

Around The Country

Bishop Wright Backs Negotiation

Pittsburgh—(NC)—Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh has indicated he will sign a revised Negotiation Now petition calling for cessation of bombing in Vietnam.

Last summer he had declined to join other religious leaders in signing the petition because it failed to demand an end to Viet Cong assassinations of Vietnam civilians as well as to U.S. bombing. A revised statement which Negotiation Now will issue shortly has made provision for this point he said recently.

Pill Can Be Lethal, Doctors Say

Oak Park, Ill.—(NC)—The current death rate for thromboembolism (blocking of blood vessels) caused by birth control pill exceeds the death rate for acute polio in the last 50 years, according to Child and Family, a national reprint quarterly edited here by a group of physicians.

The publication states that "it has now been established that the Pill causes 3 deaths per 100,000 women from thromboembolism (blocking of blood vessels) caused by the women using it in the United States. The magazine calls the Pill "the most dangerous drug ever introduced for use by the healthy in respect to lethality and major complications."

Foster Parents Honored By Pope

Washington—(NC)—An Army officer and his wife have been honored by the Vatican for adopting 12 racially mixed children and finding homes for 50 others.

Maj. Gen. Frank L. Sampson, Army Chief of Chaplains, gave the Pro Ecclesia et Pontificatus medal to Chief Warrant Officer Oscar Grammer and the Benemerenti medal to his wife, Mabel. The Grammers, who are Negroes, adopted orphans of German mothers by American Negro soldiers stationed in Europe.

Dow Protest Peaceful at N.D.

Notre Dame, Ind.—(RNS)—A sit-in demonstration against employment recruiters from the Dow Chemical Company was staged here by 250 students and faculty members from the University of Notre Dame. Among the demonstrators were four priests and a nun.

The protest was peaceful. No attempt was made to block the passage of Dow personnel. The chemical company manufactures napalm used in the war in Vietnam. The presence of Dow recruiters has touched off demonstrations at many other campuses, some of them violent.

Church Property Termed Public

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—Who really owns Roman Catholic charitable and educational institutions? The general public, says Father John J. McGrath of the Catholic University law faculty.

"Charitable and educational institutions chartered as corporations under American law are not owned by the sponsoring body," according to the 44-year-old priest. "The legal title to the real and personal property is vested in the corporation."

"If any one owns the assets of the charitable or educational institution, it is the general public. Failure to appreciate this fact has led to the mistaken idea that the property of the institution is the property of the sponsoring body," he maintained.

Father Groppi Fined

Milwaukee—Father James E. Groppi, Milwaukee's militant civil rights priest, is on two years' probation, with a six-month jail term his lot if he is arrested again during his housing demonstrations.

"We will continue to agitate. We will continue to demonstrate," Father Groppi declared when he was sentenced this week for resisting arrest last August. He was fined \$500.

Cardinal Helps Night Club Owner

Boston—(NC)—Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston has launched a drive to raise \$100,000 for Blinstrub's Village, a Boston nightclub destroyed by fire.

The cardinal noted that Stanley Blinstrub had never charged for the Thanksgiving dinners the cardinal held annually at Blinstrub's for some 1,500 elderly people.

"He refused to give me a bill," the cardinal said. "He gave these poor people the best of service. Now is the time that I will try to help him."

Drive For Negro Jobs Continues

Chicago—(RNS)—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said here he is not abandoning plans for a non-violent "massive dislocation of the capital" this April to win jobs for Negroes. His statement followed a press conference in which President Johnson had said the civil rights drive might be more effective if its leaders would follow "constitutional methods."

Nun Teachers For Lutherans

Columbus, Ohio—(NC)—Dominican Sister Maryanna Childs has become the first Catholic nun to serve on the faculty of Capital University, a co-educational Lutheran institution here.

A professor in the English department of St. Mary of the Springs College, she is now teaching creative writing three days a week at Capital.

Dr. David Owens, chairman of the Lutheran school's English department, explained that when the regular teacher became ill, "I needed the best person I could find to teach creative writing."



