

Due Process Concept Urged by Priests At State Gathering

Brooklyn — (RNS) — Representatives of Roman Catholic priests throughout the State of New York approved a resolution here calling for the introduction of "the American concept of due process of law" in administrative and judicial procedures of the Church.

Delegates at the first annual convention of New York State Priest Councils also suggested that priests and the laity should have a voice in the selection of bishops, that minimum income standards should be established for the clergy and that factors other than seniority should be considered in promoting priests to the pastorate. In some New York dioceses, under the seniority system, a priest must wait more than 25 years before becoming a pastor.

Among the panelists were two representatives of the diocese: Msgr. George Cocuzzi, pastor of Holy Family Church, Rochester, and Father P. David

Finks, vicar for the Urban Ministry.

Msgr. Cocuzzi shared a panel on "Personnel Practices: the assignment and retirement of priests, grievances." Father Finks spoke on the involvement of priests in the problems of white and black communities.

In an address to the convention, Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of Brooklyn encouraged priests to engage in dialogue with their bishops and to help them in their decision-making functions.

"You and I, all priests and all bishops, must discuss," he said. "We must think and re-think, suggest and propose, formulate and reformulate, sometimes be angry with one another and, once in a while, I hope, laugh as we agree."

Workshop sessions at the two-day convention here discussed communication within the Church, personnel practices, racial problems and the role of the bishop and the diocesan senate in the Church.



Greek Orthodox Archbishop Athenagoras of Great Britain and Scandinavia, left, received the first Pope John XXIII Award of Assumption Preparatory School from Very Rev. Armand H. Desautels, A.A., provincial superior of the Assumptionist Fathers who conduct the school at Worcester, Mass. The award was created to honor an "outstanding ecumenical figure." (RNS)

Priests' Senate Urges Changes In Resignations

Boston — (NC) — The New England Conference of Priests' Senates, representing 11 dioceses in this area of the country, voted in favor of a proposal for simplifying procedure for resigning from the ministry.

The proposal approved provides:

- That the process of leaving the ministry (laicization) be simplified and so designed that priests may leave in dignity.
- That the term "laicization" be replaced by a more appropriate phrase — resignation from the ministry.
- That the process of resignation from the ministry take place entirely on the local level.
- That the diocese through its own resources or some specific organization help a priest resigning from the ministry to readjust and prepare for his future life.
- That the secrecy of the process be removed; also the meaning of resignation be made known or explained to the public and that future resignations be announced publicly.

Orthodox Archbishop Urges Intercommunion

Worcester, Mass. — (NC) — Greek Orthodox Archbishop Athenagoras of Great Britain issued a call here for intercommunion among members of separated Christian churches as a means to unity.

Commenting on an observation that both Pope Paul VI and Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras I of Istanbul and many noted theologians see intercommunion rather as the fulfillment of unity, Archbishop Athenagoras said "the people are the church; let us answer their desire, and their desire is for the opportunity to meet again in the chalice, even though they may

not yet be united sacramentally."

As for the comments of the theologians, the prelate said: "Theologians are scientists, they can make mistakes. Let's forget about the theologians and concern ourselves with the people."

Among the 500 persons attending the ceremonies were Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan of Worcester, who is chairman of the U.S. Catholic bishops' subcommittee on talks with the Orthodox; Albanian Orthodox Bishop Mark Lipa of Boston, and Bishop Demetrios, Greek Orthodox primate of New England, a post-archbishop Athenagoras once held.

LBJ 'Chief Ecumenist,' Cardinal O'Boyle Says

Washington — (NC) — President Lyndon B. Johnson is "the chief ecumenist in this ecumenical age" and should get a part time job at the Ecumenical Council in Rome when he leaves the presidency in January, Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle believes.

Speaking at the close of the 60th annual Pan-American Mass at St. Patrick's Church here last Sunday Car-

dinal O'Boyle referred to the fact that the President, who attended the Mass with his oldest daughter Mrs. Lynda Robb, often attends services in more than one church on Sundays.

President Johnson is a member of the Christian Church, his wife is an Episcopalian and his daughter, Mrs. Luci Nugent, a recent convert to Catholicism.

SEEK TWO CHRISTMASSES

Bonn, Germany — (NC) — The Catholic bishops of Yugoslavia have asked the government to declare as legal holidays the separate days on which the Roman Catholics and Serbian Orthodox celebrate Christmas.

