

AROUND THE COUNTRY



Nun Receives ASCAP Award

Sister Miriam Theres Winter of the Medical Mission Sisters in Philadelphia was honored as one of the most popular folk music composers of the year by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Sister Miriam, whose 37 musical compositions in the past two years have been released by Avant Garde Records, joins Joan Baez, Herb Alpert and Judy Collins on the ASCAP honor roll. (RNS)

Prelate Welcomes Lay Advisers

Milwaukee — (NC) — A group of laymen formed to advise the organized charities of the Milwaukee archdiocese has been continued as general counsel to Archbishop William E. Cousins.

"Most significant development in the history of the archdiocese," the prelate commented.

The committee include nine business and professional men from the Milwaukee area, Hartland and Racine. Education, finances, declining parishes and vocations are among problems to be studied.

Describing education as the most urgent problem "at the moment," the archbishop suggested that it would be advantageous to have a well-staffed large school serving a broad area rather than small schools scattered about the same area.

Editor Consecrated Bishop

Rockford, Ill. — (NC) — Bishop Arthur J. O'Neill, 50, veteran Catholic newspaper editor, became the seventh spiritual leader of the 60-year-old Rockford diocese Oct. 11.

Bishop O'Neill, who has been editor of the Observer, Rockford diocesan newspaper since 1954, is the first native of the diocese to head the See. He has been pastor of St. Peter's church, where he was elevated to the hierarchy, since 1954 and has held a variety of important diocesan offices in addition to serving as editor.

Mission Board Reorganizing

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The Mission Secretariat, for 19 years the focus for most Roman Catholic overseas missionary work emanating from the U.S., is expected to vote itself out of existence and to take steps toward "a more sophisticated and unified approach" to mission work.

Tentative plans call for a "National Catholic Board of Missions," having 35 representatives of the hierarchy, pontifical societies, mission-sending societies of men and women Religious, and the laity.

Irish Bishops Support Encyclical

Maynooth, Ireland — (NC) — The Irish bishops have asked Catholics to give Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, "that wholehearted assent which the Second Vatican Council requires."

The bishops stressed, however, that they "are painfully aware of the delicate and personal problems and intellectual difficulties to which this teaching may give rise for some."

Part of their statement follows: "The Second Vatican Council teaches that 'a religious submission of mind and will must be given to the authentic teaching of the Pope, even when he is not speaking ex cathedra' (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, N. 25)."

The Pope speaks not as one theologian among many, but as the Vicar of Christ who has the

special assistance of the Holy Spirit in teaching the Universal Church. Moreover, in what he says on contraception, the Holy Father merely reaffirms what the Church has always taught as a precept of God's Law.

Regarding the role of conscience in this matter we think it well to quote the actual words of the Second Vatican Council. They are as follows: "Husband and wife, in their mutual rela-

tions, may not act arbitrarily but have always to be governed by conscience which must be conformable to the Divine Law, submissive to the teaching authority of the Church, which authentically interprets that law in the light of the Gospels" (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, N. 50).

"The faithful may not employ methods of regulating procreation which are found blameworthy by the teaching authorities of the Church in its unfolding of the Divine Law" (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, N. 51).

Bishop Helmsing Condemns National Catholic Reporter

Kansas City, Mo. — (NC) — Bishop Charles H. Helmsing of Kansas City-St. Joseph has issued a strong "condemnation" of the National Catholic Reporter, lay controlled weekly published here.

The bishop, who lent assistance to the paper during its early days, said (Oct. 11) he was forced to condemn it "for its disregard and denial of the most sacred values of our Catholic faith."

In his condemnation, Bishop Helmsing charged that the "misguided and evil policy" of the

paper had "caused untold harm to the faith and morals" of lay, priests and Religious. He also said that the Church "finds itself increasingly more frustrated in its teaching of the ideals of Our Lord by the type of reporting, editorializing and ridicule that has become the week-after-week fare" of the paper.

Describing his "condemnation" as a "last resort," Bishop Helmsing said:

"Within recent months the National Catholic Reporter has expressed itself in belittling the

basic truths expressed in the Creed of Pope Paul VI; it has made itself a platform for the airing of heretical views on the Church and its divinely constituted structure, as taught by the First and Second Vatican Councils.

