



Al Smith Dinner

The Democratic presidential candidate, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, talks with Roman Catholic Archbishop Terence J. Cooke while his Republican opponent, Richard M. Nixon, shakes hands with President Johnson after the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Dinner in New York. This was believed to be the first time an outgoing President has sat down with the leading contenders for his job to toast the memory of Al Smith. (RNS)

Detroit Survey of Catholics

Many Advocate Intercommunion

Detroit — (RNS) — Many Catholics in the Archdiocese of Detroit wish to share Communion with Protestants and other Christians on special occasions, a report from the Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission has shown.

The report, sent to Archbishop John F. Dearden, was based on 188 computer-produced summaries of thousands of suggestions made for the Archdiocesan Synod, in preparation for 18 months.

The Commission Ecumenical Affairs, headed by Msgr. Albert A. Matyn, is one of nine commissions seeking to draw together specific proposals for synod action from more than 100,000 suggestions for "renewal."

Msgr. Matyn reported that a number of lay participants suggested that Protestants be permitted to receive Communion on such occasions as weddings.

Others want attendance at any

Christian church service to fulfill the Catholic obligation to assist at Mass on Sunday, he said.

He described both suggestions as being outside the jurisdiction of a diocesan synod, but said they were forwarded to Archbishop Dearden with the recommendation that he bring them to the attention of higher Church authority.

"Many Catholics face realistically the fact that an ecumenical movement flourished in the Protestant world for 50 years before Pope John XXIII summoned the ecumenical Vatican Council.

"This means we have a lot of catching up to do, but fortunately, our people are very practical and many of their suggestions tend to be of the kind that can easily be put into practice."

Among numerous proposals for group action, many of which are already in existence or under consid-

eration, are:

- Initiation of interreligious young adult groups for retreats, prayer meetings, faith workshops, Bible classes and exchange programs.
- Encouragement of interreligious retreats for both laity and clergy.
- Establishment of national days of prayer when interreligious services would be held to ask blessings on the nation.
- Experimentation with all-faiths facilities in such areas as college campuses that could be used for religious services by all.
- Incorporation of the principles of ecumenism into Catholic religious instruction, with suitable study materials provided at all grade levels.
- Emphasize parish ecumenical committees to meet problems at the local level and to provide lines of communication with local non-Catholic congregations.

Obedience Necessary, Pope Paul Declares

Vatican City — (RNS) — Obedience, although unpopular today, remains necessary to prevent chaos, Pope Paul VI said at his weekly general audience here.

"Even the term obedience is no longer tolerated," he said, attributing this view to an "exaggerated and intolerable" reaction by youth to totalitarian oppression.

"The prevalent themes are personality, conscience, autonomy, responsibility and conformity to what is considered the common good," the Pope said. "Nor is it all a matter of words because a profound change in ideas is thus revealed."

"Obedience," he said, "is a virtue not only closely associated with universal order and with the equilibrium and harmony of every society in the attainment of good social results, but also one having great weight in ecclesiastical circles."

"What," he asked, "would happen to the union of faith and charity without obedience? It would be disobedience to the divine command. What is salvation if not humble and joyful adherence to the merciful plan Christ made for those who obey Him?"

Although the Second Vatican Council has given obedience a "new style," he said, "in substance it remains the same."

Dirksen Prayer Bill Revived

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The Dirksen Prayer Amendment bill, all but forgotten since its defeat in the Senate in September 1966, will be brought up for debate again this session.

The measure declares: "Nothing contained in this Constitution shall abridge the right of persons lawfully assembled in any public building which is supported in whole or in part through the expenditure of public funds to participate in nondenominational prayers."

Sen. Everett Dirksen, R-Ill., spoke optimistically about his chances of having the bill passed this time, indicating that there needs to be a shift of only four or five votes to bring about the required two-thirds majority vote for bills seeking to amend the Constitution.

Should his measure pass, it also would have to be cleared by three-fourths, or 38 of the state legislatures after referenda in the states. There would be a time limit of seven years from the date of full passage and signing of the bill for the states' approval.

Court Voids State Sunday Closing Law

St. Paul — (NC) — The Minnesota Supreme Court held unconstitutional the state's Sunday closing law. The court's 30-page opinion said the law did not give clear warning of which types of retail sales could result in severe penalties.

New Officers Elected at NCCW Meet

Denver — (NC) — Mrs. Norman Folda of Omaha, Neb., has been elected president of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) for the 1968-1970 term. Mrs. Folda has been on the NCCW board of directors representing the province of Omaha for the past two years.

Other officers elected to serve until the next biennial convention of the federation of Catholic women's organizations in 1970 in Minneapolis, are:

- Mrs. Reginald V. Batt of Longmont, Colo., first vice-president;
- Miss Mary Lee Cambre of Alexandria La., second vice-president;
- Mrs. Thomas F. Palmer of Miami, third vice-president;
- Mrs. James Herdis Rounsaville of Jacksonville, Texas, fourth vice-president;
- Miss Mary Margaret Curran of Wheeling, W.Va., secretary; and
- Mrs. David J. McCarroll of Shaker Heights, Ohio, treasurer.

Resolutions passed at the convention called for limitation on the arms race among nations, ratification of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, eradication of racism, and greater efforts to combat poverty.

Catholic U. Senate Plans Hearing on Encyclical Dissent

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The Academic Senate of the Catholic University of America has agreed that a five-man committee will conduct an investigation of theologian members of the faculty who have publicly dissented from Pope Paul's encyclical banning artificial birth control.

The investigation, ordered by the university's board of trustees, will determine whether the teachers violated their obligations to the pontifical university by publicizing their dissent.

The inquiry will be closed to outsiders but a record of the proceedings will be kept and it may be published at a later date. The senate also provided that the accused professors will have the right to present witnesses and to have counsel of their own choosing.

Father Charles Curran, one of the dissenting theologians, who is a member of the senate representing the school of theology, will relinquish his position on the senate to an alternate during the nominations for the board of inquiry.

U.N. Emergency Food Earmarked for Biafra

United Nations — (NC) — A million dollars in emergency food supplies have been earmarked for victims of the Nigeria-Biafra conflict by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (F.A.O.) and the World Food Program (WFP), a joint operation of the U.N. and F.A.O.

Shipment is awaiting assurances that the food will get to the area most seriously affected.

Meanwhile, 300 tons of high-protein dried fish, worth \$90,000, are already being made available through Norway to the International Committee of the Red Cross, according to the F.A.O. director, Gen. Addeke H. Boerma. The dried fish is part of Norway's pledge to the World Food Program.

"We have been trying for months," Boerma said, "to find some way to relieve the terrible suffering in eastern Nigeria, but technical obstacles, as well as logistical problems, have so far frustrated our efforts."

Time "technical" obstacles referred to stem from the fact that, being inter-governmental organizations, they are constitutionally required to deal only with the member government, in this case Nigeria.



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