

2 Famous Church Leaders Bid For U.S. Presidency

New York — (RNS) — Two prominent American churchmen have announced their candidacy for the 1968 Republican Presidential nomination.

Gov. George Romney of Michigan is a former president of the Detroit Stake (district) of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latterday Saints (Mormon), and one-time Minnesota Gov. Harold Stassen is a former president of the American Baptist Convention.

Gov. Romney, who was a Mormon missionary in Britain at age 19, resigned from the



GOV. HAROLD STASSEN

Detroit Stake when he was elected Michigan's governor in 1962. As head of a Mormon stake his post was equivalent to that of a bishop.

Stassen, who said he is running as a "peace candidate," was president of the 1.5-million member American Baptist Convention in 1963-64. He is also a former president of the International Council of Religious Education, now a part of the National Council of Churches Division of Christian Education.

In announcing his candidacy, Mr. Stassen, an attorney in Philadelphia, indicated he would be a "peace candidate" because of deep concern over the nation's twin frustrations—the unending Vietnamese war and the violent unrest in our cities.

The former Minnesota governor made a series of appearances around the country in 1968 and 1967 speaking on the Vietnam issue. The tour was sponsored by the United Christian Missionary Society of the Christian Churches (Disciples



GOV. GEORGE ROMNEY

Another Hat in Ring

New York — (RNS) — Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.) has announced he will enter the Democratic Presidential primaries in Wisconsin, Oregon, California and Nebraska. Consistent critic of the Johnson Administration's policies in Vietnam, he said, "I am concerned that the Administration seems to have set no limit to the price which it's willing to pay for a military victory." McCarthy's campaign is designed to prevent renomination of the President.

Aquinas Color Guard

Seventeen Aquinas students, all members of the school's crack Color Guard, will compete tomorrow evening, Dec. 9, in Sherburne, N.Y.

The Aquinas group will be among fourteen Guards from New York State taking part in a Preview of Champions, sponsored by the Sherburne Central School. Other area Guards in competition include Bishop Kearney, the Wavettes, the Emerald Cadets and the Shamrocks of Shortsville.

Last year Aquinas walked off with the top prize at the contest but will be hard put to repeat this year. The Aquinas Guard lost ten members through graduation.

Aquinas Color Guard commander is James Allen of St. James parish.

Mgr. Larkin Transferred

Mt. Morris — Monsignor W. Thomas Larkin, Mt. Morris native, has been transferred to St. Cecilia's parish in Clearwater, Florida from Christ the King, Jacksonville according to word received here. Monsignor Larkin founded the Jacksonville parish several years ago.

Mgr. Larkin is the son of Mrs. Julia Larkin, Jacksonville and the late William T. Larkin.

of Christ), to stimulate discussion of alternatives to the present policy.

Stassen has been a candidate for the Presidential nomination six times before. In 1959, he was defeated in a bid for the mayoralty of Philadelphia.

The implications of Gov. Romney's religious views on his political outlook is a question which has commanded considerable attention in his bid for the GOP nomination.

His thoughts on the relation of religion to government was the topic of an article in the Fall issue of Dialogue, a Mormon publication.

Gov. Romney, former chief executive officer of American Motors, noted that the United States is "founded on belief in a Creator and those who wrote the Declaration of Independence made this belief the cornerstone of freedom."

In a recent interview in Salt Lake City, the candidate was asked what his particular religious might contribute to programs aimed at helping the underprivileged of the nation.

"The church gives us a realization," he said, "of how you can really help people by being interested in them and by being willing to give our time and talents to do so."

On society's responsibility toward Negroes who have suffered because of the institution of slavery and subsequent discrimination, Gov. Romney said:

"With society largely responsible for the lack of family strength among the Negroes, I believe that society not only has the right but the moral obligation to make amends by encouraging every good influence that affects family life."

The relation of Gov. Romney's religious affiliation to the question of race is especially sensitive. In the Mormon Church, Negroes are not permitted to be elevated to the priesthood.

The term "priesthood" is not used among Mormons as it is among most other religious orders. There is no professional clergy in the Church of the Latterday Saints in which elevation to the "priesthood" may be compared to that in other religious bodies.

