

Many Rush to Defense of Pope's Encyclical

Washington — (NC) — Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington said here that Catholic theologians and others dissenting from Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control are "setting the Church on fire."

Describing himself as "surprised and saddened" by the Catholic critics of the encyclical, Cardinal O'Boyle said:

"There are many excellent and competent Catholic theologians, and I am sure the Church is in need of them. But the Church can do without the dissent of those gentlemen who forget that in the Catholic Church even the most expert theologian must accept the teaching authority of the Church — that authority which resides in the bishops, and especially in the successor of Peter."

The cardinal made his comments in a pastoral letter read (Aug. 4) in all churches of the Washington archdiocese. The cardinal himself read the letter from the pulpit of St. Matthew's cathedral.

He acknowledged that the condemnation of artificial birth control is "a hard saying" — one difficult for many to accept.

"During the last few years," he said, "many couples who want to be good Catholics were persuaded, despite the continued reaffirmations of the teaching by Pope Paul himself, that it would be all right for them to use the 'pill' or to do something else that Catholic teaching forbids."

"But Catholic teaching in this matter is an expression of the moral law that God Himself has placed into the nature of human beings. So the Holy Father declared once again what the Catholic Church always has taught."

Cardinal Heenan

London — (RNS) — John Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, speaking with what he described as "some

ST. PETER VS. CIVIL



Pope Paul VI is transported through the crowd gathered in an audience hall of his Summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, Italy. At the audience on July 31, the pontiff appealed to Catholic couples to understand and accept his ban on artificial methods of contraception contained in his encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* issued on July 29. (RNS Photo)

authority," urged Roman Catholics who are practicing birth control not to despair and "above all" not to "abstain from the sacraments."

In a pastoral letter issued here, the cardinal, who was the pro-president of the final papal commission which reported on the subject of birth control, also defended Pope Paul VI against critics of his encyclical, *Of Human Life*.

Cardinal Heenan's comment is being accepted here as the most authoritative statement on the encyclical made so far in Great Britain.

"The Church," he said, "has compassion on many for whom this ruling will bring hardship. Those who have become accustomed to using methods which are unlawful may not be able at all once to resist temptation."

"They must not despair. Above all, they must not ab-

stain from the sacraments. "However often they fail, they must ask God's grace to find strength to obey His law. May God grant us all the wisdom and humility to accept the guidance of the head of the Church on earth."

But he added, nobody could complain that the Pope had made the decision without due preparation, nor could it be said that he sought no advice. He studied opinions and advice from all parts of the world, and that was one reason why the publication of the encyclical was delayed, the cardinal said.

Msgr. Vaughan

New York — (RNS) — Roman Catholics are not free to disregard the directives on birth control contained in Pope Paul's encyclical, the head of the Catholic Theo-

logical Society of America declared here.

Msgr. Austin B. Vaughan, president of the society, made his comment in answer to a statement signed by 230 Catholic theologians. They claimed that Catholic spouses "may responsibly decide according to their conscience" to use artificial contraceptives in some cases.

Msgr. Vaughan said that the key sentence in the statement issued in Washington, D.C. by the theologians is: "It is common teaching in the Church that Catholics may dissent from authoritative non-infallible teaching of the magisterium (teaching authority) when sufficient reasons for so doing exist."

He denied that this statement is true, charging that it never has been permissible in the Church "to disobey a practical directive by what is licit in matter of divine law that comes from the highest

authority even in a non-infallible way."

"Even in cases in which an individual who is an expert in a field feels personally convinced of what is opposed to non-infallible teaching of the magisterium... and hence does not accept it," Msgr. Vaughan declared that he is not free "to propose this of his own as acceptable teaching since the responsibility for this judgment lies ultimately with the Pope and bishops, if God has established the Church in the way she claims."

U.S. Bishops

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, speaking out on Pope Paul's encyclical upholding the Church's ban on artificial birth control, has asked priests and the laity to "receive with sincerity what he has taught."



Pickets demonstrate outside St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York to protest Pope Paul's encyclical. The 15 pickets — only one of whom was a Catholic — represented the Parents Aid Society of Hempstead, L.I. Its president, William R. Baird, left a petition at the chancery door. It was addressed to Archbishop Terence J. Cooke, who was in Puerto Rico. Some Catholics contested the right of non-Catholics to demonstrate. Said Mrs. Roseanne Kennedy of Hillsdale, N.J., to Mr. Baird: "This ban is for Catholics. You have no call to protest." (RNS Photo)

'Heroic, Prophetic,' Says Bishop Wright

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — The condemnation of birth control by Pope Paul was described as "heroic" and "prophetic" by Bishop John Wright of Pittsburgh in a statement released here.

While calling upon confessors to show "tender sympathy for human weakness," the bishop declared that conformity to the papal pronouncement will be the measure of Catholicity of those "who teach or preach moral theology."

"The pressures on Pope Paul to speak on contraception other than he did this week have been massive. They have been pressures of human respect, politics, prestigious opinion, emotional torment, threats that Church unity might be destroyed or ecumenical hopes dimmed," Bishop Wright said.

