



## Latin American Bishops Debate Social Changes

Medellin, Colombia — (RNS) — The working sessions of the Second General Assembly of the Latin American Bishops' Conference (CELAM) are taking place behind closed doors here, but the echoes which reach the press outside indicate a vigorous debate going on.

The subject of the debate, handled in various terms, is the transformation of Latin America's social order, the post-conciliar development of the Roman Catholic Church, and the role of the Church in socio-economic change.

A major focus of disagreement is Archbishop Heider Pessoa Camara's suggestion that the 225 million Catholics of Latin America adopt the late Dr. Martin Luther King's non-violent advocacy of social change. Much of the discussion centers on papal statements, both his addresses during his recent visit to Colombia and his 1967

encyclical, *The Development of Peoples*.

Progressive bishops, whose influence is strongly reflected in the agenda and the working papers, are concerned that the privileged minority in Latin America may misinterpret Pope Paul's (and the Church's) opposition to violence as an endorsement of the status quo.

The Pope's Colombia addresses have been criticized by some progressives who believe that his use of the expression, "gradual change," constitutes a retreat from the strong position stated in *The Development of Peoples*.

Earlier, speaking on *The Signs of the Times in Latin America*, Bishop Marco McGrath, C.S.C., of Santiago de Veraguas, Panama, said that the need for urgent change, a deeper awareness of temporal and personal

values and world solidarity underline the immediate task of pastoral reform.

Latin America is a challenge for the future of the whole world because it is a key region in the crisis between the developed and developing nations, he said.

"While great sectors of the rural population go almost untouched by change," Bishop McGrath said, "urbanization and communications bring change to them more and more. Science, technology and the resulting progress in northern countries bring about radical changes which eventually will affect Latin America with a greater personal and collective shock, because these countries are little prepared to absorb and to adjust to them."

Bishop McGrath said that the population growth, the migration of the rural population into the cities,

worsening conditions in slums and villages, a growing desire to share the benefits of progress, the continuing contrast between rich and poor "make our people concerned not with religious, cultural or military issues, but with their own immediate needs and welfare."

"We often find in religious practices," he said, "that although they might be fervent, they have in fact little bearing on the temporal concerns of the faithful. Again, this leads to politics and business activities without morals, to a development without spiritual meaning and to a life without true Christian hope."

There is also considerable discussion at the Bishops' Conference over whether Church participation in social action should be avoided on the grounds that it constitutes political involvement. The progressives say that the Church cannot limit itself to purely doctrinal concerns but must

seek man's spiritual and material betterment.

They say that the Church must make itself felt in the modern world by providing a Christian influence to an informed, committed laity which will translate these thoughts into concrete action for social betterment.

"In Latin America, the Church must perform the function of legitimization of change," Father Poblete explained. "Many members of advanced socio-economic and religious groups in Latin America have been mistakenly labeled as Communists because they demand needed changes in unjust social structures."

"The bishops must make people aware that the Church sincerely wants to change these structures and that the people in these advanced groups are doing the work of the Church and must not be mislabeled as Communists."



BISHOP MCGRATH

## Romanian Prelates Back Czechs

Bonn, Germany — (NC) — Bishop Aaron Marton of Alba Julia, Romania, and Patriarch Justinian, leader of the Orthodox community in that country, in a joint message to their faithful, condemned the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union and declared their support for the Czechoslovakian people.

The Romanian prelates said they and their whole nation backed the demands of the Czechoslovakians for the restoration of their "holy right" for free development and independence.

The joint message of Bishop Marton and Patriarch Justinian was issued as rumors of possible invasion of Romania by the Soviets were the "holy right" for free development and independence.

The Romanian government itself lost no time in denouncing the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. The Romanian Communist party leader and President, Nicolae Ceausescu, ordered the creation and mobilization of the national militia.

Bishop Marton was long a victim of Rumanian communism until 1967, when restrictions on his ministry as bishop were lifted in a softening of the government's attitude toward the Church. The communist regime in Rumania kept Bishop Marton in prison from 1948 to 1955 and in confinement until August of last year.

Last May the bishop ordained priests in his cathedral for the first time in 20 years.

### Honor for Shriver

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — American Ambassador to France R. Sargent Shriver will receive the University of Notre Dame's highest honor at a ceremony in Paris Sept. 21.

Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., university president, will confer the Laetare Medal on the 52-year-old diplomat during a reception at the Maison de l'Amérique Latine.

## Needed for 'State of Nation'

# Bishop Urges Strengthening of Parochial Schools



## Grandson Helps LBJ Celebrate Birthday

President Johnson and his grandson, Patrick Lyndon Nugent, give their attention to the Chief Executive's birthday cake. While Mrs. Johnson (right) watches, Lucie Johnson Nugent prepares to light the candle. The President flew from his ranch to Austin, Tex., to celebrate his 60th birthday at his daughter's home. (RNS Photo)

## Vatican, Czechs In Touch

Vatican City (RNS) — The Vatican has maintained contact with the Czechoslovakian hierarchy and particularly with Bishop Frantisek Tomasek, Apostolic Administrator of Prague, during the invasion of the country and the subsequent crises, official sources revealed here.

