

### Tri-Faith Building Serves Displaced

New York — (RNS) — Seven Catholic churches, eight Protestant churches and the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues are sponsors of a 17-story apartment house which was dedicated here. Tri-Faith House will provide apartments for 148 families, most of whom were displaced by the public or private demolition of their former homes in midtown New York.

More than 4,000 persons had applied for the dwelling units built with tax-abatement and low-interest through the city's Housing and Development Administration. The building was dedicated in an ecumenical service.



© Courtesy of the Mail

### Broadcast Service Set Up for Blind

Collegeville, Minn. (NC) — St. John's University here, conducted by the Benedictine Fathers, has joined with state and private agencies in helping to establish a radio broadcast service for the blind.

The service is a joint project of St. John's University Broadcasting, Inc., Minnesota State Services for the Blind and the Hamm Foundation of St. Paul.

The service will consist of 17 hours of daily broadcasts over facilities of St. John's radio station KSJR-FM, which reaches 150 outstate cities and towns in Minnesota, over KSJN-FM, which covers the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Total cost of the project for a two-year period is set at \$90,000.

## Mao and the Damaged China School System

By GERMAINE SWAIN (NC News Service)

Hong Kong — The prediction here is that the damage done to China's schools could well be one of the most "lasting legacies" of the country's "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution."

With the virtual closing of all China's schools during the academic years 1966-67 and 1967-68, China's school children were transformed into Red Guards. Their mission was to wave the ideological banner of Mao Tse-tung and take part in political "struggle" by rampaging against

elements Mao considered too "conservative," with school teachers, as intellectuals, a primary target.

The pre-1966 curriculum was condemned as neither revolutionary enough nor practical enough. And the young Red Guards saw to it that whatever control school teachers exercised over their pupils was broken up.

Now, however, schools are being reopened. But they are not the same schools, teachers or courses that existed two years ago. Radio Canton, describing the return of 700,000 primary and middle school

students to their classrooms last month (Oct. 12), emphasized that the highest priority in curricula is reserved for the "creative study and thoughts of Mao Tse-tung."

But large numbers of China's school-age young people are apparently not returning to school. Reports indicate that almost the entire middle school graduating classes of 1967 and 1968—who did not really graduate—are being sent to the farms and factories to do manual labor. In some localities the movement extends to primary school graduates.

"Prior to the cultural revolution, the standard educational 'track' or 'order' for most children required at least six years of primary school. A fairly small percentage were then selected for junior middle school—the rest taking unskilled jobs or becoming apprentices. A small number of junior middle school graduates went on to senior middle school for three years and those finally a fraction were chosen for advanced study at universities, colleges, or technical institutes.

But this system was recently denounced by Mao Tse-tung as too "waste-ful" and "bourgeois." Henceforth primary schooling is for five years, secondary schooling is for two or four years and middle school graduates would be sent to do "productive labor."

Peking continues to urge—and order—that the study of Mao's thought be placed at the center of every man's life.

### Protestant Journal Reveals Religious Census of Congress

Washington (NC) — Christianity Today, an independent Protestant journal, has published an "authoritative Religious Census of Congress," which gives the following "complete list of categories" for the upcoming 91st Congress:

Roman Catholic — 111 (13 Senators, 98 Representatives); Methodist — 90 (23 Senators, 67 Representatives); Presbyterian — 82 (13 Senators, 69 Representatives); Episcopal — 67 (14 Senators, 53 Representatives); Baptist — 53 (10 Senators, 43 Representatives); United Church of Christ and Congregational — 29 (6 Senators, 23 Representatives); Jewish — 19 (2 Senators, 17 Representatives);

Lutheran — 14 (3 Senators, 11 Representatives); Christian Church (Disciples) — 13 (1 Senator, 12 Representatives); Latter-day Saints — 10 (4 Senators, 6 Representatives); Unitarian-Universalist — 7 (4 Senators, 3 Representatives); Churches of Christ — 6 (1 Senator, 5 Representatives); Christian Science — 5 (1 Senator, 4 Representatives);

### Churchman Hits 'Average' Layman's Lack of Interest

Valley Forge, Pa. — (RNS) — The average layman is not interested in learning what the Christian faith means or how to practice it, according to the president of the American Baptist Convention.

Dr. Culbert G. Rutenber said the American middle class goes to church seeking security and reassurance.

The professor of the philosophy of religion at Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Center, Mass., added that increasing numbers of pastors leave the parish ministry when they discover laymen have little interest in knowing the real content of the Christian faith.

The leader of the 1.5 million-member denomination wrote about the reasons for declining church attendance in the December issue of "Crusader," American Baptist newsmagazine.

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