conflict, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry announced here.

Dominican Father Dominique Georges Pire of Belgium and Philip Noel Baker of Great Britain, Nobel peace prize winners, will head the delegation

The governments of North and South Vietnam, the Viet Cong and United States authorities have expressed willingness to meet the delegation, a foreign office spokesman said.

No date, he said, had yet been set for the delegation's departure, but he said that it will be some time this year.

Christianity in Glass

Doylestown, Pa. — (RNS) — Two of the largest stained glass windows in a U.S. church were dedicated at the Polish-American National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, near Doylestown, Pa. Standing before one of the windows are Brother Edward Volz (left) and Father Basil Panasiuk, both of the parish. They are viewing a portion of the east window which tells the story of Christianity in America and the contributions of American Poles.

Con Con Next For Church

New York — (RNS) — The possibility of a constitution for the Roman Catholic Church will be discussed at a three-day symposium of scholars at Fordham University, Oct. 6-9.

Sponsored by the Canon Law Society of America and by Fordham, the meeting will bring together political scientists, sociologists, constitutional lawyers and historians as well as specialists in canon law and theology.

An announcement said the symposium will include study of a proposed draft of a Church constitution, including provisions for a balanced use of power and a "bill of rights" for Church members.

The constitution, one of three "working papers" on which the symposium's discussions will be based, will be presented by Father Ladislaus Orsy, S.J., a professor of Canon Law at Fordham's School of Theology.

Other working papers will be prepared by Father Edward L. Heston, C.S.C., procurator of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, and Father Andrew M. Greeley, a sociologist with the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

Father Heston will describe the present organizational structure of the Church and its legal processes beyond the diocesan level. Father Greeley will present a critique of the present structure, describing its weaknesses and failures.

Perspective papers will be delivered by Dr. Hamilton Hess of the University of San Francisco; Eugene Fontinell of Queens College; Brian Tierney of Cornell University; Keith Bridston of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif.; and Donald Warwick of Harvard.

Tito Message To Pope Paul

Vatican City — (RNS)—The Yugoslavian envoy to the Vatican, Vjekoslav Cvrlje, has presented to the Vatican a personal message from President Tito to Pope Paul VI on conditions in the Middle East.

The message, which was presented to Archbishop Agostino Casaroli, secretary of the Sacred Congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, had been delayed in its delivery because of the Pope's illness.

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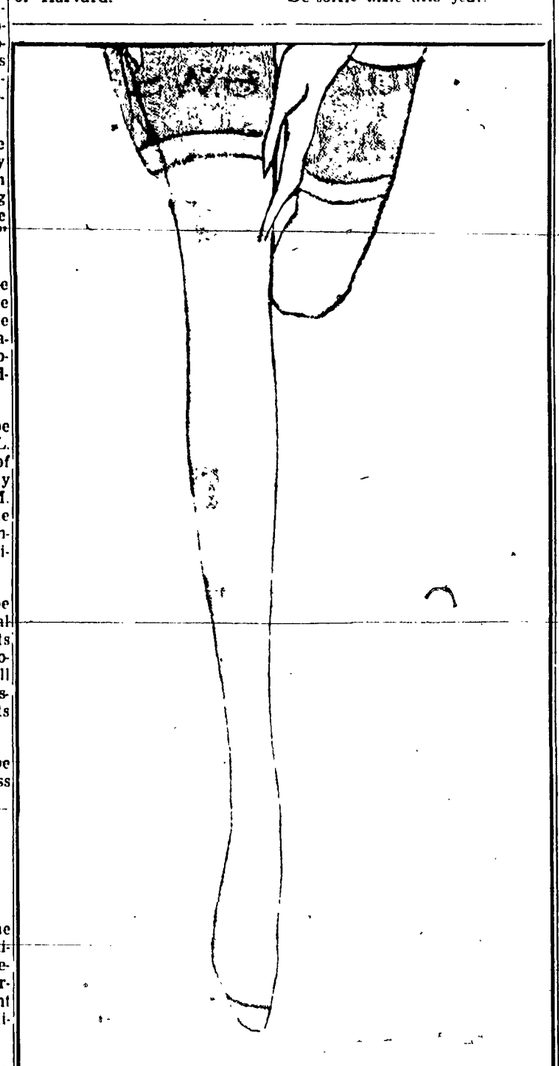

