



Support Goals of the Poor

Four leaders of an unprecedented Interreligious Legislative Conference confer in Washington, D.C. They are, left to right: Father John McCarthy, assistant director of the Social Action Department of the U.S. Catholic Conference; Dr. Marian Wright, Congressional liaison for the Poor People's Campaign; Dr. Charles S. Spivey, Jr., director of the Department of Social Justice of the National Council of Churches, and Rabbi Irving Lehrman, vice president of the Synagogue Council of America. Some 150 clergy and laymen from 19 states visited members of Congress in support of the Poor People's Campaign and the recommendations of the Kerner Report during the two-day conference. (RNS Photo)

Black Power Conference Scheduled

Philadelphia—(RNS)—A third National Conference on Black Power will be held here Aug. 28-Sept. 1 to consider black self-determination and unity through direct action.

Dr. Nathanael Wright, chairman of the Continuations Committee, National Conference on Black Power, said the conference "will deal with methods, techniques and strategy to forge a black nation in thought, experience and commitment."

Specifically, Dr. Wright continued, the conference would seek ways of unifying blacks, "particularly in the ghettos," examine methods and strategies for use by black communities, and would try to mobilize blacks "to resist the increasing genocidal tendencies of American society."

Among the program topics for the Philadelphia conference will be: A Black Nation: A State or State of Mind; Formation of a Black Militia; A Black Foreign Policy; Developing a Black Press and Black Communications Media; and black power and control in economics, labor unions, education and politics.

'Church Lobby' Urged To Press for Aid to Poor

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A Southern Christian Leadership Conference official said it is largely up to church leaders and the "church lobby" now to mobilize the nation "to do something about the needed change" in the American economic climate and political system.

The Rev. Andrew Young addressed the Interreligious Legislative Committee which was called for a two-day session of concentrated lobbying in behalf of bills aimed at helping the poor.

"We've got to organize the people who are of this world and help them to understand that there is a religious factor necessary in bringing these things about," he said.

The Negro leader said the press, for the most part, "misread" Resurrection City. "This thing is awful," he said. What they were supposed to see was a slice of the poor put under the microscope of the Washington press corps.

"We didn't call for the religious poor to come. We didn't call for the emotionally stable poor to come. We didn't call for the poor who have a

kindly attitude toward white people. We wanted to give a good cross-section of the poor in America. Resurrection City was a slice of the poor placed out there on the mall so America could have to see it."

Mr. Young said he does not view Resurrection City or the Poor People's Campaign in any way a failure. "In fact," he added, "I'd say we are just about on schedule."

The churchmen are pushing particularly for measures primarily aimed at providing adequate food for the poor, rent subsidy and housing programs, job provision bills and education legislation.

Mr. Young told the group that it is of the highest priority that the forces of goodwill organize to assure "one America."

The chief contributions the Churches can make now, he said, is to work on building up opinions among people not ordinarily concerned about the social ills of the nation, and to spread goodwill.

"You're going to have trouble, but you just don't have resurrections without crucifixions."

Czechoslovakia

New Appointment Has Catholics Worried

Bonn, Germany — (NC) — The appointment to a key government post of a man who many blame for the oppression of the Church during Czechoslovakia's Stalinist era is reportedly disturbing many Catholics in that country.

Karel Hruza, who headed the church affairs department of Czechoslovakia's Ministry of Cultural Affairs before the change in that country's Communist party leadership last March, has now been appointed chief of the church affairs department in the foreign office.

What particularly disturbs Catholics about Hruza's new appointment is that any future negotiations with the Vatican on church life in Czechoslovakia would be handled through his office.

His appointment was announced only a few days before a Prague daily, Lidova Demokracie, reported that negotiations between Czechoslovakia and the Vatican will start in October.

In another area, the paper reported that heads of elementary schools will be required to make rooms available for religious education if the churches do not have adequate space.

Catholics in Czechoslovakia became optimistic when a new Communist regime took over last spring and proclaimed a policy of liberalization and intentions to "democratize" the country.

During that changeover Hruza was replaced as head of the cultural ministry's church affairs office by Dr. Erika Kadlecova. Dr. Kadlecova had headed the Religious-Sociological Institute of the Prague Academy and was professor of dialectic and historical Marxism at that institution.

She has already helped to restore the Catholic Eastern rite banned in Czechoslovakia since 1950. Her department has formally petitioned for the release of imprisoned priests whose activities were motivated by religious convictions or religious obedience.

She has also conducted rehabilitation proceedings for priests and laymen who, she said, had been imprisoned illegally and whose sentences had been out of proportion to their offenses.

On taking office she said that it is undesirable for millions of Catholics to be torn between their consciences as believers and their duties as citizens.

"We want to give Catholics elbow room for their religious needs," she said.

The new Communist regime is allowing three bishops to return to their sees 15 years or more after they were ousted by the Stalinists. The first to be reinstated was Bishop Karl

Skoupy, 81, of Brno, barred from office in 1953 after refusing to take an oath required by the country's anti-Church laws of 1951.

