



Movement Aims at Religious Empathy

Washington — (NC) — Members of six major world faiths — Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism — gathered here to do some soul searching on the degree of respect their particular faiths accord each other.

They were brought together by a Greenwich, Conn., housewife, Mrs. Dieterman Hollister, who said she believes interreligious understanding can be a potent force for peace in a troubled world.

Mrs. Hollister's conviction led her to found an organization, the Temple of Understanding, which sponsored the conference in cooperation with the National Presbyterian Center and Georgetown University. Mrs. Hollister is president of the temple.

"I'm a very sentimental woman and sentimental is not the chic thing to be in 1968," Mrs. Hollister confessed to a largely male gathering of about 50 persons.

She added that as a woman she can't get very excited about such contemporary "male" preoccupations as what she called "gymnastics" in space. "You get to the moon and build three Howard Johnsons and people are still killing one another," Mrs. Hollister said.

One participant at the session, Father John C. Haughey, S.J., of Georgetown University, said the Eastern and Western religious traditions might move toward understanding if each appreciated the other's strengths and weaknesses. He distinguished between the Western tendency to formulate precisely defined propositions and the Eastern custom of relying heavily upon religious intuition.

The conference concluded with a decision to form a steering committee to promote additional interreligious meetings at area universities. Members of the committee include Father William C. McFadden, S.J., head of the theology department at Georgetown University; Robert C. Lester, professor of theology at American University; Dr. J. Deotis Roberts, professor of world religions at Howard University; and Rev. Harry E. Yeide, Jr., assistant professor of religion at George Washington University.

Washington, D.C. — Representatives of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucianism participated in the First Washington Conference on Interreligious Understanding. Among those at the sessions were, from left: Dr. Ali Abdel Kader, director, Islamic Center, Washington, D.C.; Bishop Chinsho Hanayama of the Buddhist Churches of America; Sri Raja Ram, minister of educational and cultural relations, Indian Embassy; Dr. Isaac Franck, executive vice-president, Jewish Community Council in Washington; and Father John Haughey, theology professor at Georgetown University (Roman Catholic) in Washington.

Alcoholism: Sickness of Body, Mind, Soul

New York — (NC) — A priest is a sickness or a moral problem, the theologian defined alcoholism as a triple sickness of body, mind and soul. The purpose of the day Clergy Conference on Alcoholism at the Carnegie International Center here.

Father John C. Ford, S.J., of Weston (Mass.) College, asserted that "fundamental discussion of the education of the clergyman on alcoholism is the question whether alcoholism is a sickness of the body, mind and soul, or a moral problem. He will not try to do it all himself. He will not try to cure bodily and mental sickness with mere spiritual medicine. He reminded the clergy that even in their own part, the grace of God will play the important role."

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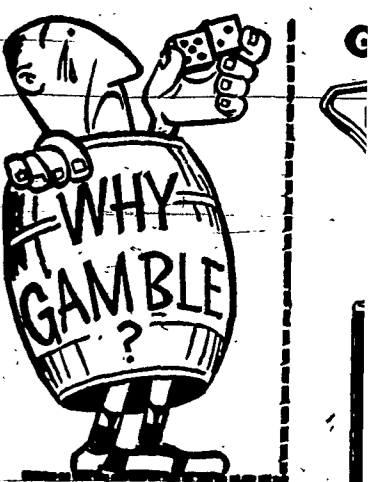
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