

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

Courier-Journal — Friday, July 4, 1969

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Clerics Urge 'Holy War'

Armed intervention by Britain in the "break-away territory of Rhodesia" would be "a justifiable holy war," according to a statement issued by eight Anglican clergymen. Some read the statement from their pulpits in Liverpool.

They declared that the present situation in Rhodesia, which illegally and unilaterally declared independence from Britain in November 1965, was "in the sight of God an intolerable injustice and denial of human rights."

The British government's actions so far have been "ineffectual," the eight priests declared, and they added that another diplomatic failure on the Rhodesia issue would leave the government with no alternative but armed intervention.

The eight signatories included Canon John Park, rector and rural dean of Wigan, the Rev. Gordon Bates, Liverpool diocesan youth chaplain, and the Rev. Niall Mereworth, chaplain to Liverpool Cathedral.

Bishop Adamant on Manifesto

The Episcopal Bishop of Michigan has continued to refuse to hold an official meeting with representatives of the Black Manifesto despite a sit-in by eight white Episcopalians in his office in Detroit.

Bishop Richard S. Emrich did say, however, that he would meet informally with representatives of the National Black Economic Development Conference which issued the manifesto.

In a related development, members of the Union of

Black Clergy and Laity published an open letter to the bishop, in the form of an advertisement, criticizing him for failure to meet with them to discuss issues important to the black community.

In his regular column in the Detroit Free Press, Bishop Emrich recently wrote that the manifesto's demands did not represent the true feelings of the black people. This was challenged by the open letter from the black clergy and laity.

Famed Director Hits 'Dirty Movies'

John Ford, one of moviedom's all time great directors, said in San Antonio, Tex., he would consider it "a mortal sin to direct the dirty movies of today."

"Today's movies are inferior to those of two decades ago and so are the current box office stars," Ford told newsmen.

He called the current output of sex, violence and off-color movies a "disgrace."

Ford was asked how the current stars compared with those of the past. He replied: "I should say no comment, but they don't compare."

Ford won his first best director "Oscar" in 1935 with "The Informer." He repeated in 1940 with "Grapes of Wrath," 1941 with "How Green Was My Valley," and in 1952 with "The Quiet Man."

A number of Ford's pictures are regarded as classic western films, notably "Stagecoach" produced in 1939.

Zeffirelli Agrees

Vatican City—(RNS)—Franco Zeffirelli, well-known director of films, the theater and opera, has received a strong endorsement from L'Osservatore Romano for his outspoken criticism of indecent films.

The director was expelled from the Italian Film Writers Association because of his criticism of the industry. His "Romeo and Juliet" is now being shown in U.S. movie houses.

The Vatican City daily defended Zeffirelli, saying he had expressed courageous and open criticism of the commercial cinema which is "currently producing pornographic, filthy, and idiotic films." The paper said that the film director has repeatedly warned that the current wave of sex films in Italy was not only morally indefensible but threatened to drive away large segments of the film audience.

People

Negro American comedian Dick Gregory proposed a worldwide fast on Christmas if the United States does not withdraw from Vietnam this year. Gregory made his proposal at the Communist-sponsored World Assembly for Peace meeting in East Berlin. . . . John Cardinal Wright, former Bishop of Pittsburgh who now heads the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy, arrived in Geneva from the United States announced he will attend the Second Conference of European Bishops. The episcopal meeting is July 7-11 in Switzerland. . . . Paul Noelle, a Milwaukee attorney, was elected president of Serra International at the 27th annual convention in Houston, Tex.

Dutch Cardinal In Favor of 'Open' Bishops' Meetings

Philadelphia — (RNS) — Bernard Cardinal Alfrink of Holland believes that the experience of the Dutch Bishops in holding open meetings with press and public when they are pondering national policy "has enhanced the moral prestige of the hierarchy."

In his address to a theology institute at Villanova College the Archbishop of Utrecht contrasted the closed meetings of the U.S. Bishops with the Dutch episcopal gatherings where laity, clergy and news media freely attend.

"It is a remarkable and happy fact," the cardinal noted, "that in this open and public dialogue, as public as a meeting of parliament, at times with almost 100 journalists present and under television floodlights, the moral prestige of the bishops is not harmed, rather it is enhanced."