"The professionals have been fully consulted and patiently heard," he said, "the leader has finally spoken as only he could and should do."

"The Pope is not a theological referee in a crisis of this kind. Rather, mindful of apostolic responsibilities proper and special to him, aware of the requirements in conscience of his unique teaching office in the Church (as a

matter of faith) and in the world (as a matter of history), Pope Paul has heard all sides and now speaks not as a teacher among many teachers but as the supreme teacher, under God, of the flock committed to him in Peter by Christ.

"One wonders whether we will make good the assurances all parties gave from the beginning, and presumably meant, that our doctrinal opinions were speculative pending the pronouncement of the Pope.

"Our conformity with this given word," he said, "will be measure not only of our Catholic fidelity to the Pope but of our greatness, particularly he it said pointedly, the greatness and integrity of those specifically among us who teach or preach moral theology.

"What Pope Paul has done, what he had to do, is recall to a generation that does not like the word, the fact that sin exists, that artificial-contraception is objectively sinful, that those who impose it, foster it, counsel it, whether they be governments, experts, or God, forgive them! — spiritual directors, impose, foster and counsel objective sin.

Those Opposed

13 Marquette Teachers

Milwaukee — (RNS) — Thirteen members of Marquette University's theological faculty issued a statement holding that Pope Paul's encyclical did not remove all doubts on the use of contraception and was not binding on individual Catholics.

Their statement said that despite the Pope's action "no consensus exists in the Church among either the hierarchy, the body of the faith-

ful or the Church's professional theologians" on birth control.

A signed statement read to reporters (July 31) by Father Bernard Cooke, S.J., head of the university's theology department, said the Pope's encyclical, while it is an authoritative statement on the immorality of artificial contraception and must be seriously considered by Catholics, does not preclude their right to

form responsibly their own conscience on the question."

The encyclical does not "make certain what was previously uncertain" and has not "decisively altered the situation of practical doubt which existed within the Church prior to its publication," the statement read.

It is "authentic," but not "infallible teaching."

Faithful Shaken, Says Father Haring

Following is a major portion of a statement on the birth control encyclical by Father Bernard Haring, German moral theologian, who has frequently lectured at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Pope Paul VI shows a striking optimism regarding the convincing power of his argumentation. He believes that he gives "an adequate response not only to the faithful but also to world opinion." He asserts that each individual marital act must be open to the procreative process and that therefore the communicative and procreative biological function of the marital act may not be separated.

He insists then that in "the field of morals as well as that of dogma all should speak the same language." If in this matter only one language will be allowed or tolerated in the Catholic church then many, many voices of dedicated men of the church have to grow dumb, silent or lose credibility.

If we wish to speak about natural law to the world at large and with modern people within the Catholic church then we have to show that, by definition, a matter of natural law is based on human experience, reflection,

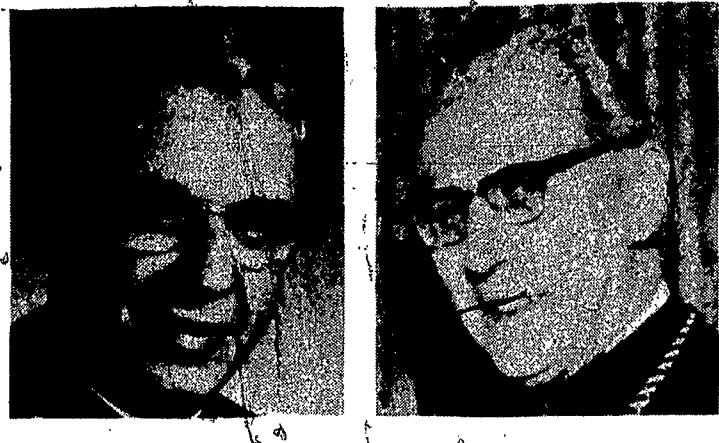
insights and convincing arguments.

If only our own personal convictions would be at stake, reverence and love to the Holy Father would be a sufficient motive for me to be silent forever. But in this case is the whole credibility of the church at stake. Many are shaken in their faith and trust in the church.

Although we theologians have studied this matter throughout a lifetime, we are much less infallible than the pope is in the non-infallible exercise of his teaching office which we have to honor. However, in this particular case of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* it is not just a matter of the opinion of a single theologian.

For myself it is above all a concern for the poor and scrupulous. The wording of the new encyclical is so absolute and so unambiguous that no honest casuistry of Catholic theologians can any more take care of these numerous tragic cases if they wish to keep themselves within the realm of this teaching.

We appeal to the Pope urgently to use all the resources of collegiality in order to come to a broader consensus which is worked out by the whole Christian community.



Bishop Casey

Cardinal Alfrink

Loyal Catholics Will Back Pope

Paterson — Pope Paul has "just made the most agonizing decision of his life," Bishop Casey said in a statement on the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (Of Human Life).

The statement: "The Holy Father, speaking as the supreme teacher of the Church, has reaffirmed the principles to be followed, in forming the Christian consciences of married persons in carrying out their responsibilities."

