



**Habit Forming**

The new rules for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet allow much freedom in their choice of habits. And the nuns show their instinctive feminine individuality as more than 1,000 members of the order from 17 states attend a weekend conference in St. Louis. (RNS)

**British Commons Okays Easier Divorce Bill**

By JOHN A. GREAVES

London — (NC) — Legislation to provide much easier divorce in Britain was pushed through the House of Commons and is now expected to become law within the next year.

A bill amending existing law and described by its critics as allowing divorce by consent or divorce by compulsion was given a conclusive third parliamentary reading after a day and night marathon of 16 hours of hotly contested debate.

The controversial bill must now undergo the constitutional formality of debate in the House of Lords, the upper chamber of Parliament, and then await a promised subsidiary government bill covering financial provisions for cast-off wives and children before becoming the law of the land.

The Lords, which include the senior bishops of the State Church of England, can be expected to give it a further critical drubbing, but their words will be wasted so far as legislation is concerned. They cannot in fact hamper the progress of a bill once it has been given the go-ahead by the Commons and there appears to be nothing short of the unlikely resignation of the present government to stop its ultimate success.

The Divorce Reform Bill makes the irrevocable breakdown of marriage the solid ground for divorce. It ends the longstanding practice in this secular society of a divorce petitioner having to prove a marital offense such as adultery, cruelty, perversion or desertion or else nonconsummation.

The existing law has many bad aspects which could do with reform, including dangers of perjury, collusion, hypocrisy and bribery, as well as the detailed publicity regarding intimate marital happenings permitted in the press.

But the new bill does not appear likely, according to its critics, to solve any of these problems. Rather the bill — dubbed by opponents as a "philanderer's paradise" and a "Casa-

**School Costs Triple in New York**

By DORIS R. PETERS

New York — (NC) — A study of Catholic education in the New York archdiocese disclosed that per-pupil costs in parochial schools have tripled in the past 10 years and are expected to double again by 1972.

Moreover, the cost of parochial school education is rising far more rapidly than is the income of the Catholic family.

These are among the findings of a study announced by the Committee on Catholic Education, an independent, non-sectarian group of educators and civic leaders appointed by Terence Cardinal Cooke last year to study the best employment of educational resources, personnel and facilities of the Church in this archdiocese.

Among the recommendations advanced by the committee was an archdiocesan board of education, the majority of whose members would be lay persons, to function as an educational policy making body.

It also was recommended that a Catholic teacher corps consisting of volunteers who would work for a stipend rather than a regular salary, be organized. The report specified that members of the corps would be persons who wish to engage in service to their fellow man even at personal sacrifice.

"It is mandatory," the report emphasized "that all such persons be appropriately qualified for the work undertaken; and that recruitment of them be a creative appeal to draw concerned persons from the entire country into assignments of most critical need."

The committee also recommended that a "transference mechanism" be developed by the archdiocese so that some of the financial resources of wealthier parishes will become available to poorer parishes.

Another recommendation was a proposal for a central scholarship fund for assisting needy students to attend Catholic schools.

nova's charter" — allows couples to divorce by mutual consent after two years of separation and after five years separation even if one partner objects.

The bill does not directly involve practicing Catholics themselves, but it concerns them as a social and moral measure changing the general national attitude to marriage and the family.

The bill succeeded with the agreement of the government of Prime Minister Harold Wilson, which allowed exceptional parliamentary time for the bill introduced privately by one member of Parliament without official government sponsorship. They could have stopped it easily, as they often do such "private" bills, for taking up too much of Parliament's time.

Not one government minister voted against it, and both Prime Minister Wilson and Edward Heath, leader of the Conservative opposition, were absent during the crucial concluding third reading debate for obvious political reasons.

One Catholic opponent of the bill, Peter Mahon, said in the debate: "The women of this country will detest and recoil in horror at the bill's implications." It would lead, he added, to a state of divorce or broken homes and loneliness and unhappiness for many children.

