THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

From Courier-Journal Services

Illinois Conference Established

The six Catholic dioceses of Illinois established the Illinois Catholic Conference, a permanent agency to provide regular communication as well as a sharing of responsibility among bishops, clergy and laity.

An 18-member committee of priests, laymen and bishops completed the job of drawing up a new constitution for the advisory body after five months' work.

Its new constitution was accepted by John Cardinal Cody of Chicago and promulgated by the bishops of Chicago, Belleville, Springfield, Peoria, Joliet and Rockford.

ICC replaces the Illinois Catholic Welfare Committee, a more informal means of cooperation among Church administrators and institutions for the past 35 years.

Teacher Union Feared

Union organization of lay teachers in three Roman Catholic dioceses—New York, Brooklyn and Rockville Centre—could create "very serious financial problems," school officials here believe.

A recent amendment of the State Labor Relations Act removed a 2-year exemption from the churches and other charitable organizations which had not been required to bargain collectively.

Now two unions are seeking to organize lay teachers in the three dioceses and two locals of the Service Employees Union are recruiting maintenance workers in the Catholic schools.

No decision was reached at the meeting with Jay Kramer, chairman of the State Labor Relations Board, as to the size of the units to be involved—whether contracts should be negotiated on a diocesan-wide basis or left to the individual schools.

Pope Pledges Jewish Aid

Pope Paul VI, in a letter to Chief Rabbi Alexander Safran of Geneva, has informed him that the Vatican will "spare no effort" to aid Jewish minorities still living in Arab countries.

The Pope's message, an aftermath of his meeting with the rabbi during his visit to Geneva in June, may have far-reaching implications according to unofficial observers here. He may instruct all Papal Nunciatures in Arab countries to protect the interests of Jewish minorities in these countries.

Interfaith Draft Help

The Catholic diocese of Worcester, the Greater Worcester Area Council of Churches and the Jewish Community of Worcester have joined forces in establishing and staffing an interfaith Draft Information Center for the area.

Located in the Council of Churches building, the center will provide information and counseling for young men of draft age. It is intended, a spokesman said "to provide a setting in which information about Selective Service is given in a way which permits and encourages young men to make their own decisions."

The center plans to help young men with individual problems about deferments, changes of classification, appeal procedures, options available for military service and conscientious objection.

Grape Growers Bring Suit

The nationwide boycott of California table grapes has cost the growers $25 million in damages, according to a suit filed in the U.S. District Court in Fresno, Calif.

Filed under provisions of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, the suit seeks treble damages totaling $75 million and an injunction on the boycott launched by the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee as part of the three-year organizing drive of the workers headed by Cesar Chavez, who have received support from many religious groups.

People

Dr. Harry A. Marmion, 37, has been named president of Chicago's St. Xavier College, the first layman to be permanent president of the 122-year-old school founded by the Sisters of Mery as a college for women. It became co-educational in January . . . A Catholic priest, **Father Martin Dobey,** 43, was elected vice president of the historically Protestant Fiji Council of Churches (FCC) . . . **Father Thomas C. Donlan,** O.P., has been named director of the Division of Research and Development in Religious Education in the Department of Christian Formation, United States Catholic Conference (USCC).

'I Wish Bishops Could Retire 3 or 4 Times'

San Antonio—(NC) — "I didn't realize what a good person I have been until I retired," Archbishop Robert E. Lucey quipped before some 1,500 persons who honored him at a testimonial dinner at San Antonio's Convention Center.

The gathering marked the retirement of Archbishop Lucey who served as spiritual head of the San Antonio archdiocese for the last 28 years.

"It is greatly to be regretted that bishops are not permitted to retire three or four times after they pass 75 years of age in order to receive a flood of fine letters telling them how good they are," Archbishop Lucey said.

"But on the other hand," he continued, "if a bishop could retire every five years in the sunset of his life, he might be so thoroughly revived and restored that he would stop retiring, and of course, that would be bad for those who might have designs on the office. Consequently, one resignation, no matter how enjoyable, is all that we get."

