

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

President Nixon, in a telegram to the 1969 biennial convention of the National Council of Catholic Men in St. Louis, singled out the convention theme—"Person-to-Person in the Christian Community"—for praise.

He said it focuses on "the invaluable merits of the voluntary way" and added: "Today more than ever before, we need to enlist the volunteer talents and resources of America as we seek the kind of open and free society in which all may live as brothers and prosper as partners."

The Midwest regional meeting of the Canon Law Society of America in Louisville, Ky., went on record in support of proposals for simplifying and speeding up the handling of marriage cases by church courts. The recommendations were earlier approved for submission to Rome at the spring meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Campus Capers

The President of Villanova University, Philadelphia, pledged to resign unless the board of trustees accepts the conclusions of an 18-member committee appointed to study increases in tuition and room and board which were protested by 800 students.

At Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., Father Thomas Fitzgerald, S.J., academic vice-president, told anti-ROTC demonstrators it will be up to the various schools of the university to decide whether academic credit should be given for the courses.

On the School Front

John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit announced that six Catholic high schools and nine elementary schools in the archdiocese must close in June. The decision affects 1,600 high school and 1,800 grade school pupils, most of whom are expected to enter public schools.

The Chicago archdiocesan school board heard testimony from representatives of 13 Catholic elementary schools requesting some form of curtailment. The board said it would announce its decisions at a later date.

A tentative plan to establish a four-school district as the first major step in the consolidation of 28 parochial schools in the Dayton diocese was submitted to a meeting of the diocesan task force on quality education and racial integration.



President, Mayors Confer on Urban Crisis

President Nixon and some of the nation's mayors discuss the crisis facing U.S. cities. Left to right, clockwise, are Nils Boe, executive director of intergovernmental relations; Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago; Mayor Carl Stokes of Cleveland; Vice President Spiro Agnew; Mayor Milton Graham, Phoenix; Mayor Joseph Alioto, San Francisco; Mayor Ivan Allen of Atlanta; Rep. Donald Rumsfeld (R-Ill.), recently nominated to be director of the Office of Economic Opportunity; Mayor Kevin White of Boston; Mayor William Walsh of Syracuse; Daniel Moynihan, presidential urban affairs adviser; President Nixon; Mayor John Lindsay, N.Y.C.; Mayor Richard Lugar, Indianapolis, and Mayor A. V. Sorenson of Omaha. (RNS)

Welfare Ruling

State one-year residency requirements for welfare recipients were invalidated by the U.S. Supreme Court. The ruling, made in a 6-3 vote was considered a major legal advance for the poor.

The ruling dealt specifically with residency requirements in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia, but is applicable to such regulations in about 40 states in all.

Bishops Busy

In Sao Paulo, it was announced that the bishops of Brazil will consider the question of priestly celibacy at their meeting in July. This followed an announcement that nearly 700 Brazilian priests had left the ministry in the last three years and that 80 per cent of the Brazilian clergy favors the removal of obligatory celibacy.

Agnelo Cardinal Rossi of Sao Paulo, president of the Brazilian Bishops' Conference, said that while the renun-

ation of the ministry by priests is "a point of concern for the Church," he felt press accounts give "an exaggerated view of the problem."

In Mexico, the bishops are preparing a document that will publicly reaffirm the nonpolitical character of the Church in that country. A spokesman for the bishops' information service said it is being drawn up in anticipation of the presidential elections scheduled in Mexico for 1970.

He said the document will state that politics are not included in the functions of the Church and that the Church has no relations with any political party.

The bishops of Italy, concluding their six-day general meeting, said revision of the country's 40-year-old concordat with the Holy See is necessary "for the preservation of the immense good of religious peace."

The bishops reaffirmed priestly celibacy as "an irrenounceable good whose necessity is clearer than ever," and expressed their "deepest worry over the condition of public morality and the consequences of that condition."

Abortions Creating Problems for Britons

London—(NC)—Britain's permissive abortion laws, though hardly a year old, are already beginning to cause considerable concern in Parliament and the press.

British National Health Service hospitals, already too few and too understaffed to cope with the normal medical needs of a welfare state community, cannot handle the

queue for free abortions now being sought. Private nursing homes, reported to be charging between \$360 and \$480 for a service often involving only a few hours' care, are booming.

The medical profession is split over the issue with the majority of doctors, including many general practitioners, apparently opposed to the principle of abortion on demand now available under British law. All the warnings by campaigners against legal abortion at the passing of the controversial bill last year are being fulfilled.

The next step, legalized euthanasia, has already had a small storm in his Anglican congregation when he refused to begin services until all women wearing short skirts left the premises.

Richard Crossman, secretary for social services and the minister responsible for its operation, admitted in Parliament that the way the Abortion Act was being operated, particularly for pri-

gate gain, was causing "grave alarm" even to its supporters.

The minister said, however, that though he was making a careful check of what was going on, he had to limit his activities to what he was legally entitled to do.

He said he had reviewed the standards which were required in approved nursing homes where abortions could be performed and had asked for further information before granting any approval or reapproval needed to enable such establishments to continue to function. He said he was also watching closely the adequacy of abortion facilities at National Health Service hospitals.

When one member of Parliament during the persistent questioning asked Crossman to bear in mind the problem of the large number of foreign women said to be coming to London for abortions, some government supporters shouted "rubbish." But the questioner persisted in asking the minister to investi-

gate and to stop what he called "this abuse." Official figures issued by the government in mid-April showed that a total of 17,242 abortions were carried out in National Health Service hospitals in England and Wales between April 27 last year, when the Abortion Act became law, and Feb. 25 this year. But only 54% of abortions notified in the first quarter of this year were carried out in such hospitals, compared with 60% in the December quarter and 62% in the September quarter.

The rest were presumably performed privately. And more than 90% of abortions outside the National Health Service were performed in the area of north-west London which includes Harley Street, center of the top private medical practice in the country. The area has many expensive private nursing homes.



Ground Broken at Expo Site

Osaka — (RNS) — Protestant and Catholic leaders joined here to break ground for the Christian Pavilion at Expo '70.

Bishop Hinsuke Yashiro, supreme bishop of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Japan, said the "groundbreaking ceremony is a sign of the harmony among the nations of the earth that has been sought about by many years of prayer, concern and effort."

Archbishop Bruno Wustenberg, Papal Nuncio to Japan, was given an invitation to Pope Paul VI to the exhibition that 800 Protestant Christians had signed.

N. Irelander Says People 'Mad'

Melbourne — (RNS) — "Our people have just gone stark, raving mad," 21-year-old Anne O'Neill, daughter of Northern Ireland's Prime Minister Capt. Terence O'Neill, said here.

Miss O'Neill has been working in Australia for more than a year.

Referring to extremist attacks on her father for his effort to secure equal voting rights for Roman Catholics, she told reporters, "He has been stabbed in the back."

"Dad was trying to bring Catholics and Protestants closer together. He was doing it gently and gradually, without any fuss. He was going out of his way to open Catholic schools — things like that — and to stop all bitterness."

British Bishops Set Fund Goal

London — (RNS) — Catholic bishops in England and Wales are setting up a national fund to finance the work of the Church.

Each of the 19 dioceses participating will decide for itself how best to raise the money. The bishops set a goal of \$240,000 to finance 13 national commissions and other educational and charitable functions.

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