



Tree Sculpture

Emilio Lorandi, famed sculptor from the Italian province of Brescia, does not use the normal materials of marble or metal for his work. He carves his pieces in the trunks of trees. The 75-year-old artist has now added a bust of Pope John XXIII on a tree bordering the Gardone Highway. (RNS)

Nixon and the ABM

President in Partial Accord with Bishops

Washington — (NC) — President Nixon's decision on the antiballistic missile system showed evidence of a determination to avoid any escalation of the nuclear arms race condemned by the Second Vatican Council and a recent pastoral of the U.S. bishops.

But the President stopped short of scrapping the ABM system entirely, which the American bishops had suggested might be a step towards de-escalating the arms race.

"It is the responsibility of the President of the United States above all other responsibilities to think first of the security of the United States," Mr. Nixon said at a news conference (March 14), at which he announced his plan for a modified Sentinel system. "I believe that this system is the best step that we can take to provide for that security."

President Nixon called for a substantial modification of the Sentinel program adopted by the previous administration. He asked for a "safeguard" system consisting, initially, of two sites designed to protect Minuteman missile wings in North Dakota and Montana.

The President said the modified system he favored was "deterrent" only and "can in no way . . . delay the progress which I hope will con-

tinue to be made toward arms talks . . ."

The American Bishops, in a collective pastoral issued Nov. 15, 1968, reiterated the Second Vatican Council's stated position on the arms race: "Therefore, we declare once again: the arms race is an utterly treacherous trap for humanity . . . it is much to be feared that if this race persists, it will eventually spawn all the lethal ruin whose path it is now making ready."

The American bishops asserted that the U.S. decision to build even a "thin" antiballistic missile system was the "latest act in the continuing nuclear arms race."

"In themselves, such antiballistic missiles are purely defensive, designed to limit the damage to the United States from nuclear attack," the bishops said. "Nevertheless, by upsetting the present strategic balance, the so-called balance of terror, there is grave danger that a United States ABM system will incite other nations to increase their offensive nuclear forces with the seeming excuse of a need to restore the balance."

President Nixon, asked if he thought the Soviet Union might interpret his ABM decision as escalating the arms race, replied: "I think the Soviet Union recognizes very clearly the difference between a defensive posture and an offensive posture."

Canisus, Niagara

Students Join

ROTC Protest

Buffalo — (NC) — Students at two Western New York Catholic colleges—Niagara University and Canisius College—have joined the wave of students across the country in peaceful protest against compulsory reserve officer training corps courses.

At Jesuit-run Canisius, the college's academic council—a representative panel of faculty, students and administrators — has recommended that Army ROTC become optional by September, 1970. With a current enrollment of 650, the present ROTC course is mandatory for freshmen but non-credit.

At Niagara, which is operated by the Vincentian Fathers, student members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation promised to picket the campus student center day and night until March 19, when the university board of trustees is scheduled to meet.

Some 25 students, protesting in shifts, have erected a 15-foot sign which reads: "We stand here peacefully by Christian moral conviction to protest mandatory ROTC."

The students are also seeking an end to compulsory philosophy courses and the start of a black studies program.

Jewish Agency Hits

Bill on Care of Aged

New York — (RNS) — The Metropolitan Council of the American Jewish Congress has urged Gov. Rockefeller to withdraw a bill that would require adult family members of aged welfare recipients to assume responsibility for their care.

Claiming that it was acting in behalf of "thousands of aged Jewish persons in New York," the Council noted that Assembly Bill 5519 would restore a requirement — repealed in 1966 — that persons receiving old-age welfare payments be supported by their adult children.

The Council also expressed opposition to a proposed revision in the social welfare law that would limit Medicaid for persons in nursing homes to 100 days, after which indigents would have to apply for welfare assistance to meet the cost of nursing home care.