All males in good standing over the age of 12 may be admitted to the "priesthood," and are established in full fellowship.

Negroes are admitted to simple membership but are not permitted some of the privileges of the "priesthood," including entrance into Mormon Temples. The 13 Temples around the world are used only for special occasions such as marriages, ordinations and baptisms.

Despite criticism by civil rights leaders of the Mormon stand on the race question, President David O. McKay of the Church announced that the policy would not be changed. In February, Gov. Romney declared that if he became a candidate for the Presidency he would run "as I have in the past, on the basis of my citizenship and right as a citizen to be judged on my own personal beliefs."

He denied that the Mormon restrictions on Negro membership would in any way hamper his efforts to eliminate racial discrimination.

During the Salt Lake interviews, the governor affirmed his belief in the "essentiality of the separation of church and state."

"Otherwise," he said, "the authority of the church will tend to take precedent over the authority of the state, because the authority of God is certainly superior to the authority of men."

Asked what he would do if Mormon leaders suggested political action to him, Gov. Romney said, "In areas of public responsibility, I act on the basis of my own best judgment

and on the basis of my responsibility as a public official and I would continue to do so."

Stassen, in announcing his candidacy, spoke of the need for strengthening international relations. He said:

"As President I could lead successfully in the urgently needed modernization and strengthening of the United Nations so that a new United Nations would emerge from the old — truly worldwide, including two Vietnams, two Chinas, two Germanys and two Koreas."

Stassen participated in the U.S. delegation which worked on drafting the U.N. Charter.

A former president of the University of Pennsylvania and a disarmament adviser to President Eisenhower, Mr. Stassen was honored by the American Baptist Convention in 1965 as a "Christian layman who has stood deeply believed in the rele-



ARCHBISHOP JOHN F. DEARDEN

Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, headed the delegation. Bishop Casey and the other U.S. prelates who attended are members of the Bishops' Committee for Latin America.

They met in Las Rosas, a retreat house in the suburbs of Santiago de Chile, with representatives of CELAM, the Latin American bishops' council.

"We searched for the priorities the Latin American Church proposed for itself," Bishop Casey said, "and, within this framework, the tasks which the U.S. Church can best assist. The discussions were frank, with nothing held back."

There was no air of paternalism on the part of the U.S.

Stole Enough For Essentials

London — (NC) — Father Edmund Golston, Wolburn Sands, near London, had a shock when he found that a thief had broken a window and stolen the Sunday collection of about \$140 recently. He had an even greater shock a few days later when he received a check by mail for the amount—less fare to London and the cost of a meal—signed by a Jesuit priest.

Father John Wingfield-Digby, S.J., told Father Golston in an accompanying letter that the money had been given to him anonymously, adding that "the person concerned regrets not being able to pay for the window."

Bishop Casey Reports on Church in Chile

By JERRY COSTELLO (NC News Service)

Paterson, N.J.—Bishop Lawrence B. Casey of Paterson, one of nine U.S. bishops who met with Latin American prelates in Chile recently returned with a deep appreciation for the aid it has received from the Church here in recent years—the priests and Brothers and Sisters working in the missions, and the funds. But the Church in each of these countries wants to stand on its own feet as soon as possible.

"The Church in Chile is a fine example of what I mean," Bishop Casey said. "It's one of the most progressive in South America. Actually, they began their renewal program before the Second Vatican Council."

"At a briefing session, we learned the practical steps that have already been taken to bring the Church up to date in that country. Their attack on problems is bold. A good part of it is still on the planning board, but in some areas they're ahead of us."

(Bishop Casey was formerly auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rochester.)

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COURIER-JOURNAL 21A Friday, Dec. 15, 1967

No More Fridays On Mondays

Flint, Mich. — (NC) — The Flint First Friday Club for years has been the target for quips by out-of-town speakers. But come January and that'll be changed.

Invariably the out-of-towners would remark Flint had the only First Friday Club which met on Mondays. Considering the club has been operating since 1958 and lack of space on Fridays in a centrally located dining room was the reason for the Monday meetings, the joke became threadbare and unfunny over the years.

The club has announced that beginning in January the club will switch meetings from a downtown hotel to a nearby Knights of Columbus hall—and the meetings will be held on Fridays.

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