"Vehemently to be reprobated," he continued, "was the airing in recent editions of an attack on the perpetual virginity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the virgin birth of Christ, by one of its contributors. Finally, it has given lengthy space to a blasphemous and heretical attack on the Vicar of Christ."

Bishop Helmsing apparently referred to an article (Sept. 18) on Mary's virginity by Rosemary Ruether and an article (Oct. 9) on the birth control encyclical and papal infallibility by Daniel Callahan.

He continued: "Inasmuch as The National Catholic Reporter does not reflect the teaching of the Church, but on the contrary, has openly and deliberately opposed this teaching, I ask the editors in all honesty to drop the term 'Catholic' from their masthead."

Two French Bishops Stress Conscience

Paris — (NC) — In statements on Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control Archbishop Louis Jean Guyot of Toulouse and Bishop Arthur Elchinger of Strasbourg have stressed the role of an enlightened conscience.

Archbishop Guyot pointed out that husbands and wives would not be acting in accord with the Catholic faith if they were to ignore the essential teaching of the encyclical on the grounds that it is not infallible.

The Archbishop emphasized that "the first duty of the spouses is to believe in the love that God has for them. Having enlightened their consciences as far as they can, they will decide on the solution that they will judge most in conformity at present with that divine will."

Bishop Elchinger warned against a legalistic interpretation of the encyclical. "Some," he said, "would like to reduce Christian morality to customs regulations. The Christian moral law is a call to progress. Moral effort is a perpetual way-faring. The encyclical seeks to stimulate a permanent spiritual effort, more patient, more lucid, and more humble. The Pope is pointing out to couples the goal toward which they are obliged to strive."

"The moral law," Bishop Elchinger continued, "can never take the place of conscience. The law has the mission of enlightening and guiding conscience. In particular cases, the ultimate decision is up to the conscience of the spouses, on condition that conscience is correct and enlightened, and if, in reference to the doctrine of the Church, they have together, in complete loyalty, in complete

MEMORIAL WINDOW

London — (RNS) — The historic City of London Church of the Holy Sepulchre unveiled a memorial window here to Capt. John Smith, English colonist whose life was reputedly saved by the Indian princess Pocahontas. The window was provided for in the will of Bradford Smith of Shaftsbury, Vermont, late American biographer of the captain.

