

War on Poverty Slowing Up, Aides to U.S. Bishops Charge

Washington — (NC) — Statements and actions of the Nixon Administration in the war against poverty have been contradictory, according to two representatives of the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

Msgr. Lawrence J. Corcoran, secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, testifying before the House Committee on Education and Labor, said his organization welcomed President Nixon's statement that "no domestic issue facing this administration is more important than the anomalous problem of poverty in an affluent society."

"In the face of these statements, however," Msgr. Corcoran said, "we were astonished to read that the President has reduced the budget for the Office of Economic Opportunity, directing the closing of 59 Job Corps

centers, and cut back on other budgeted items designed to assist the poor. This hardly represents the proper approach to the most important domestic issue facing us today."

Father John McCarthy, director of the Division for Poverty, Department for Social Development, United States Catholic Conference, charged that "the root cause of poverty in this country is that the white majority has systematically kept other races impoverished in order to control them politically and exploit them economically."

Msgr. Corcoran said "there is impatience with the slowness of (the poverty war's) progress and irritation with the antics of some of its leaders. There is disagreement about the direction it should take and confusion about the effectiveness of

many existing anti-poverty programs."

Father McCarthy, citing the various government programs aimed at fighting poverty, said he does not believe that all such programs together as they are currently funded and operated are capable of eliminating poverty in the United States in this century. Until there is a realistic jobs program with its enormous consequent costs or until there is some type of a program of general income maintenance tagged in the billions we are in a sense playing a game with poverty."

Citing the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the United States, Msgr. Corcoran said "hunger must be eliminated before total poverty is eradicated. As a first and necessary step, there must be established, continuing assessment of the extent and distribution of hunger."

Bishops, NCC Urge Changes In Tax Laws

New York — (RNS) — The National Council of Churches, composed of 33 Protestant and Orthodox churches, and the Roman Catholic bishops of the U.S. have asked the federal government to end church tax exemption on income received from businesses unrelated to religion.

The unprecedented move of unity was announced here and sent to the House Ways and Means Committee, now writing draft legislation on tax reforms.

Unaffected, according to the statement, would be income from any enterprise undertaken by a church in direct relation to a religious function, such as publishing houses, nursing homes, hospitals and schools.

Also remaining untaxed would be investment income from endowments, dividends, most rentals and funds produced by financial portfolios.

The aim is to stop churches from operating trades or business — such as factories and hotels — with a tax advantage and which compete with tax-paying firms.

N.Y. Laymen To Be Given More Power

New York — (RNS) — Laymen in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York will be given full decision-making powers under parish councils which will be formed.

A preliminary draft of guidelines, issued by the Archdiocesan Commission on Parish Councils, advises that "the parish council should be a decision-making body whose decisions are binding when ratified by the pastor."

In practice, the pastor's withholding of such ratification should be rare, the guidelines say.

If a pastor vetoes a parish council's decision, the guidelines state, an avenue for appeal will be provided.

Advising the pastor to present such a veto "promptly" and to list his objections in writing, the guidelines state:

"In disputed matters the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, to be established in 1970, will serve as a Court of Appeals or a Board of Review."

The guidelines were prepared by a sub-committee of the ad hoc committee on councils that was formed by Terence Cardinal Cooke in the Fall of 1968 from clergy, religious and laity already involved in local parish councils.

In addition to presenting suggestions for the initial formation of parish council, the guidelines also contain an appendix which deals with the working committees that a parish council will need — liturgy, family life, the apostolate, ecumenism, social services, and public affairs.

The parish council is described as "the vehicle for achieving full participation of the whole parish in extending Christ's mission by giving all in the parish a voice... thus making all parishioners truly co-workers in the Mission of the Church."

Notre Dame To Be Co-ed

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — The University of Notre Dame and nearby St. Mary's College have announced they are taking "initial steps" which will eventually make the two schools "substantially co-educational" with each other.

Father Charles E. Sheedy, C.S.C., special assistant to the president of Notre Dame and St. Mary's, will have executive authority for establishing both the principles and operational details of the coeducational program.

The coeducational effort will be inaugurated next September on a limited basis, beginning with freshman classes. It will expand year by year to sophomore, junior and senior levels.

In addition to sharing classes, students may have dining privileges on both campuses and sit together at athletic events, as well as share in other extra-curricular and social activities, it was announced.



Geoff Carter, president of the Association of Black Collegians at St. Louis University, left, and Father Paul C. Reinert, S.J., university president, center, were the key figures in a confrontation at the school when members of the association occupied the dean's office for 12 hours. University officials ended the sit-in when they agreed to take action on the demands of the students. (RNS)

St. Louis U. Accepts Black Student Demands

St. Louis — (RNS) — A small group of black students took over the dean's office at Jesuit-maintained St. Louis University here for 12 hours and left only after school officials agreed in writing to meet student demands.

