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New Civil Rights Act Hits Housing Bias

By RICHARD M. M. MCCONNELL
NC News Service

Washington — Congressional liberals here claim it would have passed anyway, but most observers believe that the nation's latest civil rights bill rode into law on the crest of a shockwave that flooded the nation after the murder of civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tenn.

Passed by the House of Representatives (April 10) by a vote of 250 to 171 within six days of Dr. King's death, the long-stalled bill wipes out discrimination in some 80 per cent of the nation's housing.

President Lyndon B. Johnson, who signed the bill the next day, commented:

"This is a victory for every American. The only true path of progress for a free people is the one that we will take when this legislation is made the law of the land.

"Through the process of law, we shall strike for all time the shackles of an old injustice. I call upon the Congress now to complete its work of hope for millions of Americans who look to it for action."

For a long time, the nation looked to the House to get the civil rights bill to a vote, but Southern Democrats and conservative Republicans held the bill up in committee. There was no sign before Dr. King's death that the bill would come to a vote despite Senate approval on March 11. Then, with the Negro leader's murder, much of the Republican opposition collapsed and the bill passed to the accompaniment of applause from the House galleries.

The bill lowers racial barriers in more than 50 million housing units across the country. Aimed at a step-by-step elimination of discrimination, the bill:

—Immediately bans discrimination in the sale or rental of federally owned housing and in multi-unit dwellings whose mortgages are underwritten by the Federal Housing Authority or the Veterans' Administration.

—Bars discrimination in most multi-unit dwellings and in real estate developments, effective Dec. 31, 1968.

—Bars discrimination in single-family homes sold or rented through real estate brokers, effective Jan. 1, 1970. Owners selling their homes themselves will not be barred from discriminating by the federal law, although they will not be permitted to use discriminatory signs or advertisements.

Other provisions of the bill provide stiff penalties for people convicted of intimidating or injuring civil rights workers and Negroes involved in schooling, housing, voting, registering to vote and using public facilities. Penalties go up to 10 years in prison and \$10,000 fines for injury, and life imprisonment for death.

Educators Called To 'Revolution'

San Francisco — The head of the nation's largest Catholic educational organization called on Catholic educators today to train their students to become "revolutionaries," not followers of the status quo.

He said that Catholics, especially those in the middle class, should be educated more effectively to help correct social ills, such as poverty, violence and racism.

Speaking at the sixth annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association, the Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau, Bishop of Manchester, N.H., said that permanent effective social change would only be accomplished by education and that Catholic educators must set their sights on this objective.

"It is therefore time," he said "that Catholic education accept for itself the challenging but no less important task of preparing those whom it reaches not merely to fit into their society but to change that society."

"The mature Christian," he continued, "is in a sense a man in a state of permanent revolution, which begins with himself but extends to the society in which he lives. In this sense Catholic education must be dedicated to training revolutionaries — men who will remake themselves and then go on to remake society."

Bishop Primeau said that Catholic education must achieve "a new breadth of concern and service."

"In a sense," he said, "it is only in the last few years that the church has become aware of this world."

"Today this has changed. The church now views the world as an arena of opportunity and an object of service."

"I believe that the American middle class is a huge and largely untapped reservoir of economic, intellectual and moral resources for the betterment of our society," he said. "Someone somehow must reach middle class Americans and convince them of their responsibility to their less fortunate brothers."



The Eyes of Hope

New hope for Negro youngsters may be signaled by passage of Civil Rights Act of 1968. Other inter-racial news from Maryland, Washington and Albany is printed on Page 3.

Pontiff Seems Stronger

By JAMES C. O'NEILL
NC News Service

Vatican City — On Easter, Pope Paul VI urged both sides in the Vietnam war to "thrust resolutely in terms of military truce and honorable and fair negotiations."

The Pope seemed to have recovered some of his energies after the long cycle of ceremonies throughout Holy Week. Although visibly tired earlier in the week, on Easter he looked and sounded stronger than before.

