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Pornography Mailers Facing Big Squeeze

Washington — (NC) — The legislation with which the Nixon Administration proposes to fight the flow of obscene materials through the mails would, if enacted, put a great deal more responsibility on the mailers.

Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, Republican leader in the House, has joined with others in introducing three bills, "recommended by the President." He said they were drafted to comply with Supreme Court guidelines.

The first measure flatly bars sending any obscene material to a person under 18 years of age. It would make it a federal crime to use the mails, or other means of commerce, to deliver to anyone under 18 years of age material dealing with a sexual subject in a manner unsuitable for young people. A first violation would be punishable with a prison term up to five years and a \$50,000 fine.

The second bill would require those sending pandering advertising materials through the mails to first purchase from the Post Office Department a list of all females who do not want such mail.

The proposed legislation would enable families to request that no objectionable material be sent to them

before they have received it, Rep. Ford said. A family would notify the Post Office Department that they do not want to receive this sort of material, and a mailer who violated this request would be subject to fine or punishment.

The third measure strikes at advertisements for smut materials. It would make it a federal crime to send through the mails an advertisement intended to promote the purchase of obscene materials by stimulating a prurient interest in the receiver of the advertisement.

Rep. Ford said Senators and Representatives believe, on the basis of the volume of mail they receive from constituents, that more and more homes are receiving through the mails unwanted and offensive advertisements of an obscene nature. The President said "American homes are being bombarded with the largest volume of sex-oriented mail in history."

Apparently, and as was predicted, the Administration is avoiding reliance on the term "obscene," whose interpretation has caused hang ups in earlier efforts to control smut in the mails. Rather, the bills aim at the protection of young people, legislation of a type the Supreme Court is held to invite.

500 Earn Certificates From CCD

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey presided at "graduation" ceremonies for more than 500 Religious and lay persons in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher training programs in the Rochester-Auburn area, Sunday, at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The ceremonies included a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Hickey, Msgr. Albert H. Schnacky, director of the diocesan CCD office, and Fathers Edward Steinkirchner, Albert Cason, and Lewis Brown.

Bishop Hickey, who preached the homily that the charge "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all of creation," was spoken not only to the apostles, but also to the whole church.