Communications, maintained both by telephone and telex (a teletype system using telephone lines) were interrupted for only one day, it was reported.

The sources said that the Vatican was particularly anxious over the possible mistreatment of bishops and other churchmen by the invading armies. The Vatican Secretariat of State has been reassured by Bishop Tomasek, however, that none of the clergy have been molested in any way.

Because of this information, the point of view here remains optimistic, particularly in view of the return to power of Alexander Dubcek and other leaders of the liberalization movement in Czechoslovakia. It is believed here that planned discussions on Church-State relations between the Vatican and Czechoslovakia will be held, though they may be postponed from the originally scheduled beginning date in October.

## 'Red Mass' Scheduled

Lawyers, judges and public officials of the Rochester area will mark the opening of the fall session of the courts at the traditional "Red Mass" at St. Joseph's Church next Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 9 a.m.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen will celebrate the Mass and preach.

The Honorable Daniel E. Mackin, Supreme Court justice, is general chairman. Public officials and uniformed delegations from the Sheriff's Office, the Rochester Police and Fire departments will attend. Officials of the Rochester Bar Association and judges of the 7th Judicial District will escort the Bishop to the church.

## Bishop Thwarts Violence

Chicago (NC) — It was 3:30 Friday morning in Grant Park, across Michigan Avenue from the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Several hundred youths sat around fires or huddled in sleeping bags.

The second shift of National Guardsmen stood at ease at the curb.

The bishop walked down the sidewalk carrying his crozier, dressed in his mitre and silk liturgical robes. It was communion time, time to pray and to confess.

The prelate was Anglican Bishop Edward Crowther of South Africa, who was exiled in 1967 by the South

African government because he opposed the country's policy of apartheid.

He came, he said, to help all those present to rid themselves of the "guilt of hate and fear."

And before the soldiers and the television lights and the demonstrators, Bishop Crowther led the Lord's Prayer, consecrated bread and wine, and distributed them — to both soldiers and protesters.

Peter Yarrow of the singing group Peter, Paul and Mary led the communion hymn—We Shall Overcome. The call to violence was forgotten.

## Ex-City Man First Negro Nominated for President

Chicago — A former Rochesterian, the Rev. Channing Phillips of Washington, D.C., was honored at the Democratic convention as the first black man ever to be suggested for the American presidency at a major political party convention.

Mr. Phillips, 40, was in the class of 1953 at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

His nomination was more than merely symbolic because he used the opportunity to press for home rule for the District of Columbia. The first District resident to be nominated for the presidency, Mr. Phillips could not run for office in his home town because the mayoralty and council positions are filled by presidential appointment.

He received 21 of the 23 votes of the District and a total of 87½ votes in the roll call.

He was endorsed by a caucus of Negro delegates to the convention. There were 212 Negro voting delegates, many of whom were pledged to other candidates by the votes of state party primaries or prior commitments and, therefore, could not vote for Mr. Phillips on the ballot which nominated Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

Mr. Phillips was placed in nomination by Philip M. Stern, a white who is alternate National Democratic Committeeman from the District.

Seconding speeches were made by Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Ind., and Congressman John Conyers of Detroit; the leaders of the black caucus.

The clergyman was nominated, Stern said, "to offer a voice for the voiceless, to represent the unrepresented, to encourage votes for the voiceless, to open the doors of political opportunity."

Mr. Phillips has been a leader in the Coalition of Conscience, a Washington group composed of clergy, businessmen and various civil rights advocates. He also served as a moderate voice in the controversial Black United Front, a black power organization which wields considerable influence.

He has been the organizer of a number of non-profit, church-backed housing projects for the poor in the capital city.

Mr. Phillips was not actively involved in politics until this year, although he is a life-long Democrat and supported the Mississippi Freedom Democratic party's challenge of the regular Mississippi delegation at the 1964 convention.

He explained to newsmen in Chicago that the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy convinced him that he must enter politics if he hoped to make any contribution to overcoming the problems—domestic and foreign—which face the nation.

Mr. Phillips had the backing of leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who were on hand at the convention in support of the Poor People's Campaign, a project endorsed by the convention's black caucus.

### Diocesan Appointments

#### Special Appointments

Rev. Roger F. Baglin, granted sick leave from duties as director of the Spanish Apostolate.

Rev. Anthony F. Calmeri, to be director of the Spanish Apostolate of the diocese, while remaining Pastor of St. Jerome's of East Rochester.

Rev. Thomas Lenhard, from St. Andrew's Church, to be professor at St. Bernard's Seminary.

#### Assistant Pastors Transferred

Rev. Michael F. Conboy, from St. Charles Church, Rochester, to St. Margaret Mary's Church.

Rev. Gerard J. Gull, to St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn.

Rev. M. Gerard Hafner, from St. Francis Church, Auburn, to Holy Spirit Church, Penfield.

## CHANNING PHILLIPS PRESIDENT

The Rev. Channing Phillips

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