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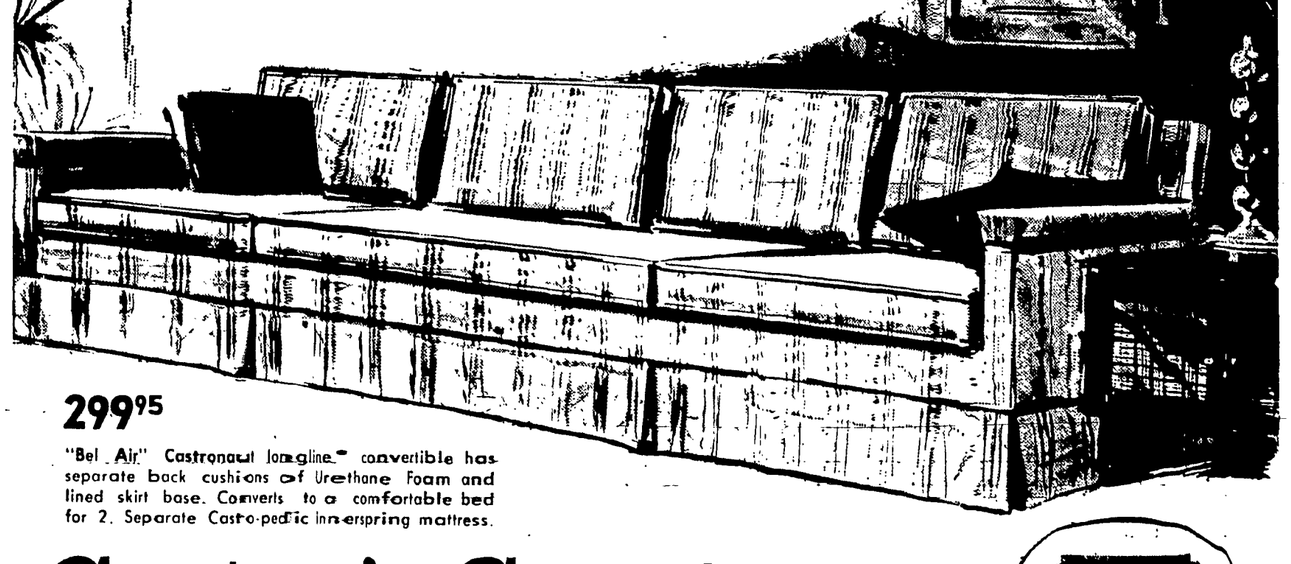

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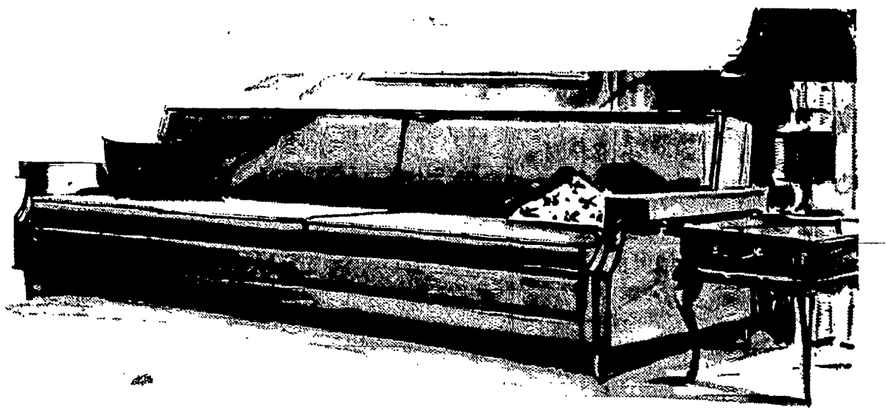

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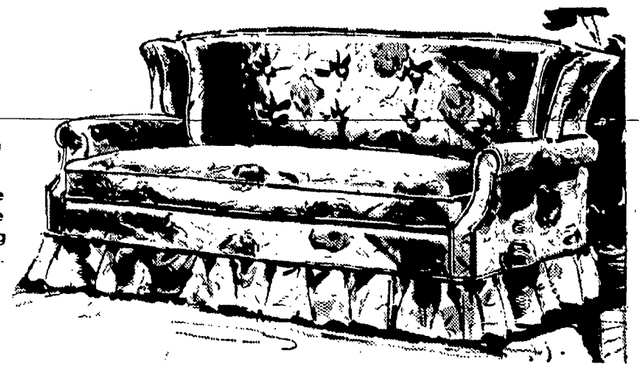

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