

Bishop Again Thwarted In Effort to Settle Crisis Over Brazil Education

By OTTO ENGEL
(NC News Service)

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil — Auxiliary Bishop Jose de Castro Pinto of Rio de Janeiro has again been stymied in his efforts to settle the conflict between university students and the government.

The bishop had convinced the education ministry to hold talks with the students without any sort of preconditions, and was trying to convince the students to present reasonable demands.

The talks had been scheduled to start June 6, but during a preliminary meeting with the bishop, student leaders decided not to participate in the talks.

Earlier talks arranged by the bishop to help settle the conflict had failed to take place in May when two militant student groups refused to negotiate.

The student demands that have been blocking a settlement are:

- Greater facilities in the universities to accommodate all youths wishing to attend. The government tries to eliminate many candidates with difficult examinations but 50% of those who pass still cannot find room in the universities. Each year hundreds of youths protest against the lack of facilities.

- Freedom for students to have their own organizations. Since the leftist National Union of Students (UNE) was banned by the government in 1964 it has been operating

clandestinely. Students have refused to accept a government-sponsored student organization and have continued to urge that the UNE be legalized.

- Revision of conditions of the education agreement between the U.S. and Brazil. Students believe that many aspects of U.S. educational aid are against the traditional values of the Brazilian people. Archbishop Helder Camara of Olinda and Recife, who opposed the agreement, has said: "To accept a prefabricated cultural model, regardless of the country from which it comes — and even though only half the responsibility of national education is in the hands of foreign technicians — means the introduction of anti-development education."

The crisis between the university students and the government started in late March when police killed 18-year-old Edson Lima Souto during a student protest. The killing resulted in violent demonstrations by students in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and other cities.

The National Union of Students (UNE) and the Students United Front (FU) have accused the Church of "lending itself to the imperialistic game."

Bishop de Castro Pinto, however, has declared that his mission consists only in establishing contacts between the students and the government, and after that is done he will withdraw, leaving the two parties to talk without any further mediation efforts from the Church.

Solons Back Bishop on Farm Issue

By J. J. GILBERT

Washington — (NC) — Amendment of the National Labor Relations Act to include farm workers in its provisions, proposed by the Catholic bishops of California (June 6), is also strongly urged by a Senate committee report which recently became available here.

The bishops of California's eight dioceses said "genuine, lasting peace" will not come until farm workers are included under the NLRA. "We have witnessed chaos and human suffering all too clearly to judge otherwise," they asserted.

The Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Workers, in its 1968 report, says: "Present unrest in the agriculture industry is directly related to the exclusion of the industry from the (NLRA) act of 1935. The struggle within the industry to secure the right to collective bargaining affects us all."

"The importance of agriculture as one of the nation's major industries, coupled with its critical effect on all our lives, further evidences the need for maintaining equitable and stable employer-employee relationships," the committee report declares.

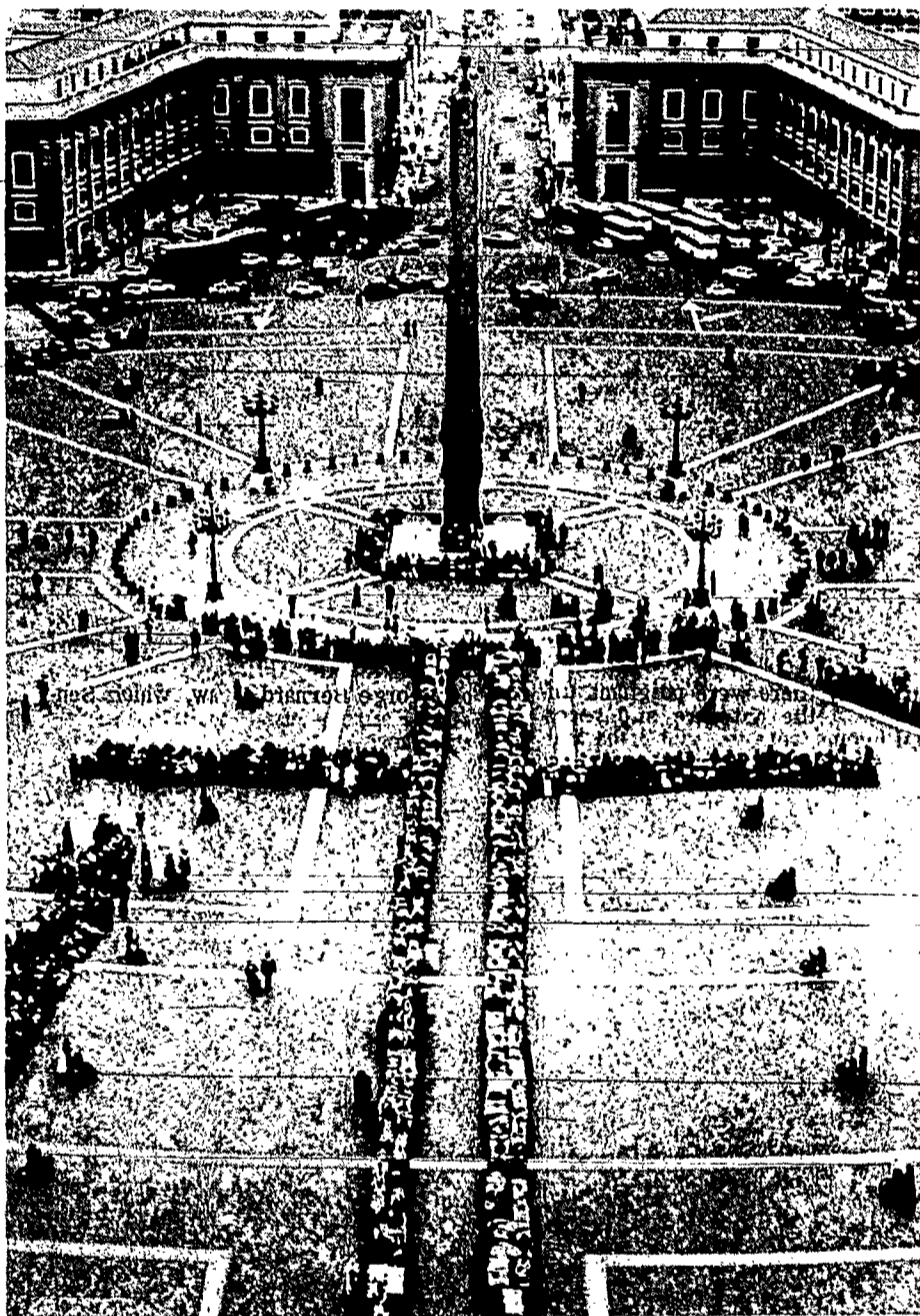
Dealing with "problems calling for basic legislation," the majority report of the Senate group says: The National Labor Relations Act should be extended to our citizens employed in agriculture. The discriminatory exclusion of the agriculture industry continues at incalculable cost to farmworkers and their families, farmers and growers, and to the general public. We must guarantee employees the right to organize and bargain collectively, and we must make the orderly procedures of the act available to the industry."