Solon Urges Teach 'Respect,'

Riverside, Calif. —(RNS)— A California congressman has called upon the nation's church-related school to teach "respect, responsibility, restraint and religion" in order to counteract the "rant, riot and ruin" that are being advocated elsewhere.

Rep. Jerry L. Pettis, a member of President Nixon's 21-man task force studying campus unrest said: "When the curriculums of many schools are thought to be irrelevant, church schools can demonstrate the value of relating ethics to learning.

Spock Conviction Reversed

Boston — (RNS) — The First U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has reversed the conviction of Dr. Benjamin Spock, the Rev. William Sloane Coffin and two others on charges that they counseled young men to avoid the draft.

But Mr. Coffin, Protestant chaplain at Yale, and Mitchell Goodman, author and teacher from Temple, Maine, will have to face new trials under the judgment rendered by the three-man court.

The court agreed with the defendants that vigorous criticism of the Vietnam war and the draft is protected by the First Amendment, even though its effect is to interfere with the war effort.

Rev. Coffin Dr. Spock

One judge noted that the defendants were equally free to express commendation and moral support for those whose conscience compels them to disobey the law. But he noted a distinction between such expressions and affirmative counseling, aiding and abetting violations of the law.

"I would grant acquittal to all appellants," another judge said, "since in my view whatever substantive crimes of aiding, abetting and counseling or whatever more specific conspiracies may have been committed, the crime of conspiracy as charged in the indictment was not."

The four men had been allowed to remain free, without bail, following their conviction and sentencing pending their appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals.

PATRIARCH IN VISIT

Moscow — (RNS) — Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei of Moscow and All Russia has been visited here by Patriarch Nikolai VI of Alexandria and All Africa.

Center Our Business, Bishop Mendez Says

Cuernavaca, Mexico—(NC) —The Bishop of Cuernavaca has asserted his right to deal with the Inter-Cultural Center of Documentation (CIDOC) as a local issue.

Bishop Sergio Mendez Arceo said in a pastoral letter that Pope Paul had expressed his wish "to revoke the rash prohibition made in his name against ecclesiastics and Religious frequenting CIDOC and participating in its activities."

CIDOC, founded in 1960, is a secular Mexican corporation that conducts intensive courses in Spanish and seminars on Latin American culture and social changes at its Institute for Contemporary Latin American Studies, attended by an average of 200 persons a month. It also publishes studies on Latin American cultures, economics and social structures.

Last January the Vatican's Doctrinal Congregation forbade priests and Religious—mostly from foreign missionary groups—to take courses at the center. Msgr. Ivan Illich said at that time that he was distressed by "a grave and global accusation against a non-sectarian institution of higher learning, without even mentioning a single charge."

Bishop Mendez made it clear that he welcomes the continuation of CIDOC in Cuernavaca because it provides the community "with the incalcuable benefits of an ongoing, compelling study of the realities of Latin America."

In his pastoral the bishop also referred to the opposition to the center:

"Finally, my brothers, I recommend to your care, our brothers who consider us separated from, or at least out of touch with, the Church community in our nation: Mexico.

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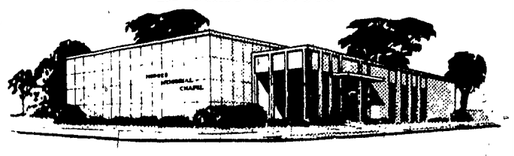

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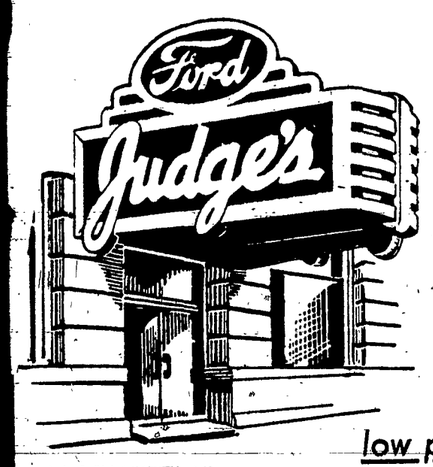

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