"Recognizing his unique role in the universal Church, we, the bishops of the Church in the U.S., unite with him in calling upon our priests and people to receive with sincerity what he has taught, to study it carefully and form their consciences in his light."

"We are aware of the difficulties this teaching lays upon so many of our conscientious married people but we must face the reality that struggling to live out the will of God will often entail sacrifice."

Time of Schisms Over in Church

Amsterdam — (NC) — Bernard Cardinal Alfrink of Utrecht predicted that Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, will not lead to any rupture in the Church.

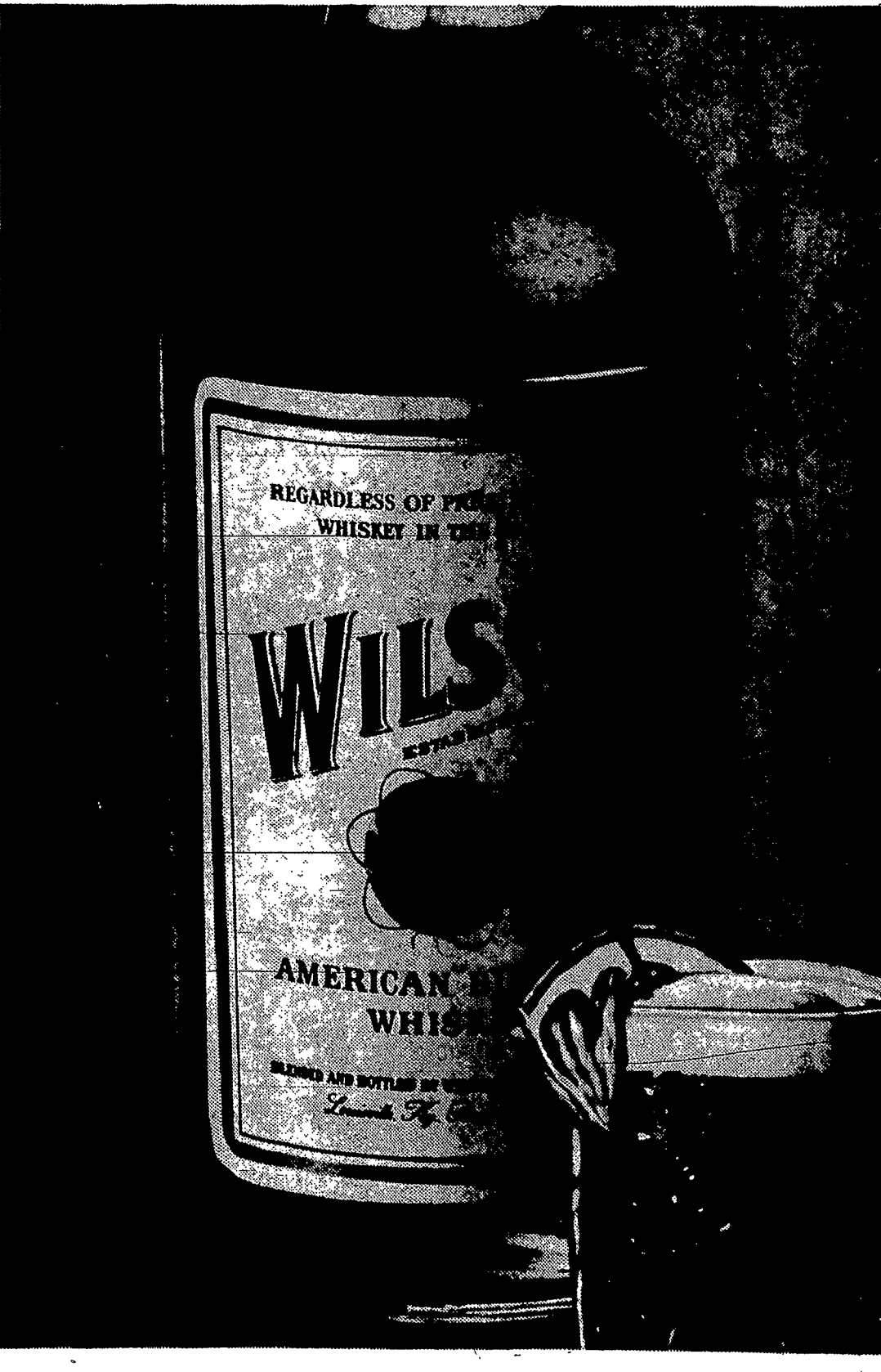
"The time of schisms is over," the cardinal said. "Encyclicals can be no reason for any schism for anyone with some theological education."

"The infallibility of the Pope is not an issue in this case," Cardinal Alfrink said. "The encyclical is infallible

only if the Pope declares so explicitly. But encyclicals are statements of papal authority that one cannot ignore. Catholics must think this over and in forming their consciences, they must take notice of the encyclical."

The cardinal said he is not certain whether the encyclical will harm the ecumenical movement. In Protestant circles there are also different views on the issue of birth control, he stressed.

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