Bishop Frantisek Tomasek, apostolic administrator of Prague, announced that Bishop Josef Hlouch, 66, of Budejovice, banished from his see in 1952, and Bishop Stepan Trechta, S.D.B., of Litoverice, placed under house arrest in 1950 and barred from directing his diocese in 1952, will also resume their duties.

Despite these changes, many Catholics in the country are still skeptical.

'Club 231' No Night Spot

Hartford, Conn. — (NC) — "Club 231" is not, as its name might suggest, a lush night spot in Manhattan or Las Vegas. It doesn't have a doorman, though the people who belong to it remember all too well the guards at the gate. And it is unfortunately not very exclusive.

"Club 231" is a by-product of the political upheaval which has overtaken Czechoslovakia in the last six months and has seen the former Stalinist regime supplanted by a more liberal Communist government. The members of the three-month-old club are former political prisoners of the ousted regime.

The new club gets its name from paragraph 231 of the law under which its members were prosecuted, sentenced and imprisoned for "crimes against the state."

A Hartford musician and teacher who left Czechoslovakia nearly 20 years ago was in Prague's St. Vitus cathedral for a special requiem Mass sponsored by "Club 231." The Mass was offered for the country's victims of Communist persecution.

Josa M. Karas told about the club on his return to Hartford from his visit to Czechoslovakia, where he spent his youth. Karas, who teaches music at the University of Hartford,

is a violinist with the Hartford Symphony and organist at St. Bridget's Church in nearby Elmwood. He had a special reason for being at the Prague Mass; his father died in a Communist prison.

Bishop Frantisek Tomasek, apostolic administrator of the Prague archdiocese in the absence of exiled Josef Cardinal Beran, was principle celebrant of the concelebrated Mass. Some of the priests who sang in the choir were ordained secretly in prison, Karas said.

The Hartford musician's father was an official in the Czechoslovak government when the Communists seized power after World War II. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison and died there after two years. Karas' mother still lives in Prague.

He said on his return here that many people in Czechoslovakia are skeptical about the changes in the government "because they went through such a terrible ordeal for 20 years. They refuse to believe that anything has changed. But I told them that if they look around, they'll see that it has."

Karas said he feels that the present climate in Czechoslovakia is "more nearly like it was when I left, before the Communists took over."



Sit

This is the site of the maibla, in August. The capacity highlighted by the first visit is close

Change in Ends Brazil Between P

Botucatu, Brazil — (NC) — Naming of a new archbishop for archdiocese of Botucatu has resuscitated a conflict between a majority of archdiocesan priests and Church authorities.

Archbishop Romeu Alberti, for Bishop of Apucarana, has been named to head the Botucatu See. He is second Ordinary named to the see since the resignation of Archbishop Henrique Golland Trindade, O.S.A., in April.

When Bishop Vicente Zioni Bauru was named earlier to succeed Archbishop Trindade, a majority of the archdiocesan priests refused to accept him as their archbishop. They threatened to leave the archdiocese unless an archbishop was named they considered more up-to-date.

The priests contended that Archbishop Trindade and B. Zioni had not implemented the decrees of the Second Vatican Council and had acted unjustly against rights, liberty and responsibility of the local clergy.

The priests addressed two memoranda to Agnelo Cardinal Basso Sao Paulo, president of the Brazilian Bishops' Conference, and Archbishop Sebastiao Baggio, apostolic nuncio to Brazil. The first statement attacked the archdiocese's pastoral situation and the second announced that the priests would withdraw from the archdiocese if Bishop Zioni's nomination were not withdrawn, a new, and more acceptable, priest named.

A few days later, after the cardinals and nuncio had declared themselves opposed to any change, the local clergy determined to determine to quit the archdiocese and work

Rector Adv Be Married

New York — (RNS)—Msgr. G. A. Schlichte, rector of the Pope XXIII National Seminary for 14 years, was named to the vacant position of rector of the Roman Catholic seminary in the future should expect the tending students to be college-trained capable of supporting themselves in secular employment and married.

Addressing the 18th annual convention for Religious and Sacerdotal vocations, sponsored by Fordham University, Msgr. Schlichte said he is hard to believe there is a real age of vocations.

"Authentic vocations are there suggested, if the Church will be adjusting our structure to them" and "put our own hands to it so that intelligent, mature men will want to be part of our effort to promote the Kingdom of God on earth."

(The Pope John XXIII Seminary was established in 1964 for those whose priestly vocation occurs after they have become established in other professions. The 42 men

'Friend o

Vatican City —(NC)— In a step toward beatification, the Congregation of Rites has examined reports of theologians on the work of Capuchin Father Stephen E. who was known as the "champion of the colored people" of Milwaukee.

Father Eckert, a white man, was the first resident pastor of St. Ignace's Mission for Negroes in Milwaukee, serving there from 1854 until shortly before his death in 1880.

He was born in Dublin, Ont., 28, 1860. After studying at St. Ignace's College, Kitchener, Ont., he entered the Franciscan Order in Detroit on May 21, 1881, completed his philosophical and theological studies at St. Francis

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