

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

Against Cuba Embargo

Father Louis M. Colonnese, the head of the Roman Catholic Church's central U.S. agency for Latin American relations, has issued a statement urging the end of the trade embargo on Cuba, thus endorsing a joint pastoral letter issued in April by the eight Catholic bishops active in Cuba.

"Our brothers in Christ, the bishops of Cuba, have requested that the Cuban trade embargo be lifted because they feel that it is causing their people unnecessary suffering and is obstructing the attainment of their full human development," Father Colonnese said.

Housing for Poor

The first tenants have moved into a housing project being constructed in a dilapidated section of an Englewood, N.J., ghetto by the Mt. Carmel Guild, social welfare agency of the Newark archdiocese.

They made the move with the dedication of the first of six buildings which are to be erected. There are eight apartments in the first building, designed by a black architect after the needs of residents were determined. There are four three-bedroom units in the building.

The homes are being built on land donated to the Mt. Carmel Guild by an anonymous benefactor who purchased the land and then gave it to the guild with the proviso that the construction benefit area residents.

Bishops Hit Injustice

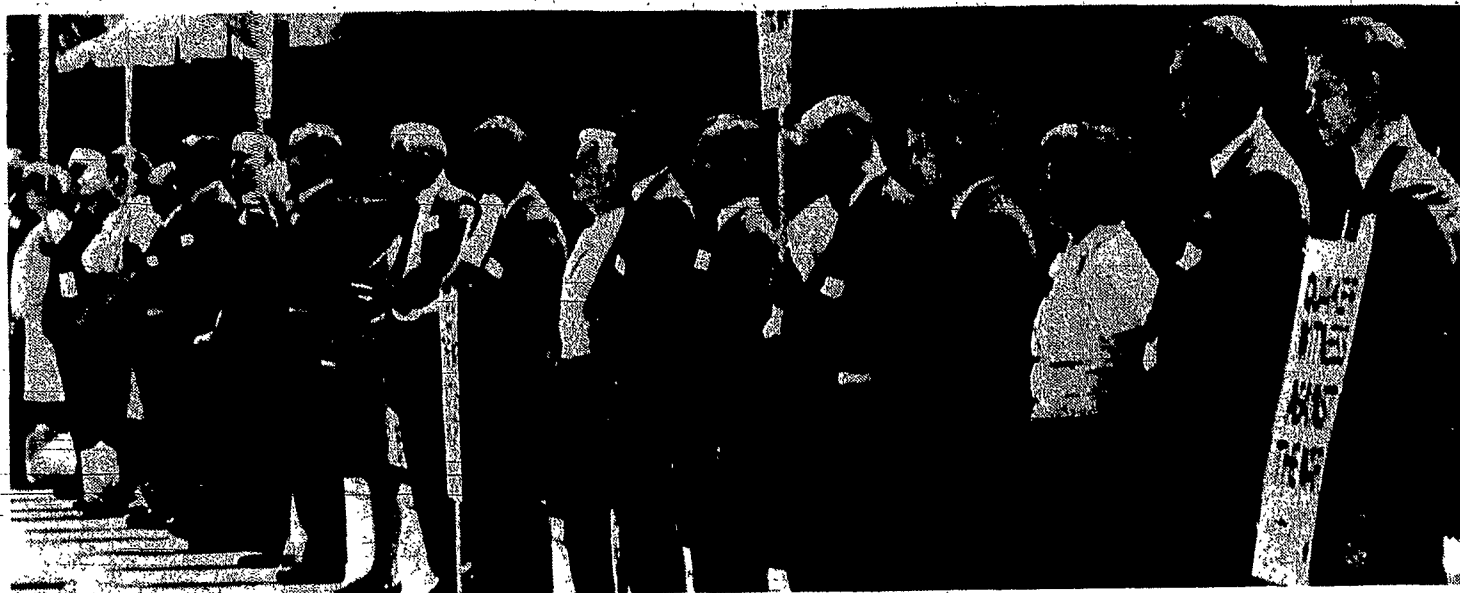
The Church in Paraguay has told both government and opposition leaders that the Church's fight for justice and against violation of human rights will continue.

"When men and women in Paraguay find themselves oppressed by unjust social and economical structures, and by the abuse of power violating human rights, the mission of the Church becomes that of the prophet denouncing evils, that of a force of moral pressure seeking man's liberation and respect for his rights," the bishops said in a pastoral letter.

Going To Court

The National Federation of Priests Councils announced it will take the case of priests disciplined in the Washington, D.C., and San Antonio archdioceses into Church courts. The proposed litigation will be a test case on the rights of due process for disciplined priests, an NFPC spokesman said, with eventual appeal to Rome if satisfaction is not forthcoming in the United States.

The NFPC is a national organization formed last year from some 130 priests, senators and associations in the United States. Its president, Father Patrick O'Malley of Chicago, suggested the proposed litigation might set a precedent in the American Catholic Church since Church courts ordinarily concern themselves with such matters as marriage annulments.



