

Get More Involved in Community, Catholic Doctors Told

(NC News Service)
 Miami Beach, Fla. — Calls for greater involvement of Catholic physicians in their communities highlighted final sessions of the 1968 annual meeting of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians Guilds.

Speaking to some 200 delegates representing 5,000 members of 88 Catholic Physicians' Guilds, Auxiliary Bishop James P. Shannon of St. Paul and Minneapolis emphasized the need for developing medical students as liberal artists in a nation and world which are "desperately in need of agents of unity."

"In our society today it is quite evident that many forces are working for the separation of man from man and from the community," Bishop Shannon said, citing the tragedy in Biafra, the recent teachers' strike in New York City, and the bitter division between the nation's blacks and whites.

"We are seeing a fragmentation in our society which we have not witnessed in the past," the bishop said. "We are in danger of becoming an ungovernable people."

Bishop Shannon said that one of the communities of citizens which has a natural

bond is that of physicians, pointing out that doctors are asked to serve in a variety of positions in the community not because they are doctors but because of their education and service to humanity.

"You have an enormous power as a fraternity to emphasize to the family of man that they are members of the family of man," he said.

In another address, Dr. Robert J. Boucek, professor of medicine at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, noted that there is a great "philosophic gulf" between the Catholic faculty members in their 40s and 50s and the

medical student of today. This gulf is the result of the significant change that has come about in Catholicism in our time," said the doctor who is faculty adviser for the Catholic Medical Student Society at the University of Miami.

Dr. Boucek said that crucial decisions are needed at the highest level of the Church's authority if they retain control over Catholic medical schools. These decisions, he said, should have as their objective the creation of a clear role for Catholicism in medical education.

"It would be my judgment," he said, "that if Catholic medical schools continue, they devote their major research resources towards the acquisition of knowledge relevant to the needs of contemporary Catholicism. There is no question in my mind that a major investment should be in the area of psychiatry," he stated.

"Psychiatry is being presented to our students from the time they enter medical school until they graduate. They are taught by faculty that are essentially atheistic and whose teaching often times makes the stand of Ca-

tholicism seem immature and peasant in scope."

Catholic medical schools, Dr. Boucek said, should be a "fountain for modern psychiatry, and might serve as a fountainhead for scientific, philosophic and theological considerations of the origin of life and the advances that are being made to alter the genetic basis for life."

Establishment of Newman centers at non-sectarian medical centers throughout the country was also urged during the meeting.

Fathers Walter T. Gouch, C.S.P., director of Carroll House, Newman center at

Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore, said that suicides among medical students, separation of faith from professional life, sexual immorality of medical students and staff members of medical school-hospitals and the domestic problems of medical men suggest the need of a continuous education in the interest of complete personalities. Christian gentlemen, and professional, competent and civic-minded persons.

Such centers, he said, could be supported and staffed not by dioceses alone but by Catholic Physicians Guilds, and could serve as places of

intimate interaction for doctors and students, for scientific meetings, discussions and seminars, for research in medical moral problems anticipatory of the future, and as social centers.

He noted that as a result of the program at Carroll House, the Cardinal Gibbons Center for the Study of Human Reproduction, first research center at any Newman operation in the nation, was financed by the Kennedy Foundation; and a relationship was established with the Christian Family Movement; and rhythm clinics were established at four Catholic hospitals in Baltimore.

Promote

New York—(NC)—A warning to American Catholics not to let "unconcern and indifference" nullify the Church's efforts to eliminate the difficulties that have separated Christians and Jews has been issued by the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations.

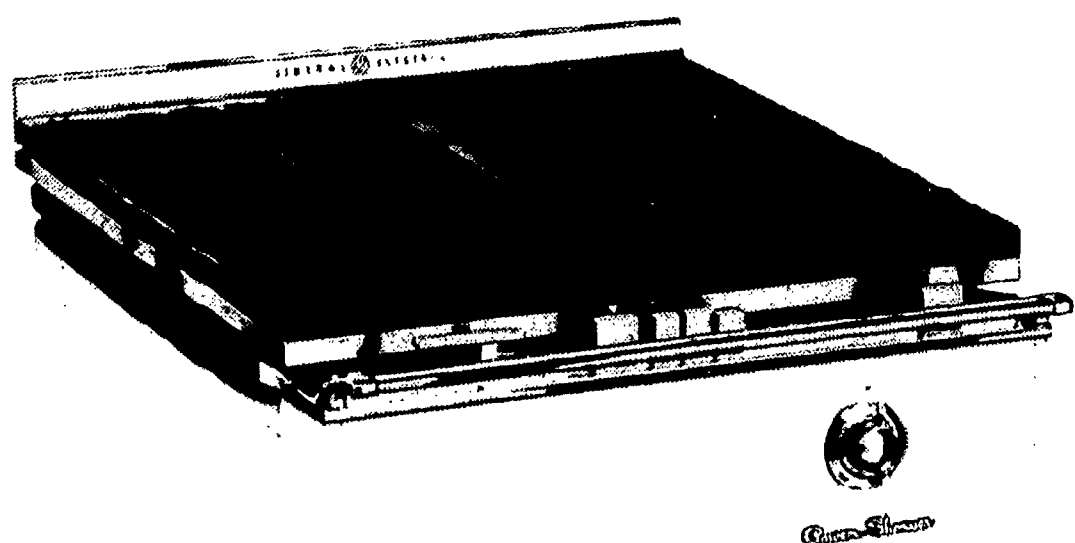
"The initiative in promoting Catholic-Jewish encounters in general still derives largely from the Jewish community," the secretariat declared in commemorating the third anniversary of the Vatican Council's Declaration on the Jews.