Baroness Summerskill, a non-Catholic and a former minister, made a searing attack on the government for "cruel trickery," adding: "This is the first time in our social history that an innocent man or woman will be divorced against his will. This is the fundamental question which gives us grave concern."

Divorce by consent after two years "is really going to make a mockery of marriage," she also said.

The national press has generally favored the bill. But the Tablet, Catholic weekly, ran a long attack against it.

**Italians Prep For Synod**

Rome — (NC) — The bishops of Italy will meet Sept. 2 and 3 to prepare for the following month's world Synod of Bishops.

This was decided at a meeting of the Italian Bishops' Conference's council of the presidency in Rome June 18-20.

The extraordinary Synod of Bishops, which opens Oct. 11, will discuss relations between the Holy See and the national and regional bishops' conferences, and relations among the episcopal conferences.

**Open Windows, Sisters Told**

Notre Dame, Ind. — (RNS) — Today's Catholic nun should develop an open-minded spirit of "unity but not uniformity" in order to free herself from the restrictions of the Church, Leo-Joseph Cardinal Suenens of Belgium said here.

The cardinal addressed an audience of 700 Catholic nuns at a conference on "The Nun in the World," held at St. Mary's College here.

It is the apostle's responsibility, the cardinal told the Sisters, "to be free. Be open, to open doors and windows" on the world. Such openness can be accomplished through social rehabilitation work, he said.

But social work alone, he warned, cannot be a substitute for Christian evangelizing, which should be the first concern of the dedicated nun. "We (religious) have to save men in their bodies and in their souls."

**POPE ON WILDLIFE**

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI, receiving members of the council of the World Wildlife Fund June 21, and wishing them well "in your admirable efforts," remarked that although man "is the master of creation, man must not destroy it."

**NCC Aide's View**

**'You Just Can't Sweep Forman Under the Rug'**

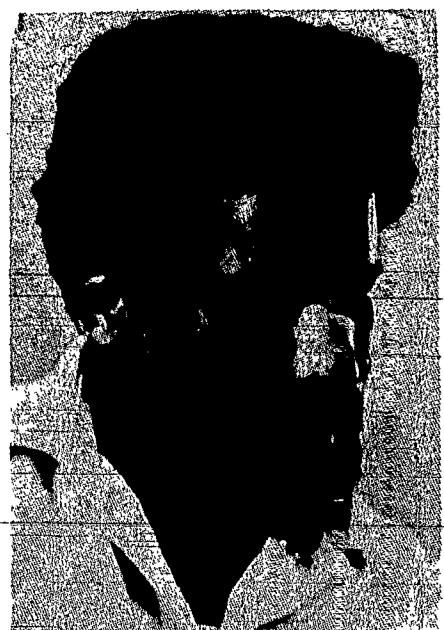
New York — (RNS) — The Black Manifesto is a challenge to the nation's churches and synagogues to "put up or shut up" and the white religious bodies' response will determine whether the manifesto's revolutionary rhetoric is actualized, Dr. Charles S. Spivey said.

Dr. Spivey, head of the National Council of Churches' Department of Social Justice and "Crisis in the Nation" program, told newsmen that "you can't just sweep Forman under a rug... If Forman were to disappear tomorrow there will be 100 other people just like Forman who would confront the churches... This situation is here to stay."

Interviewed for NBC-TV's Huntley-Brinkley Show, Dr. Spivey said the Black Manifesto which James Forman and the National Black Economic Development Conference has presented "speaks to a reality about the society of which we are a part."

The National Council executive asserted that the churches have both the money and power to respond "creatively and constructively" to the demands of the manifesto.