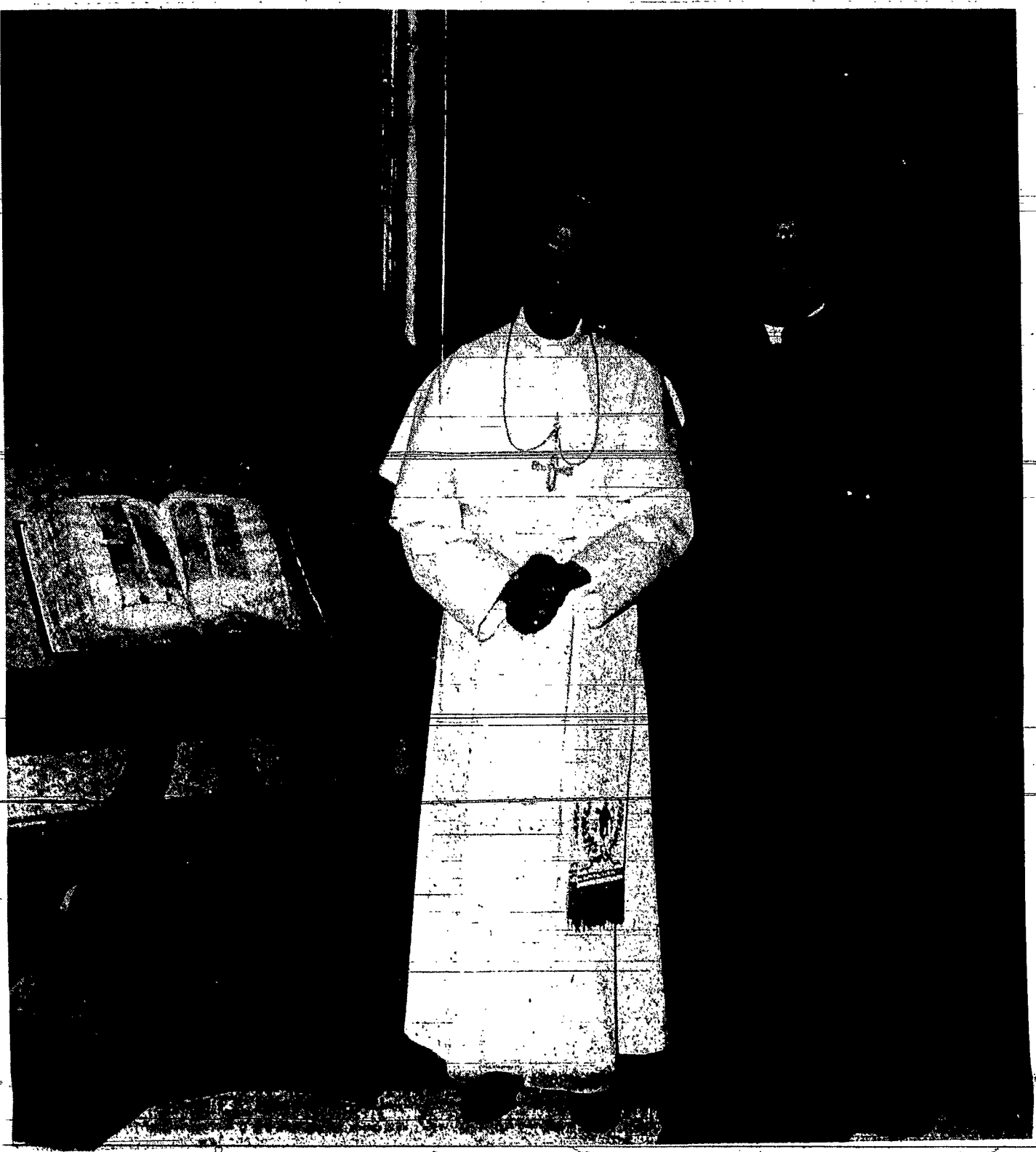
Bishop Hickey advised the graduates to be prepared, faithful, versatile and not to be discouraged as they proclaimed the Good News to those under their charge.

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty will celebrate Mass and distribute certificates to 84 teachers from the Southern Tier, Sunday, May 25, at 3:30 p.m., in St. Mary Our Mother Church, Horseheads.

The graduates completed a 30 week CCD teacher formation course which began last September. The courses were taught by 35 priests and 40 Sisters.

In addition to the regular graduates, 85 people in the Diocese received gold theology seals for one or more courses in Adult Theology, and 6 received gold Advanced Methods seals.

A list of parishes and participants in the courses appears on page 18.



Pope Paul VI granted a private audience to Bishop Fulton J. Sheen last week at the Vatican. As the papal photographer prepared for this picture in the Pope's study, the Holy Father chose the setting himself, saying: "Let us stand together next to the Sacred Scriptures."

Nation's Sisters Seek More 'Involvement'

Chicago — (NC) — "We've come out of the ashes... maybe a little bedraggled, but we're emerging," a nun said, citing the phoenix — a legendary bird which arises in youthful freshness from its own ashes — as the symbol of modern Sisters.

Some 1,600 Sisters attending the National Meeting of Women Religious here agreed on the establishment of a task force, which will propose a plan for a national organization of Religious.

"This task force," according to a resolution, "will be geographically representative of all councils of religious and will include interested Religious not affiliated with any established councils."

An ad hoc committee will meet June 7 in Toledo to outline an agenda for the first nationwide task force committee meeting.

The nuns passed several resolutions "in order to contribute to a fuller understanding and more effective involvement of Religious in the mission of the Church." Resolutions urged Religious:

- To form their consciences on such issues as war, the arms race, racism, and poverty by becoming involved and engaging in whatever action "a prudent decision" directs.

- To establish religious councils or senates in every diocese.
- To recognize their right and duty to change structures governing their lives where necessary.
- To study the best methods of meeting needs of a given area, and to create inter-congregational communities when necessary.
- To utilize the principle of collegiality in the structures of their congregations, keeping structures open to continued experimentation and revision at all levels.
- To continue to cooperate with, or initiate the revisions of, educational policies in respective dioceses.