It said "relatives' responsibility was repealed after ample demonstration of its destructive and negative effects in disrupting family relations, in preventing necessary institutionalization of the aged, and in increasing the economic pressure upon middle-income taxpayers."

It characterized the two bills — part of the Governor's program to reduce welfare costs — as "punitive in character, hurtful to aged persons and damaging to their families."

HOUSING ORDER ENDED

Providence, R.I. — (NC)—Providence College has indefinitely suspended an administration order directing resident students to live on campus and has taken steps to review various social and academic rules. The moves followed student demonstrations against the regulations.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University, has been named by President Nixon to be chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights . . . The Australian Marxist Research Foundation, established to initiate and further research into aspects of Australian social life and political theory, has awarded its first V. Gordon Childs Scholarship to Father Denis Kenny, S.M.

Catholics Khoren I of the Holy See of Cilicia in Lebanon will visit the United States for the first time April 10 . . . A 6-foot redwood bust of Father Junipero Serra, founder of California's missions, will be dedicated March 23 at San Mateo, Calif.

The 1969 Laetare Medal, the highest honor awarded by Notre Dame University, will be given to Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan . . . Father Donald Paul Merrifield, S.J., has been named president of Loyola University of Los Angeles . . . Terence F. Shea, 29, religion and special features writer for the National Observer, has won the annual Supple Memorial Award of the Religious Newswriters Association.



JUSTICE BRENNAN

"The true spirit of the Gospels is needed in our nation today," Archbishop John Francis Whealon, 48, asserted as he became spiritual head of the Hartford archdiocese. He was installed March 19 by Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, apostolic Delegate in the United States, in St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford. "As the first President in his last address and the last President in his first address have reminded us, the pillars on which American democracy is built are moral and religious," Archbishop Whealon said.

FUTURE EVENTS — Religious leaders from around the world — including representatives of the Vatican, the Anglican Church, the Orthodox Church — will meet in Philadelphia June 15 for a five-day ecumenical dialogue at the 6th National Workshop for Christian Unity.

The Gustave Weigel Society, an ecumenical group with headquarters in Harriman, N.Y., will sponsor a discussion meeting there on the spirituality of Teilhard de Chardin, April 11-13.

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Intercommunion Draws Warning

(NC News Service)

London—Intercommunion between the Catholic Church and other Western churches is inappropriate to the present relationship between Rome and the other churches, says a statement issued here by the Ecumenical Commission for England and Wales.

"To receive Holy Communion together is normally an expression of unity in faith," it says. "It is a sign made by each communicant that he believes as do all his fellow-communicants and as does the Church whose communion they share."

"But our tragic position at present is that we are divided in faith."

"Christians of other traditions are welcomed to assist in so far as their conscience allows as non-communicant members of the congregation at our eucharistic celebrations."

This restatement on inter-communion is made in a 16-page booklet summarizing the Catholic view issued here for the commission. It is not an official statement of the bishops of England and Wales, but the booklet is the work of a commission which has the official approval of the hierarchy's theological commission.

Father John Coventry, S.J., secretary of the ecumenical commission, introducing the booklet at a press conference here, said it had been issued to explain to Catholics who think that the present position is immovable why it may not be so; and to Catholics who think that the Church should have moved beyond it why it has not.

"As things stand at the moment the Catholic Church does not allow reciprocal intercommunion with other Western churches," he said. "Inter-

communion is more easily advocated by other Christians who think all churches have equally valid status as parts of the one church; or who would prefer separate churches practicing inter-communion to organic union; or who have traditionally not placed the Eucharist at the center of their life and worship."

"Catholics cannot in conscience accept any of these underlying views and so feel they must give a counter witness."

"Rome, together with the Orthodox, believes strongly in the necessity for Christians of unity in faith, especially unity in beliefs about the Eucharist itself. In laying sufficient unity in faith as a condition for inter-communion, Rome does not regard itself as retarding union but as making its own necessary contribution to the movements towards unity."



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