The Pope showed himself markedly tired on Good Friday night during an outdoor Way of the Cross devotion which he has traditionally conducted amid the ruins of Imperial Rome. In the past Pope Paul carried a wooden cross in his hands from the colosseum and up the Palatine Hill.

This year on the advice of doctors, the Pope let his Vicar General of Rome, Angelo Cardinal Dell'Acqua, substitute for him for the first nine stations. Once the summit of the hill had been achieved the Pope took the cross and completed the stations.

Speaking to almost 250,000 persons in St. Peter's Square for an 11 a.m. Easter Mass and his traditional blessing to the city and the world at noon, Pope Paul declared his thoughts were of the "yearning of the whole civilized world."

He said his thoughts turned "to

ward peace, toward difficult peace in that distant region of Asia where it seems the war can never end, where the collision of the greatest powers keeps the world in suspense with anguished fear of a gigantic conflict which would overwhelm all in frightful ruin.

Despite the "nightmare of persistent menace," Pope Paul said, "let us implore all interested parties to think resolutely in terms of military truce and honorable negotiations."

"Eagerly do we look, as all of you do also, upon the promising signs of a forthcoming understanding between the peoples in the conflict, and we express the wish, made acceptable by our absolute neutrality and our heartfelt affection for the nations involved, and above all for the suffering peoples, that these first steps may soon lead to a happy ending."

Taking note of the conflicts in the Far East, Middle East and Africa, the Pope expressed the hope: "May there now rise again the great ideals of the orderly and peaceful organization of the world. May scepticism regarding the constitutional inability of mankind to advance in freedom never triumph, but may hope be confirmed and with hope the necessary action to resolve present conflicts and prevent others in the future."

Referring to the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Pope said: "After the inauspicious and warning episode of the murder,

which stirred the whole world, it would be most admirable if those great collective egotisms, closed in upon themselves — such as racism, nationalism, class hatred, and domination of privileged people over weaker ones — were made to open themselves up to the courageous and generous adventure of universal love."

The Pope concluded Holy Week ceremonies by celebrating Mass at a temporary altar in front of St. Peter's basilica. A canopy had been raised above the altar to protect the 70-year-old Pope from the cold and inclement weather. Although rain held off during Mass, it sprinkled later as the Pope delivered his Easter speech from the main balcony overlooking the great square.

Among the thousands present, with whom the Pope spoke briefly, were exiled Greek King Constantine and his Queen Anne Marie; Prince Juan Carlos, pretender to the Spanish throne, and his wife, Princess Sophia of Greece. At Communion time, Pope Paul distributed hosts to 14 boys and six girls from Korea.

On Easter Monday, one of Italy's major holidays, the Pope failed to appear at his window overlooking St. Peter's Square for the noon blessing. Vatican officials said that the appearance at the window on Pasquetta, or Little Easter, was not a fixed ceremony but that it was not made because of poor weather and the resulting small crowd in the square.

Episcopal Bishop Calls for Christian Meeting under Pope

By Religious News Service

San Francisco — Episcopal Bishop C. Kilmer Myers of California has called for an "extraordinary" meeting of all Christians this summer in Rome under the leadership of Pope Paul VI to "develop a base of Christian power that the national communities will heed" in approaching the major issues confronting mankind.

Impelled, he said, by the martyrdom of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bishop Myers proposed that both the worldwide Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops in London (July

25-Aug. 25) and the World Council of Churches' Fourth Assembly in Uppsala (July 4-20) be rescheduled "to meet together at Rome with the pontiff and bishops of the Roman Catholic Church," with Paul VI to be recognized as "first among equals."

The Episcopal Church leader said the inspiration for his suggestion was rooted in Dr. King's "passion for the reunification of the human family" and his own conviction that the human family faces "at least four, major problems — war, poverty, racism and unbridled technology."

He explained that the motivation for his appeal came on the night of Dr. King's assassination.

