

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

Church Exemptions Up for Study

Major legislation awaiting Congress upon its return from summer recess includes the tax reform bill of 1969, which calls for an end to churches' tax exemptions on unrelated business income.

Proposals by the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, concerning church activities, are in general agreement with those issued jointly by the United States Catholic Conference and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

But some differences on specifics are evident in the sweeping tax reform proposals. Congress will tackle these problems when its members return from vacation Sept. 3.

Father Groppi Arrested

Father James Groppi and two youths were arrested in Milwaukee when they refused to break locked arms and permit employees of the Allen-Bradley Co. to pass through plant doors.

The demonstration started when a small circle of 11 persons marched in front of the employees' entrance to the plant, protesting what they termed "plant discrimination on all minority groups."

Circuit Judge William J. O'Neill issued a court order prohibiting officials from pressing charges against the men, at least until the time of the hearing, set for Aug. 22. He

Episcopal Diocese Pledges Aid

Philadelphia—(RNS)—in a continuing controversy over the demands of the Black Manifesto, the Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania urged the Church and diocese to provide "massive resources" for relieving racial injustice.

The resolution approved left the door open as to what agency or agencies should receive the proposed help.

The new Council resolution "recognized" in the Black Manifesto "and in the black community a cry for human dignity and justice, and 'acknowledged' the Church's 'involvement in the structure of racism and its obligation to relieve the affliction denying that dignity and justice.'"

But the Council declared that "by virtue of its Biblical charter, the Episcopal Church must firmly repudiate the ideology of the Black Manifesto insofar as it is anti-Christian, and anti-Semitic in tone, advocates irresponsible violence and calls for total power in the hands of one group."

Bingo Loses in Dallas

Dallas, Texas—(NC)—Bingo at Catholic functions in Dallas has been prohibited by Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Dallas-Fort Worth.

The old fund-raiser standby is now "absolutely forbid-

den" in Dallas, according to a letter Bishop Gorman sent to Catholic pastors and Catholic school principals.

People

Veteran radio personality Don McNeil will teach a broadcasting workshop course this fall at Marquette University's college of journalism, from which he graduated in 1929. McNeil, 61, was master of ceremonies of the "Breakfast Club" radio program for 35 years until his retirement from the show last December. . . A group of Boston businessmen have established a scholarship at Caldwell College for Women here in honor of Mary Jo Kopechne, former secretary for the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who died in an automobile accident at Martha's Vineyard. Miss Kopechne, a resident of Berkeley Heights, N.J., graduated from Caldwell College in 1962. The college is conducted by the Dominican Sisters.

Father Richard W. Rousseau, a Jesuit, has been appointed assistant director of the National Council of Churches' Department of Faith and Order.

The sixth Roman Catholic on the NCC executive staff, Father Rousseau was formerly associate professor of religious studies at Fairfield (Conn.) University.

One of Father Rousseau's tasks in his new job will be to help prepare a major North American Conference on Faith and Order. The conference, projected for some time in 1972, is expected to raise basic theological questions of importance to both Protestants and Catholics.

Retreat Scheduled For Boy Scouts

Auburn — Boy Scouts and Cubs of the Cayuga County Council have been invited to a three-day retreat at Camp Columbus from Aug. 30 to Sept. 1.

Arrangements for the retreat are being handled by the Cayuga County Boy Scout Council's Catholic Committee on Scouting headed by Robert J. Randall Sr. Retreat registrations are being received by Sam Triplicano, 28 Crescent Ave.