"People who are aware of their personhood, their own sense of in-

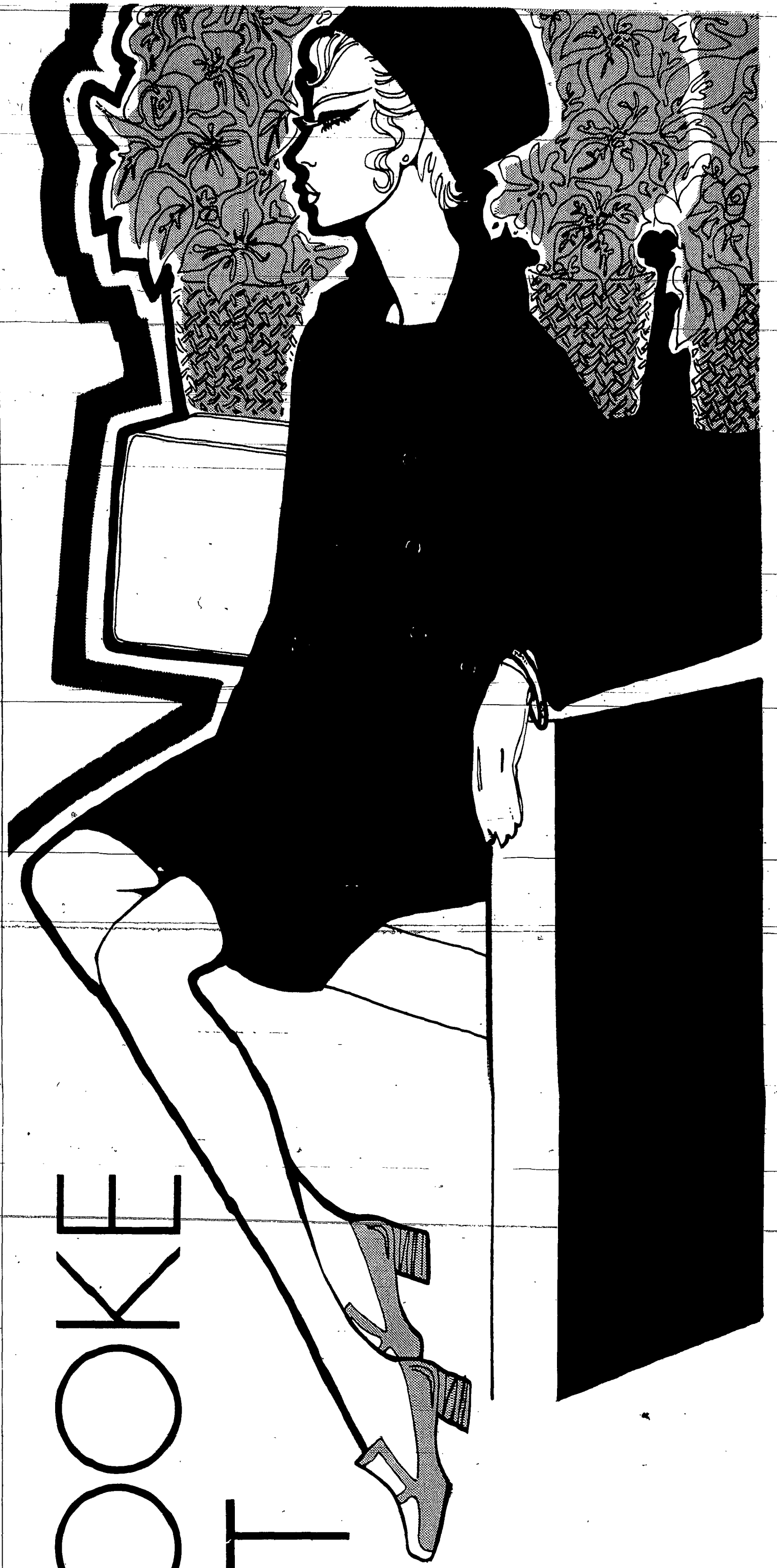


JAMES FORMAN

tegrity, their own sense of dignity will not accept indefinitely the kind of indignities that they are forced to endure in this country... they are going to fight back and we are about at that point in this country."

Dr. Spivey stressed both physical and "covert" violence against Blacks. Among the covert violence he listed ratified tenements, unenforced housing codes, unequal administration of laws, inferior educational opportunities, and having to pay "high prices for shoddy, cheap, worthless food."

"I am still convinced," he said, "that the onus of this problem rests on the white community... to change the structures so that people who are caught in the trap can get out of the trap."



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