Looking at things that have been accomplished and needs that continue to make themselves felt, the report deals with health care for migrant workers, housing, education, wages, child labor, farm labor, contractor registration, legal aid services and collective bargaining.

The report says that every year farmworkers and their families numbering more than one million persons "leave their home counties to fill the continuing and fluctuating seasonal demand for labor that is so vitally important in our society."

It adds that migratory workers performed more than 15% of the nation's seasonal farm work in 1967, working in significant numbers in 668 counties in 48 states.

"Despite their vital role in modern agriculture, particularly in filling the crucial needs at harvesttime, our migrant citizens have been grossly neglected by society," the report asserts.



Pilgrimage of Sick

Three thousand ailing pilgrims from Italy and the Swiss Canton of Ticino form a living cross in St. Peter's Square. The group marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Voluntary Center of Suffering, an organization of priests and laymen dedicated to helping the sick. The group also attended a Mass celebrated by Pope Paul VI in St. Peter's Basilica. (Religious News Service)

Lindsay's Removal Of City's Chaplains Draws Criticism

New York — (RNS) — Mayor Lindsay's recommendation that New York eliminate 47 of its 129 paid chaplains — a move intended to cut some \$155,000 from the city's \$6.1 billion budget — came under fire here.

The Democratic-controlled Council and Board of Estimate will soon begin joint public hearings on the budget.

Noting that New York is the only major American city with paid fire, police, and sanitation chaplains (average salary, \$5,000 a year), Mayor Lindsay has recommended eliminating eight of the 17 chaplains in the three departments. He has also recommended removal of 10 of 32 prison chaplains and 29 of 83 hospital chaplains.

Earlier in the year, union leaders for the city's 13,000 firemen vowed an all-out battle to keep their chaplains.

'Father Happiness' Creates Turmoil

Lisbon — (NC) — A parish priest of suburban Lisbon returned to his church from France June 2 to be caught up in the storm of controversy which he himself created at Easter-time.

The priest is popularly known as "Father Happiness" because of his middle name. He is Father Jose da Felicidade Alves of the parish of Santa Maria de Belem, who has been studying in the Higher Institute of Ecumenical Studies in Paris.

But Father Happiness has made government and church circles here, particularly the conservative elements, most unhappy. He has disturbed those sections of the Catholic Church in Portugal which dislike modernization, and they have opened a bitter campaign against the

priest, attacking him as an agent of discord and urging his dismissal. Younger Catholics are countering with a campaign in his favor.

The case has reached Manuel Cardinal Goncalves Cerejeira, Patriarch of Lisbon. Father Alves has learned that the cardinal "is not in agreement" with his views.

The controversy began when Father Alves returned to his parish from his studies for an Easter visit. He gave a talk to his parish council to share some of his ecumenical experiences with them. He discussed "perspectives of transformations in the structure of the Church" and "a sense of responsibility in the political life of my country."