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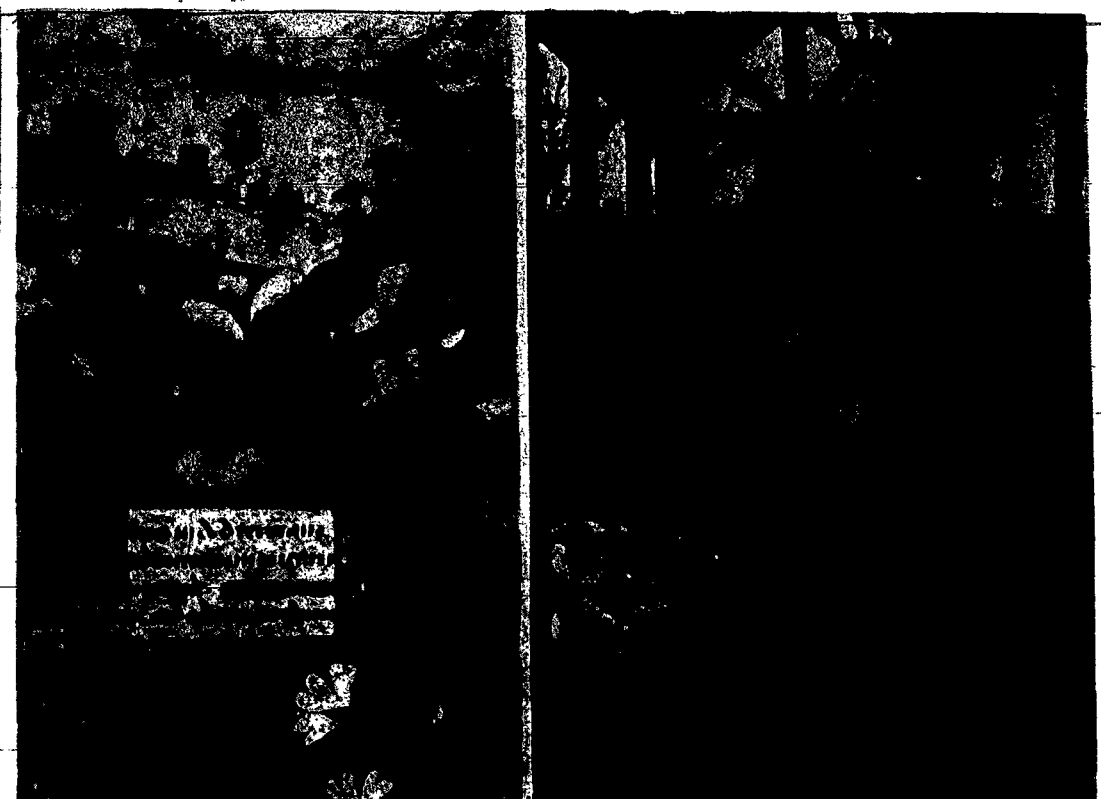
Rev. Abernathy Likes Manifesto

Chicago —(RNS)—The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy views James Forman as a "prophet to pull the covers off the economic life of the churches," but the president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is not willing to invest much of his "time and energy in pursuing the limited wealth of a lethargic church."

Mr. Abernathy's article in the Christian Century, the ecumenical weekly, was his first widely distributed response to the manifesto.

Before the manifesto, continued Mr. Abernathy, most "black Christians had given up on the church as a relevant institution with potential for social change." He saw the Forman challenge as communicating the "desperate need for Christian renewal."

Concluding that the Churches have used funds in a less than commendable way, he said: "In a free society there is hardly enough about our treasure that is 'religious or Christian' for it even to merit tax exemption. For in the stewardship of our investments we differ not one iota from the average mutual investment fund or insurance company."



Seminarians Seek Meetings with Bishops

Chicago —(RNS)—A national organization of Catholic seminarians here has asked the national hierarchy for a series of meetings with individual bishops to explore ways to "better implement" renewal in the Church.

Seminarians for Ministerial Renewal (SMR), an organization of college and theological seminary students claiming 500 members in 44 dioceses and 14 religious orders, made the request in a letter addressed to all Catholic bishops in this country.

In that statement the board announced that SMR will work for "a truly open, free and loving Church."

"As future ministers of our church," it said, "we have seen and experienced injustices and unfreedoms performed in the name of and for the sake of organization."

"We commit ourselves to confronting the issues of seminary education, imposed clerical celibacy and seminarians' rights especially as related to social action involvement."

In their letter to the bishops...

'Pop' Masses Criticized by Lay Group

London —(RNS)—Pop music and mini-skirted girl singers are changing the Mass from a sacrifice into an entertainment, according to the Unitas, a 4,000-member Roman Catholic lay body here which champions orthodoxy in the Church.

The organization said this in a statement supporting Father Bryan Houghton, parish priest of the east England town of Bury St. Edmunds and senior dean of the diocese of Northampton, who has announced his impending resignation because of Rome's "prohibition" of the Latin Mass after November 30.