Prayer Vigil In National Cemetery

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish leaders participate in a silent prayer service near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. The memorial services was sponsored by Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam which held a two day peace mobilization in the nation's capital. Leaders identified include: Auxiliary Roman Catholic Bishop J. James P. Shannon of St. Paul-Minneapolis; (left foreground) Rabbi Abraham Heschel of Jewish Theological Seminary, New York (center left, wearing a yarmulka); Father John Sheerin, editor of Catholic World (left, behind Rabbi Heschel); and Dr. Martin Luther King (right center).

Bishop Probes

Heart of the Matter

New York—(RNS)—The "continuing problem" of the Church is "to distinguish the substance of the faith from the historical and cultural accretions" that it has acquired, according to Auxiliary Bishop James P. Shannon of St. Paul in a statement made here recently.

Bishop Shannon was the luncheon speaker at a forum on the "new religion" sponsored by the Reader's Digest at Union Theological Seminary.

Father Gerald Appelby and Sister Theresa Daniel of the Rochester Institute of Technology Newman Apostolate attended the forum.

"We are in constant danger that we come to venerate the mode and practices and continuing forms of the church rather than the substance of the faith," he said. "There is a constant danger that we give allegiance to incidental accretions instead of the heart of the faith itself," he added.

Bishop Shannon made it clear that he was speaking about all branches of the Christian Church in his discussion of change. "By definition the church is a conservative agency in society," he said. "Any church which takes its origin from revelation starts with a given fact not of its own making but something given to it from its beginning."

The church today, he went on, is "living in a time when the glass of scrutiny is being put on all of us to determine what is essential and what is incidental." What troubles many people today, Bishop Shannon said, is "the difference between the style of the Churches in the past and the style they are painfully trying to acquire at the present time."

He stated that "our old knowledge of man is still valid, (but) we still have to take into account the changing society in which we live."

Another factor of change cited by Bishop Shannon was

the pressure for "freedom of the individual," as expressed in the Negro revolution and in the developing nations of the "third world." He also cited the "rising tide of expectations for the layman, particularly in my Church."

Another major change to which the church must adjust itself, he said, is "a new reliance on induction instead of deduction." He condemned the tendency in some quarters of the church of "producing finer and finer corollaries out of a basic principle."

Bishop Shannon deplored the "unspoken premise that inductive science is in error when it conflicts with the deductive reasoning of the church." He cited as an example the reaction last year to a survey on celibacy sponsored by the National Catholic Reporter and conducted by Father Joseph Fitcher, now teaching at Harvard Divinity School.

"Three bishops attacked the survey on the grounds that Joe Fitcher was not a competent sociologist. But Joe Fitcher is a very competent sociologist." He said that the real conflict was between findings of the survey and traditional Church views.

He described the conservative progressive conflict of churchmen as "the conflict between those who see the problems essentially as I have described them and those who don't think these are the issues."

"We have not made adequate progress in making a platform for these people to teach other," he said.

Bishop Shannon stressed that ways for honest exchange of views must be found to replace the present situation—in which "we're still lobbing shells at one another."

He urged those with differing viewpoints to "use great care to state the case as accurately as we can—there are too many caricatures."

Curate, Hero In Real Life Drama

Richmond, Va.—(NC)—A 36-year-old priest here had an experience with all the ingredients of a nightmare — responding to a woman's phone call for help in the night, grappling with a man for a pistol, narrowly escaping being shot.

It happened to mild-mannered Father Clement J. McClintock, an assistant at Sacred Heart cathedral here and diocesan director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

Father McClintock related that Mrs. Dorothy S. Brinkman, 41, phoned the rectory, relating that a man, armed with a pistol, was in her first floor apartment. The priest said he tried to persuade the woman to phone the police, but she declined.

"Ordinarily I wouldn't have gone on such a call," he said, "because we get so many like it that turn out to be crank calls. But this woman sounded as if she might be physically injured and might not act to help herself, so I went."

Arriving at the apartment Father McClintock said he found a man sprawled on the floor, apparently unconscious and Mrs. Brinkman bleeding from a head wound.