May 30 Proclaimed U.S. Day of Prayer

Washington — (NC) — President Nixon has proclaimed Memorial Day, May 30, a day of prayer for permanent peace.

He asked Americans to "offer their prayers to the Almighty to make reason and good will prevail, so that peace can once again bless our nation."

Nixon also directed that the flag fly at half-staff all day Memorial Day "as a special mark of respect for those Americans who have given their lives in the tragic struggle in Vietnam."

Bishop Sheen Home, Impressed By Pope's Strength, Confidence

The vigor and confidence of Pope Paul in the face of all the troubles in the Church was Bishop Fulton J. Sheen's principal reflection this week as he discussed his recent 40-minute audience with the Holy Father.

The Bishop had just returned from a 6-day visit in Vatican City, where he participated in conferences on in-

ternational mission affairs as a representative of the U.S. Bishops.

"I have had five separate meetings with Pope Paul over recent years, but never has he shown more vigor, and less signs of aging under his burdens," the Bishop declared.

Recounting the Pope's daily schedule, Bishop Sheen marvelled that the pontiff arose each day at 5 a.m. but rarely went to bed till around 2 a.m.; that he wrote out most of his addresses and occasional talks, and "never took any exercise, not even a walk."

The Pope does a "great deal of reading, in many languages and in all categories of knowledge," the Bishop reported. This and the constant stream of visitors he talks with obviously contribute to his keen awareness of the world, he said.

"We talked on many subjects; much of it was so personal that I could not quote him."

"I was impressed with his great breadth of knowledge, his grasp of conditions and personalities in the world. I have met the last four Popes, but none of them was in better touch with what is going on in the world or so learned in the thought of the day."

"There is probably no one in public life who has been less portrayed as he really is than Paul VI. He seems, when he stands alone or when posing for a photograph, to be detached and aloof. But when speaking to an individual or chatting with a large group he is most alive and vibrant."

The Bishop enthusiastically described the size and the warmth of the public audiences where the Pope

greeted thousands of visitors almost every day.

"They say at the Vatican that the papal audiences are larger than ever before. His personal attraction has increased as if the people thronged to the Vatican because they are anxious to give him support and love."

"I said to the Holy Father: 'Your Holiness reminds me of your namesake St. Paul, who was so often stoned as he went from city to city.'"

"He thought a moment and replied: 'Yes, there are many sufferings, but there are also great joys. My life is not happy, but joyful, in the sense that Our Lord, having joy set before Him, endured the Cross.'"

The Bishop recalled that the Holy Father commented on the American Church, noting that "the laity helps preserve the stability of the Church" even in the midst of doctrinal and authority conflicts.

The Holy Father said that he looked to the Church in America to help strengthen the Church in many other parts of the world. It has always been conspicuous, not only for its faith and generosity but also for its loyalty to the Holy See, he said.

Summarizing the impact of the papal audience on his own spirit, Bishop Sheen said: "The Church in every age gets the Pope it deserves. The Church at the end of the 15th century deserved nothing better than the pontiff it had then — Alexander VI."

"But the Church in the 20th century must be fundamentally good to be blessed with Paul VI."

—Faber Richard Torrey

St. Christopher's Complaint

I'm weary dear Lord of watching those cars
Go speeding along like shooting stars.

My medal they trust as some magic charm
To bring them back home and free from all harm.

But what can I do to keep them alive
Unless they slow down to near fifty-five.

For when they insist on much more than that
I'll just take a walk and leave them—FLAT.