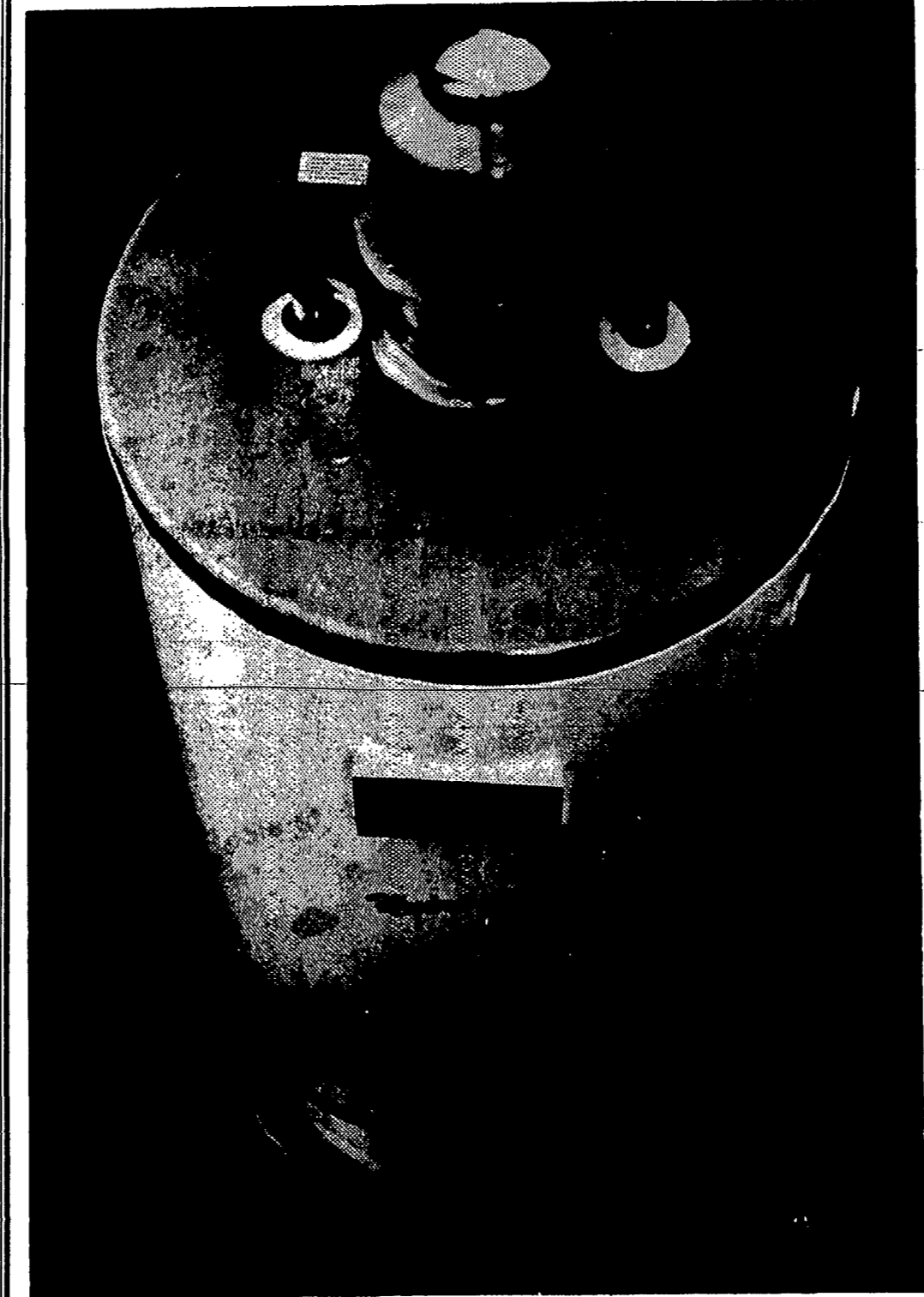
Laymen Dominate New B.C. Board

Chestnut Hill, Mass. — (RNS) — Boston College has established a board of directors, dominated by laymen, to "direct and manage the business and affairs" of the Jesuit institution.

Father W. Seavey Joyce, S.J., Boston College president, also announced that the school's board of regents, an advisory body, had been dissolved.

The board of directors will consist of 12 laymen and eight Jesuits. Eventually, its membership will be expanded to 25.

"Through the new board of directors," Father Joyce said, "Boston College is giving laymen great responsibilities in the governance of the university. I am sure that we will be able to achieve much from the talents of these men who have a wide range of experience, interest and concern for the continued growth and strength of Boston College."



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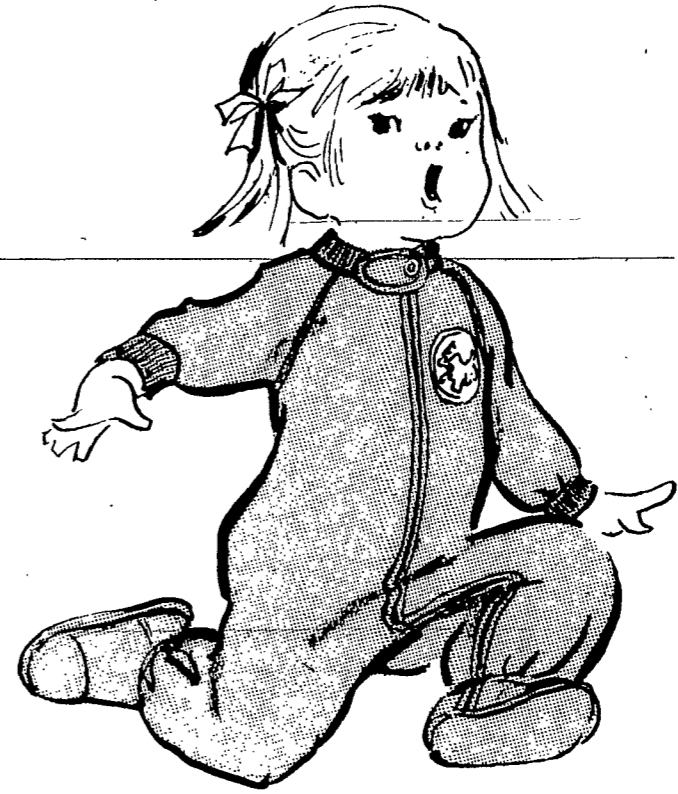
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India

By FR. WILLIAM J. RICHARDSON

New Delhi, India—India desperately poor in food, edly the poorest nation in Asia—and there is no bright future shining through.