"I was still not sure at this point that he had a gun," the priest said. He added the man seemed to be harmless. Father McClintock said Mrs. Brinkman admitted she knew the man and phoned his sister-in-law.

"The sister-in-law asked if I would bring him to her home and I decided to drive him there," the priest said. The priest and the woman got the man onto his feet, and were starting for the door when the man pulled a small automatic pistol.

"He was pointing it right at

me about 10 or 15 feet away," Father McClintock said. "I had no place to run so I tried to get it away from him. I got his gun arm pointed at the ceiling and the pistol fired."

They continued struggling the weapon was pointed alternately at each man during the struggle. Mrs. Brinkman tried unsuccessfully to get help from other tenants in the building but returned alone to the apartment. She picked up a china vase, and struck the man on the head.

"He didn't budge, the priest said, and she hit him with another piece of china. This time he murmured 'okay' and put down the pistol. I took it and hid it under a sofa. We called police but before they arrived the man had slipped out the door."

Police found him lying in an area between the apartment house and the building new door. The priest gave the pistol to a policeman saying he believed it might be loaded with blank cartridges.

"The policeman opened the gun," Father McClintock said "and told me: 'They aren't blanks.'"

Police charged Walter C. Tappley, 45, of suburban Henrico County, with attempting to murder the priest and feloniously assaulting Mrs. Brinkman, who received treatment for a head cut.

LBJ Lauds Relief Agency

New York—(NC)—President Johnson warmly lauded Catholic Relief Services, overseas relief agency maintained by U.S. Catholics, on its 25th anniversary.

"The highest tribute to your dedication and compassion lies in the improved lives of the millions who have benefited from your quarter of a century of humanitarian work," the President said in a letter to Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom, CRS executive director.

"I wholeheartedly join these grateful men and women in wishing you continued success in your efforts to bring aid and comfort to the world's less fortunate citizens," the President added.

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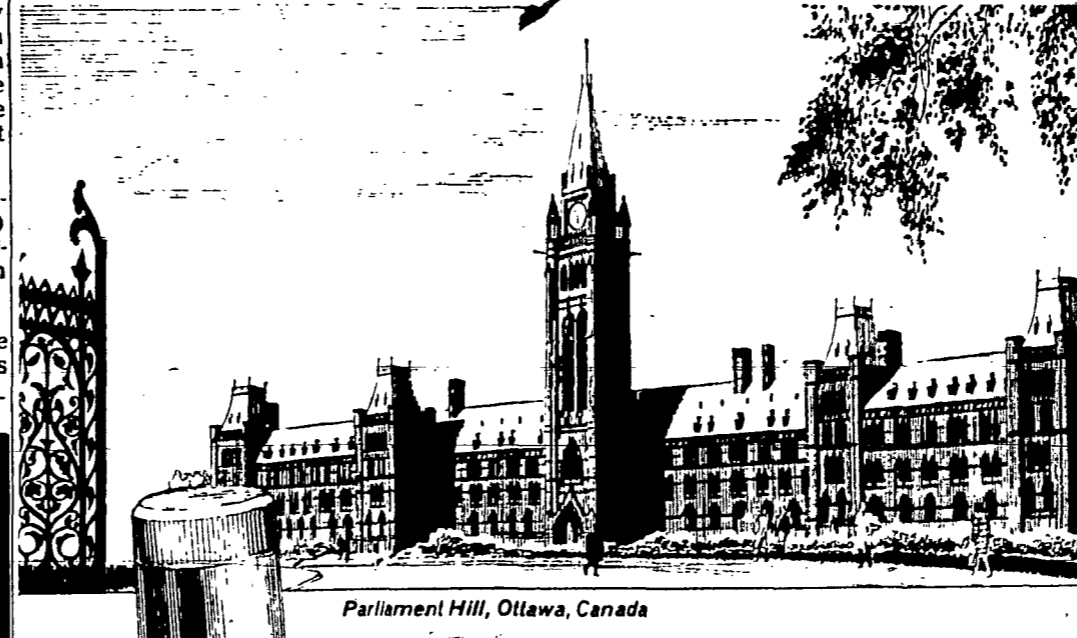
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