President Urged To Host Talks On Morality

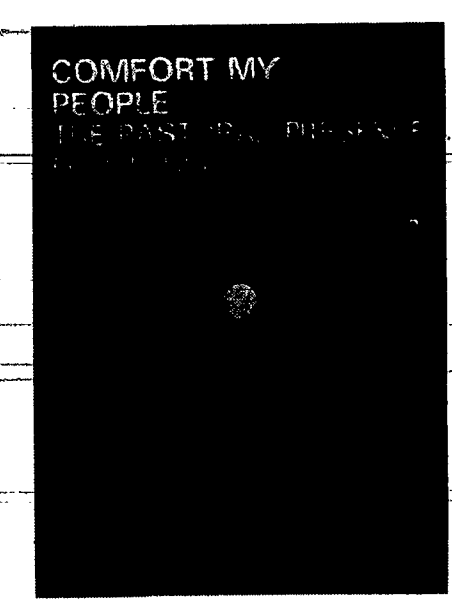
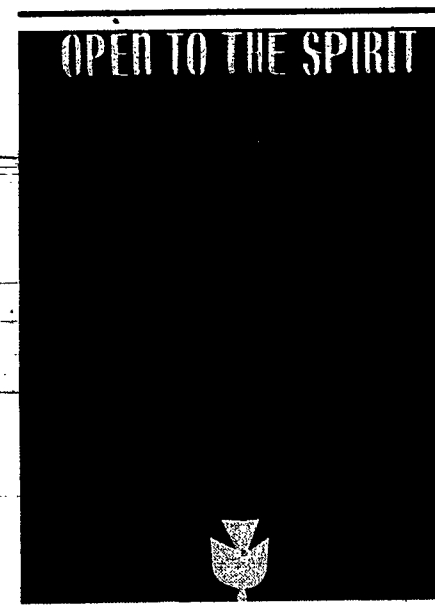
Chestnut Hill, Mass. — (RNS) — A leader of Conservative Judaism has urged President Nixon to call a special White House Conference on Morality and Ethics.

Henry N. Rapaport of Scarsdale, president of the United Synagogue of America, made his recommendation as an effort to halt the tide of growing immorality in the country.

"There exists in this nation a creeping decadence of ethical, cultural and religious values," he said. "It may well be that the present decadence that has crept into our literature, films and the theater is closely linked with the failure of the religious establishment to concern itself with communicating not only with our youth but with the moulders of public opinion."

In citing the "unbridled license" of sexual permissiveness and pornography and the unethical practices in business and politics as other reasons for the growing immorality, Mr. Rapaport expressed hope that a meeting of religious leaders called by the President might produce programs capable of combating these problems.

BOOKS



Catholic Press Association Announces Seven Awards

Atlanta — (NC) — Seven books received 1969 National Catholic Book Awards from the Catholic Press Association at the Marriott Motor Hotel here.

The National Catholic Book Awards competition was established in 1964 "to recognize and honor the many distinguished achievements in Catholic book publishing today... and to encourage the further development of this branch of the Catholic press."

This year's competition was divided into seven categories. The winners, selected from 131 titles entered by 50 publishers, are:

- Theology: "The Church," by Hans Kueng, Sheed & Ward, Inc.
- Scripture: "The Jerome Biblical Commentary," edited by Raymond E. Brown, S.S., Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J.,

Roland E. Murphy, O. Carm., Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Christian Life: "Comfort My People: The Pastoral Presence of the Church," by Eugene C. Kennedy, M.M., Sheed & Ward, Inc.

Religious Education: "Vision and Tactics: Toward an Adult Church," by Gabriel Moran, Herder and Herder, Inc.

Spirituality: "Open To the Spirit: Religious Life After Vatican II," by Father Ladislav M. Orsy, O.P.S. Publications.

History and Biography: "The Life of Teilhard de Chardin," by Robert Speaight, Harper & Row, Publishers.

Fiction: "Everything to Live For," by Paul Horgan, Farrar Straus & Giroux, Inc.

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IF YOU MOVE ... let us know about it so we can keep your Courier coming to you on time. Phone or mail us notice of your change of address. Include your old address and new address and the name of your parish.

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Inside Highlights

Your Courier-Journal this week begins a new series "Teens Want to Know" which will answer representative questions on teen problems. Please turn to Page 16A.

And with vacation-time rolling around, the Courier-Journal this week includes a special supplement "Car Care" which will provide tips on safety, planning trips and general automotive information. Please turn to Page 1B.