In his talk, he criticized the "Stalinization of the ecclesiastical power"

and urged the "elimination of privileges of the clergy," and "end of clerical recruitment among children and adolescents" and the "broad access of women to all ecclesiastical functions."

The priest also questioned the legitimacy of Portugal's sovereignty in its colonial possessions, and stressed the "anti-evangelical" aspects of colonialism as well as "injustices and exploitation."

The priest also denounced the "destructive violence" of Portuguese society, citing "previous censorship and police methods preventing access to objective information and freedom of thought and expression."

Father Alves' followers claim he is part of a new movement for change in the Church in Portugal and a more active civic role for Catholics.

Home for Factory Girls Opened in Taiwan

Taipei, Taiwan — (NC) — The dedication of a hostel for factory girls on the outskirts of this city has crowned the efforts of Father Edward Wojniak, S.V.D., to improve the living conditions of girls employed by local factories.

The four-story hostel to accommodate 260 girls is the first phase of a hostel project which will eventually house more than 500 girls with buildings costing an estimated \$300,000.

United States Ambassador Walter P. McCone was present and spoke at the opening ceremony. The ambassador expressed his pleasure at the building of the hostel. "The proj-

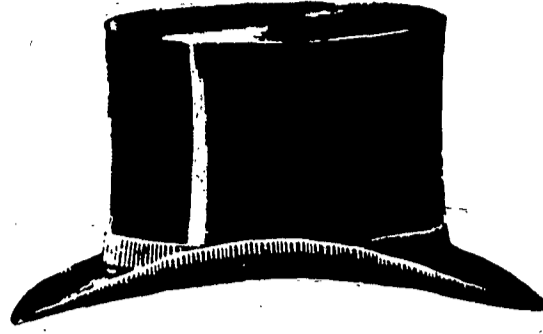
ect was initiated by the Church, but many people of various races and creeds cooperated in its implementation," the ambassador said.

Pope Paul VI donated \$16,000 through the apostolic pronouncement here toward the hostel. Father Wojniak solicited funds in the United States and from industrialists and factory owners here.

The factory girls' hostel is an apartment style building with 16 girls sharing an apartment consisting of two large bedrooms with shower, toilet facilities, spacious kitchen, laundry and living room. Each occupant will pay \$3.50 per month as rental.

"The hostel will permit the girls from nearby factories, who usually come from rural areas, to leave the crowded and often unsanitary conditions of the small, rented rooms where they now live," Father Wojniak said.

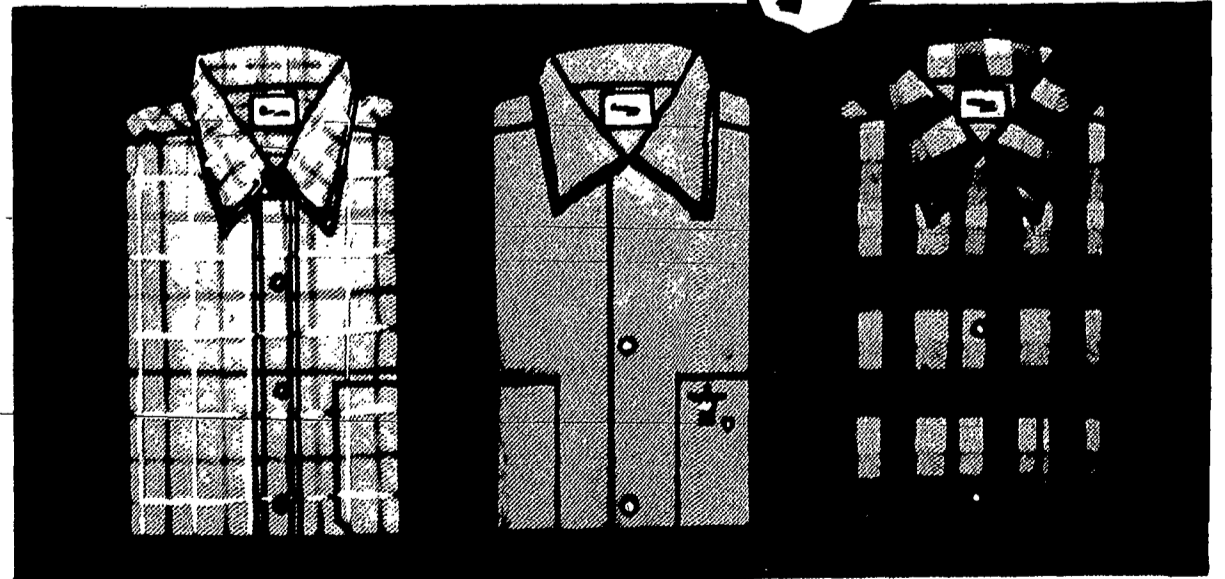
Girls from the rural areas flock to the cities to obtain jobs in the new factories. Scant attention has been paid to their living conditions. Father Wojniak hopes that his pilot project of a well planned and supervised hostel will lead others to build similar hostels throughout Taiwan for the physical and moral well being of the working girls.



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