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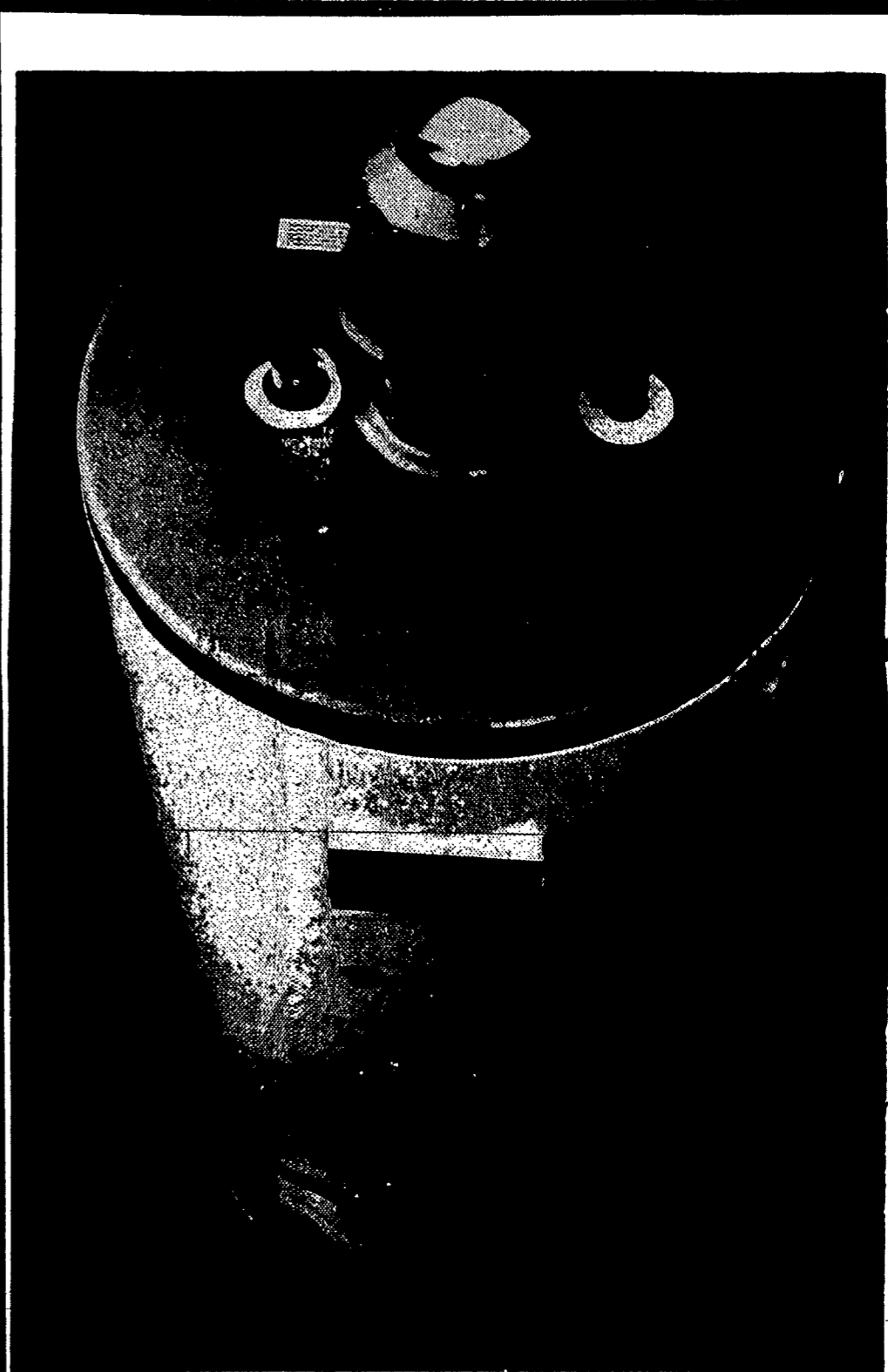
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INTERRACIAL SCENE

Briton's Race Stand Hit

London — (RNS) — Religious newspapers here raised sharp objections to a member of parliament's suggestion that non-white immigrants be returned to their homelands.

Enoch Powell, a Conservative, had warned that without such resettlement England would have "many Washingtons," a reference to the U.S. capital which has a Negro majority.

The Catholic Herald, in an editorial headed "Enoch Black Thoughts," pointed out: "The high voltage emotion generated by such speeches is the greatest possible disservice that can be accorded to a problem which unquestionably asks much of people's faith and forbearance."

The Baptist Times said Powell's solution "is a racist one, differing only in degree from the Nazis and their solution of the Jewish problem."

Negro Heads Catholic 'Task Force'

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A 36-year-old Negro priest has been named to a key post in the race and poverty agency of the United States Catholic Conference.

Appointment of Father Charles D. Burns, S.V.D., as executive field director of the Task Force on Urban Problems was announced by Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin, USCC general secretary.

The task force, a part of the Conference's Department of Social Development, is the principal national coordinating agency of Catholic activities in race and poverty.

Currently assistant provincial of the Southern Province of the Fathers of the Divine Word in Bay St. Louis, Miss., Father Burns was ordained in 1962. The Greenville, Miss., native holds a masters degree in education from the Catholic University of America, and has begun further graduate work at the University of Notre Dame.

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