Father Paul C. Reinert, S.J., president of St. Louis University, said the meetings had been "mutually profitable." About a year ago, Father Reinert had announced a "firm policy" against demonstrators which would give them "five minutes to clear out" or police would be called.

Questioned about why police had not been called when the sit-in by members of the Association of Black Collegians began, Father Reinert said that the policy of "five minutes to clear out" had been changed to "a reasonable time" after the university had studied demonstrations at several other colleges.

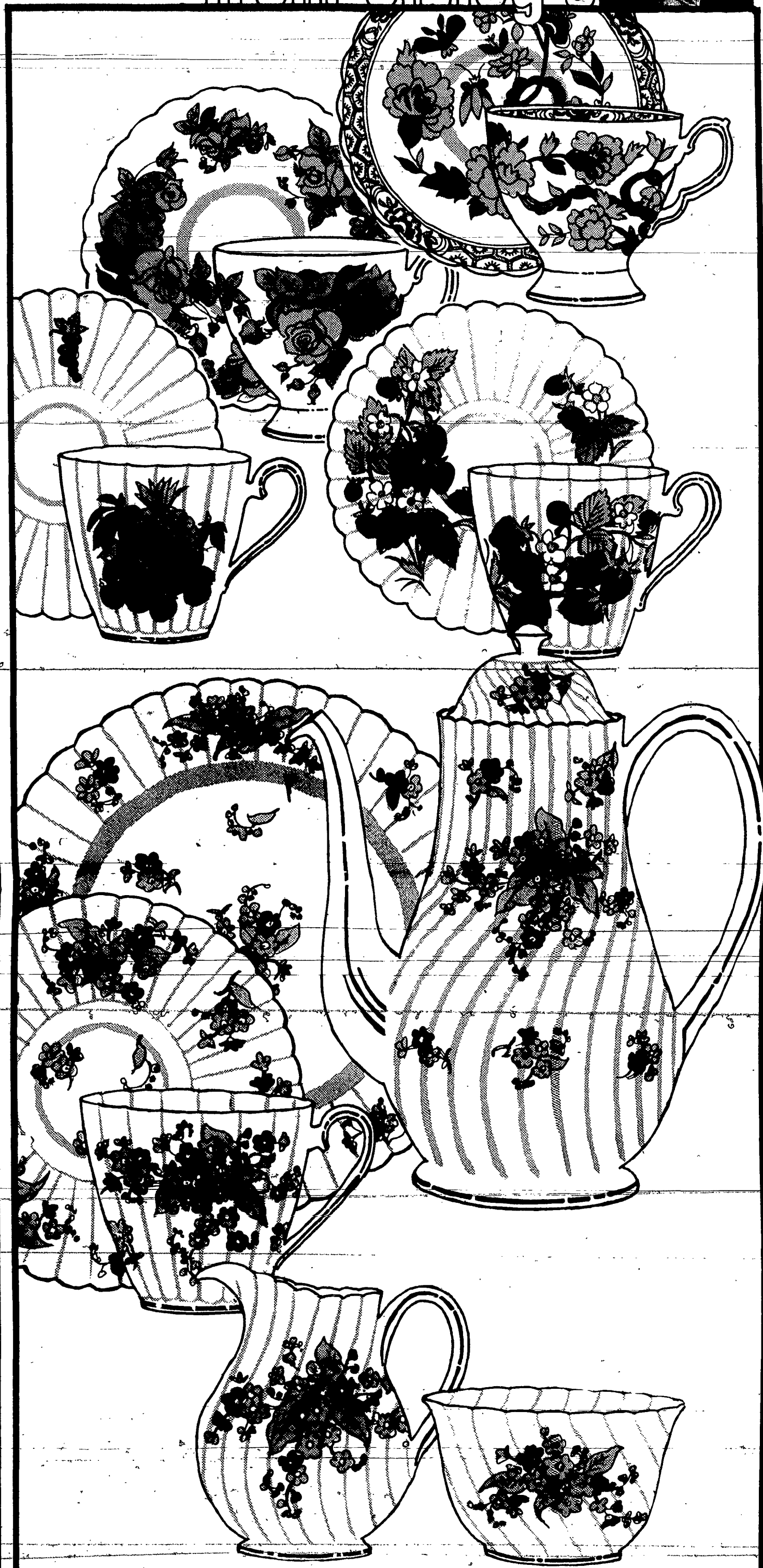
"We realized after studying the Columbia demonstrations that you have special problems with a university campus which is right in the middle of a city," he said. The principal problem, he said, was with security. He explained that it is difficult to ascertain in five minutes who is a student and who is not and it takes much more time than this to learn what the grievances are and whether they are legitimate.



Chaplain Wounded

Columban Father Paul O'Rourke, a Navy chaplain from Providence, R.I., was injured when the troop carrier he was riding struck a land mine south of Da Nang. Here, the 34-year-old chaplain, assigned to an infantry battalion of the 7th Marine Regiment, plays with Vietnamese orphans he has assisted. He is reported in satisfactory condition. (RNS)

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