"By this means," the bishops arrive at a new method of exercising authority. It is not only a realization of a mutual dialogue of bishops, experts, and representatives of priests, laity and religious with each other."

"This consultative process is one in which the bishops do not remain aloof and they do not officiate as proclaimers of the faith having responsibilities which cannot be delegated. And as such, the process of consultation is taken extremely seriously by all concerned."

The bishops of Holland, said Cardinal Alfrink, "prefer to view authority as a service performed by brothers, to proclaim, to make holy, and to guide."

Further defining the tasks of bishops, the Dutch cardinal said they should "create the conditions under which the free and joint search of the

entire people of the Church has a chance, and under which, believing and acts of belief are acts which can constantly be posited within the community as free acts."

Dressed in a grey suit and wearing a Roman collar, he answered candidly nearly all the questions put to him. He conducted the interview in English; he did not require an interpreter.

Cardinal Alfrink described the present times as "a very difficult period" for the Church. "Certainly there is opposition to the spirit of the Second Vatican Council. The opposition is everywhere, in all the world."

"Perhaps," he continued, "it would be a miracle if it (the opposition) were not there. Perhaps it is understandable that after the Second Vatican Council there is a certain resistance. We should have great optimism and patience."

"The Church is a world Church. There are bound to be progressive currents and conservative currents. It's necessary that we have these two currents. After all, you need two sides for a dialogue."

"The resistance to Vatican II is perhaps strong, but the faithful must always be optimistic. A believer should have much optimism."

Bishop Building 'Gym-Cathedral'

Auckland, N.Z. — (RNS) — Bishop John Cohill, S.V.D., of Goroka is busy putting up the biggest building in New Guinea, what he describes as a "gymnasium-cathedral."

The \$80,000 building measures 170 ft. x 102 ft. Bishop Cohill, on a visit to Auckland, said the young people of Goroka urgently need recreation facilities.

Irish Trouble and U.S. Put End to Bias, N.J. Catholics Told



President Nixon He's Pressured

Washington—(NC)—Nearly a fourth of the membership of the U.S. House of Representatives has appealed to President Nixon for a formal expression of concern "over discrimination against Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland."

Speaker John W. McCormack and 100 other representatives of both parties signed a letter to the President saying they are "disturbed that intolerance and discrimination are encouraged by and rooted in the laws of Northern Ireland."

Rep. Philip Burton, D-Calif., who with Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., D-Mass., solicited the signatures, said the signers' concern was aroused by last fall's violence in Northern Ireland, where, he said, laws and customs effectively limited land ownership by Catholics, barred them from jobs and deterred them from voting in local elections.

Sen. Edward Kennedy He's Criticized

Belfast, Northern Ireland — (NC) — Northern Irish government officials have criticized (June 26) U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) for a message he sent a civil rights group, supporting its efforts to combat anti-Catholic discrimination in this country.

The senator sent a cable to the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, center of recent widespread political strife over discrimination against Catholics, declaring that "the reforms you seek are basic to all democracies worthy of the name."

The civil rights association accuses Northern Ireland's Protestant-dominated government of discriminating against Catholics in jobs, housing and elections. Demonstrations in recent months protesting the discrimination have often resulted in violent clashes between Protestants and Catholics.

Put End to Bias, N.J. Catholics Told

Newark—(NC)—The responsibility of Catholics to eliminate job discrimination was emphasized (June 26) in a joint pastoral letter issued by the four bishops of New Jersey and read at Sunday Masses in Churches of the state.

The letter calls for cooperation with Project Equality, an equal opportunity employment program inaugurated on a statewide basis on July 1 in cooperation with other religious bodies.

The bishops noted, that "despite the clear teachings of our religion, and the laws which we have supported in our state and

Americans Cited For Biafra Aid

A priest active in organizing numerous food and medical supply missions to Biafra has disclosed that \$120 million has been spent to date by relief organizations during the current Nigerian civil war.

Father Dermot Dornan, speaking June 19 on CBS Radio's "The World of Religion," said the United States has contributed more than any other nation to relief programs in that area.

"The United States has been the greatest single contributor with \$45 million in both public and private monies. That's counting cash and goods transported to both Nigeria and Biafra."

"Over the course of a year, \$120 million has been spent, and, unfortunately, we seem to be no nearer a solution. In fact, we seem to be further away from a solution to the problem."

Elmer A. Frank

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