There have been predictions recently that India will be self-sufficient in food by 1971, but an Indian sociologist I interviewed predicted the date at a more cautious 1975.

Miracle rice and wheat strains which multiplied by 100 last year gave rise to such optimism. However, disastrous floods this spring and summer have all but wiped out the crops in large areas and have necessitated the use of troops to evacuate tens of thousands of refugees.

I am frankly skeptical India can ever become self-sufficient in food. The monsoon rains are very unpredictable — not enough a year have drought such as Bihar state last year, too much and you have floods.

Another factor is India's internal transportation system. Last year, while Bihar was starving as a result of the drought and free markets were rushing grain to India, much of the food could not be moved inland for lack of sufficient railroad cars. When the monsoons came, hundreds of thousands of people were destroyed as they lay uncovered rail sidings awaiting shipment.

Last fall's crop in India was a bumper, as it was in China, because the rains were just right. Much of this crop

AROUND

Priests Look For

Bochum, West Germany — To promote "a democratic Catholic Church's highway among young people."

Among points discussed was the possibility that West Germany's traditional rights.

Father Hans-Guenther, some 30 delegates, said their organizing was which many clergymen pastoral work after the

Other reasons given for solution of the mix-up of rights of the bishops; public accords; reform of priestly life; and form and way of life.

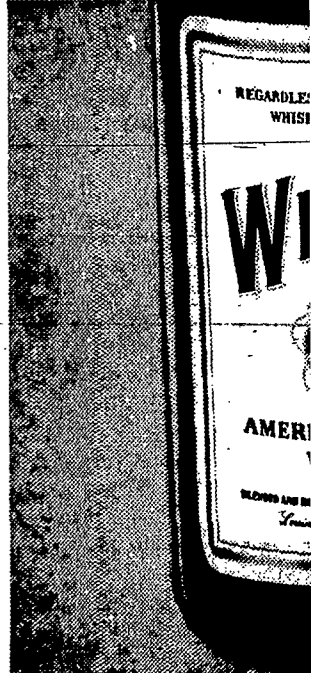
Muscovites

London — (RNS) — editor of the Baptist from a visit to the Soviet Russian doesn't see about the occupation

He told readers of the Soviet accept

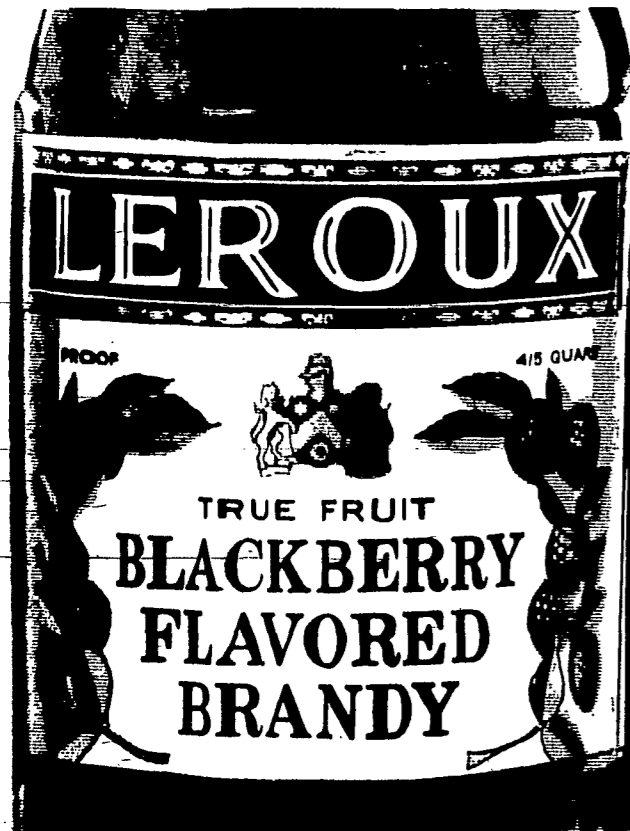
"To the Russian Prague was a long there was unimportant time was like being

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