Quaker Vigil at White House

Quaker demonstrators, led by officials of the American Friends Service Committee, hold a vigil protesting the Vietnam war in front of the White House. A "white paper" on the war declared that the Quakers find the Nixon Administration making little progress in bringing the conflict to a halt. (RNS)

U.S. Planes Requested

With the destruction of the second C-97 airfreighter of four that had been the vital airbridge into encircled Biafra, the executive director of Catholic Relief Services has again appealed to President Nixon to make more airfreighters available.

Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom sent his second telegram to President Nixon (May 10), two days after the C-97 bellylanded on the Biafran airstrip at Uli and was destroyed on the ground by warplanes of the Nigerian federal government.

Abortion Loses Again

The Illinois House killed legislation to legalize abortion in this state after two hours of intense debate.

The vote, which crossed party lines, was 57 to 102 on a pair of bills which needed 89 votes for passage.

Although two other abortion relaxation measures are pending in the House, some observers said the action was a death blow to efforts to change the abortion laws during the current legislative session.

People

Father Walter N. Abbott, S.J., general secretary of the recently formed World Federation of the Biblical Apostolate, has been elected an honorary life member of the American Bible Society. A member of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, the American Jesuit is believed to be the first Roman Catholic to receive such an honor from the traditionally Protestant organization.

Michael Benet McCarthy, 18-year-old son of Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota, is seeking a draft exemption as a conscientious objector, and withheld the decision from his father until a week before he registered for the Selective Service. Archbishop Pedro Cantero Cuadrado, 69, of Saragossa, has been sworn in as a member of Spain's 17-member Council of the Realm, the Franco government's chief advisory body on constitutional questions. At the same time, he became a member of the three-man Council of Regency which will automatically take power if General Franco dies without naming a successor.

Bishop Edwin B. Broderick, 52, was installed in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception as the eighth spiritual leader of the 122-year-old Albany diocese. Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York, making one of his first public appearances since having been elevated to the College of Cardinals, installed Bishop Broderick and also preached the homily at the Mass.

Concelebrating the Mass with Bishop Broderick were Bishop Edward J. Magin and 11 other priests, chosen by the Albany Diocesan Priests' Senate to represent various ages, geographical locations, and areas of the ministry. The Mass reflected the growing dependency of the Church on its lay members. Lt. Gov. Malcolm Wilson of New York read from the Epistle to the Hebrews. In the Offertory procession were priests, Religious and laymen, representing the 420,000 Catholics in the 14-county diocese.

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Members of New Panel Well-Known to Readers

VATICAN CITY — (RNS) — Several of the scholars named by Pope Paul to the new international pontifical commission of theologians are well known to Americans through their writings.

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This is an excellent opportunity for the facts to become widely known, and almost all organizations which benefit from an exemption are quite pleased that it is to be done.

The two best-known theologians on the commission,

the German Jesuit Karl Rahner and the French Dominican Yves Congar, both had difficulties with the former Holy Office, now the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith. Father Congar is well known as a pioneer in the ecumenical movement. Father Rahner is the author of numerous scholarly books which have had a profound effect on the thought of professional theologians.

CAPITOL HILL

ROUND-UP

Albany's legislative session is in its final days of the session and the governor has some 30 days to approve or disapprove them. So the legislative session isn't really over until June 1, which is the 30th day.

Together the 150 assemblymen and the 57 senators argued, traded and finally a majority of each house has agreed to some 1,500 changes in the law. In each case the new law (whether of statewide or local significance) was passed in identical language in both houses.

Now the role of the governor in legislation becomes clear. He is the final arbiter. If he puts his name to the legislation, it becomes law. If he does not sign the bills, that didn't pass (both of which, however, can be introduced again next year).

In effect, then the governor is worth 40 senators and 100 assemblymen since it takes that many to over-ride his veto.

However, this may be done only if the governor vetoes the bill during the session. Once the session is over, for all practical purposes the Senate and Assembly overriding vote is a paper tiger since they are not in session and actually unable to take the vote.

That's the way it usually works in New York's legislature. The great majority of

When the session ended and the legislators presented Gov. Rockefeller with some 1,200 bills, the staff work on the second floor of the Capitol hit a feverish pace.

That's where the final decisions are made. Here's what happens.

A bill is either one which originated in the governor's 2nd floor office or not. For those which originated from the staff (they are called governor's program bills) and are given to various legislators to sponsor and introduce) the staff is well-prepared to advise on action.

Bills which have originated elsewhere are under study all through the session by the governor's staff. However, a special review is not necessary. The file on the bill may contain the original recommendation to the committee or legislator who introduced it. It would also contain letters on the bill from individual and corporate groups, legislators, committees and state government departments.

The one last opportunity for the public to speak comes

now as the legislative session prepares the file for Rockefeller. At this time the governor's counsel will write to all organizations which might have an interest in the legislation and request their opinion.

So on a bill raising the minimum wage, for example, both labor and management groups would be asked for an opinion. On a bill to establish a state-wide council of arts, musicians unions, dealer groups, etc., would be contacted.

Where do the names and lists of people come from? Well, in one of the governor's town meetings this year, when a citizen who represented a black inner-city group raised a question about a particular bill, the governor stated he would contact the black group

legislation. So a new name was added to the list.

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