"I listened again to his words at the great march on Washington in 1965: 'I Have A Dream.'"

"Later that night I, too, had a dream — one deeply rooted in his passion for the reunification of the human family. My dream took the form of 'An Open Letter to the Church at Eastertide.'"

Enumerating the four major issues he believes face the world today, Bishop Myers stated:

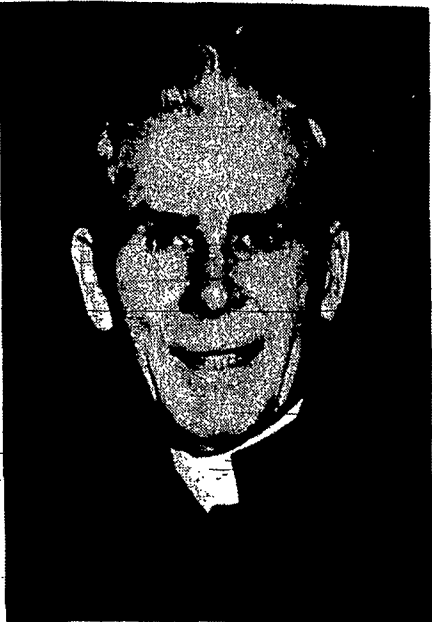
"Besides these problems the ideological questions are relatively unimportant. The essential struggle no longer is between capitalism and communism; rather, it is between the have nations and the have-not nations; it is between the white race and the non-white races; it is between the technologically advanced communities and the under-developed communities.

"There is also the frightening problem internal to the technologically advanced nations which has to do with air, water, sewer pollution and the refinement of weaponry cap-

able of destroying the whole human race; in such nations the danger that the machine may rule man is clearly present."

Bishop Myers expressed belief that "the Christian Church presently is itself hopelessly divided. Lacking internal unity, it cannot make alliance effectively with the other great religions of mankind in order to force our national communities to develop new priorities for man's life on this earth. The ecumenical movement is slow at a period in human history when time is running out for those

(Continued on Page 2)



My dear People:

Would you kindly pick up your Scriptures and read Luke 24/20-32. It is the story about the disciples meeting the Risen Lord, but not recognizing Him at first.

The capacity to see the Divine depends to a great extent on our inner spiritual condition. But after having unfolded Scripture, the disciples saw that it was the Christ. How often the Divine Presence is revealed only after a long time in prayer!

Explaining the experience to others, the travelers said, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, when He opened to us the Scriptures". Deep faith is not verbal but rather a conviction which heals our hardness and melts our indifference with fire for love of Him.

The disciples should have recognized Christ in the Scriptures, Our Lord suggested. But do we read the Holy Word of God? Do we meditate on it daily? If not, may we recommend to priests and to people a commentary on the Scriptures entitled "Bible Studies", by William Barclay, professor of New Testament, Language and Literature and Greek at the University of Glasgow, Scotland.

The 17 volumes covering the entire New Testament costs \$39.50 and are published by the Westminster Press, Philadelphia. Professor Barclay is not a Catholic but his profound knowledge of Scripture, along with his own deep spirituality and wide experience, make him very acceptable as a commentator.

We beg every priest in the Diocese to order these books, as well as very catechetical center, and to make them the subject of Adult Education. May our increased knowledge of Scripture warm our hearts and make us burn with love for the Risen Christ.

Editor Asks For Urban Aid

Grand Rapids, Mich.—(RNS) — The National Conference of Catholic Bishops has been asked to inaugurate an annual nationwide "urban aid" fund appeal.

Such a fund campaign, according to Msgr. Joseph C. Walen, editor of The Western Michigan Catholic, would parallel the annual overseas aid appeal of the U.S. Bishops.

Msgr. Walen claimed that a large majority of Catholics "can afford to donate twice a year for the poor — once for our fellow human beings in other nations, once for our fellow human beings in our own nation."

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