The secretariat urged Catholics to assume the initiative,

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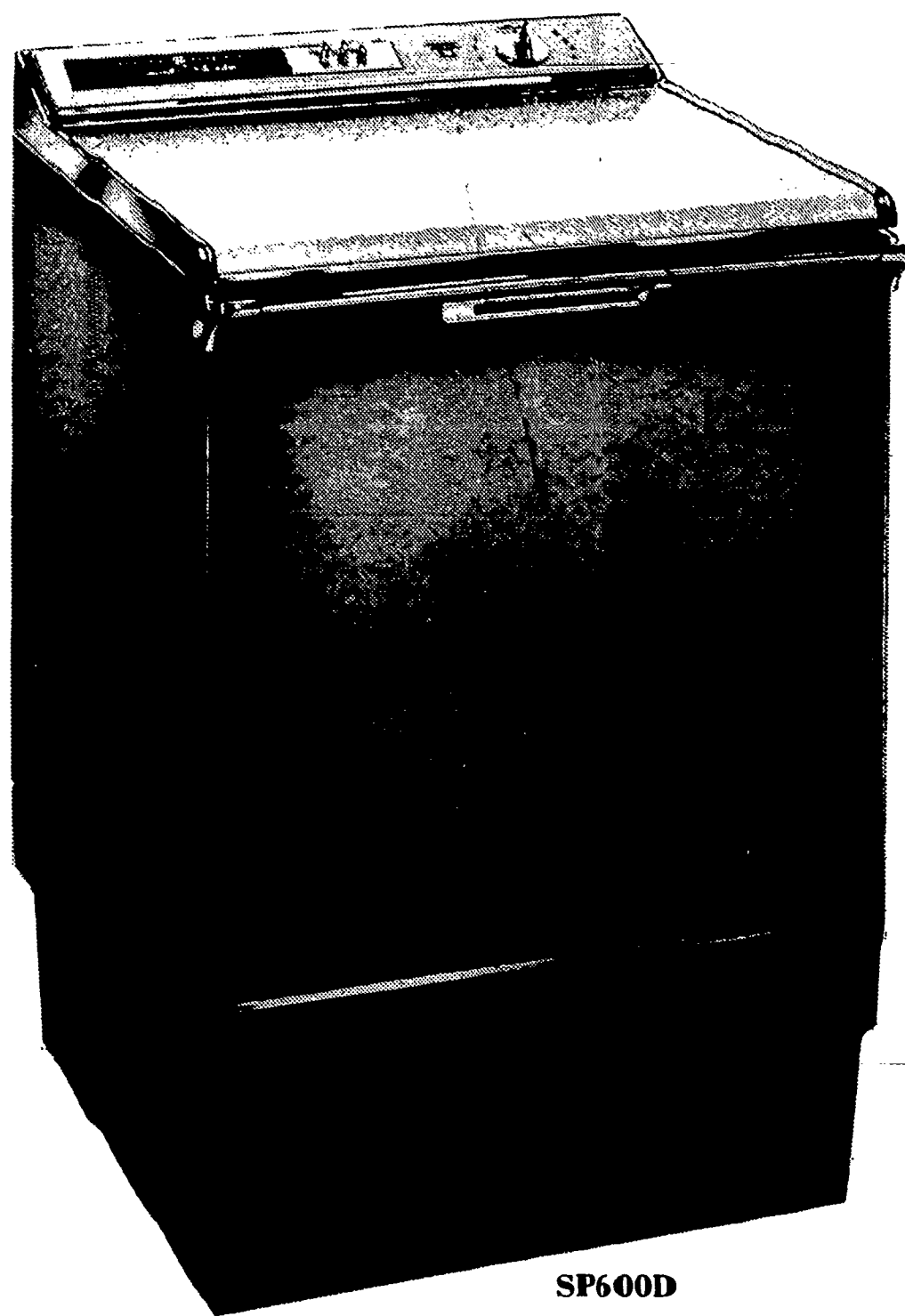
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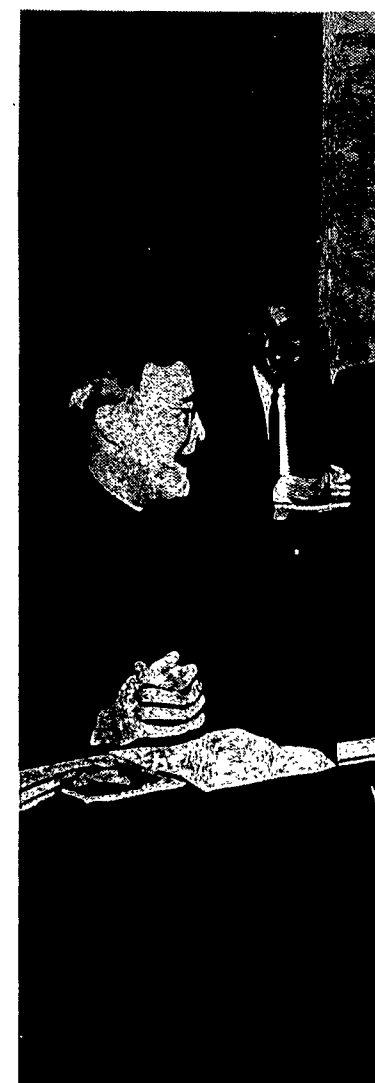
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