The Unitas statement, issued here by Patrick Sullivan, the chairman, said,

"Instead we now expect more and more change from sacrifice to entertainment. Pop Mass and folk Mass are now a common feature in some churches every Sunday. Mini-skirted girls sit in front of microphones playing guitars, singing pop tunes, whilst the Mass is going on. This is causing the congregation to become more of an audience."

Holy Name Society Fights Decline

Greencastle, Pa.—The Holy Name Society, which has been losing members throughout the United States for many years, is trying to halt the slide by reorganizing itself from the top down, according to Father John Keough of St. Mark's church here.

Father Keough is a member-of-the-temporary-national committee which has been working toward a new constitution.

The constitution, drafted by the national office after consultation with the diocese, has been ratified by regional groups of delegates.

The Holy Name Society has been run from "just a little office in New York" with the director and a couple of secretaries, Father Keough asserted.

"Now the aim is that it will continue under the sponsorship of the Dominicans, who founded it, but that there will be at least two laymen with full-time responsibility employed in the office," he said.

Religious Christmas Cards

In answer to an increasing demand for more traditional Christmas greetings, the United Nations Children's Fund is making available a special offering of five religious cards. These new Christmas designs are full color reproductions of medieval illuminations relating to the birth of Christ. They were selected from 15th Century books made available to UNICEF through the courtesy of the Pierpont Morgan Library. Two of the illuminations are, from left, "Annunciation to the Shepherds" and "Nativity." (RNS)

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Latin America Advice: Keep Talking, Act Too

Cordoba, Argentina (RNS)—For the Church in Latin America, the time for words has not passed but the time for action has arrived, a group of seminary directors concluded at a meeting here.

The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Seminary Department of the Latin American Episcopal Conference (CELAM) and the Organization of Latin American Seminaries.

Much of the discussion centered on the documents of the Second General Conference of Latin American Bishops, held last year at Medellin, Colombia. The Medellin documents, which commit the Church firmly to an active role in social reform in Latin America, have still not been fully accepted in many dioceses, the seminar found.

Nearly a year after the publication of the Medellin conclusions, the statement said, many priests and seminarians find "a certain discrepancy"

between these findings "and the attitudes, reticences and concrete omissions of some local hierarchies. There are priests who are leaving the ministry these days because of such discrepancies."

The statement also called the failure to implement the Medellin decisions "a source of tension and frustration for many priests—a frustration which becomes even more serious in cases where the methods of dialogue and co-responsibility envisioned by the Council (Vatican II) and Medellin do not function properly."

While the seminary directors' statement expressed gratitude for the missionary assistance sent to Latin America by other countries, it noted that this effort "sometimes serves to underline the 'dependency' of our Churches and to delay the search for bold local solutions, for example, in the reform of ministerial structures."

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'Libera

St. Louis, Mo. —(RN) Sunday Masses for reminded Roman Catholics which have been drawn average of 2,500 have ordered stopped by the tor of St. Francis X Church here.

Two Sunday Masses been offered each week the basement of the church. The congreg have come to be refer as the "lower church" Catholics have been c to the Masses from thr out the archdiocese, from as far as 25 miles

Father Louis J. H S.J., pastor of St. F Xavier Parish, main that a "parish within a ish" could not exist.

"We find that they extra Masses) have cr managerial, theologica and financial ter and conflicts which ar for the well being of total parish," he said.

He admitted that Masses in the upper of traditionally conserv will not have the sam appeal for those who have attending the lower c services, but he asked "to come and tolect Masses in the upper-ch

The lower church gro

Poor A

By FATHER JOHN P. I (NC News-Service

Lourdes, France — T is one of the most p pilgrimage spots in the — and, like all cities crowds gather, it can pensive.

To guarantee that po grims would not be pr from coming to Lourdes of the French Catho society vowed more t decade ago to provide a where impoverished p would be lodged and fe charge so that they mig the grotto where the Virgin Mary appeared Bernadette.

Today, 600 pilgrims housed and fed — at no themselves — at the Cite Secours Saint-Pierre five days, poor pilgrim lodged in an ultramod city in a rustic settin than a mile from the w nous shrine.

The 11-building city answer to a wish expres St. Bernadette herself some form of lodging, vided for the poor wh to pray at the grotto ma