

Presidential Prayer Meet

Graham Urges U.S. To Turn to God

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Evangelist Billy Graham told a group of senators and congressmen here that he sometimes has a feeling that some of them "feel that there may be no way out, that perhaps we are now facing problems that seemingly are insoluble."

He made the observation at the President's Prayer Breakfast, marking the annual national Day of Prayer Oct. 22.

Some 80 senators and congressmen gathered here with President Nixon what is believed to be the first such prayer breakfast ever in the White House.

The President led his guests—regular participants in the weekly prayer meetings at the Capitol—in a silent Quaker prayer for God's guidance in directing the affairs of the nation.

In his remarks before introducing Mr. Graham, President Nixon called attention to an engraving over the fireplace in the state dining room where the breakfast was served.



Billy Graham

It reads: "I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this House and on all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof."

This prayer was written by the first President to occupy the White House, John Adams, and was carved into the marble over the fireplace when Franklin Roosevelt was President, Mr. Nixon said.

Mr. Graham said he believes there are four periods in American history when it seemed to some that there was no way out, but "we took the same route out of our problems each time," namely, turning to God.

The crises involved George Washington at Valley Forge, the Constitutional Convention, the Civil War, and the present "time of great confusion and frustration and crisis."

Lincoln, during the Civil War, "time after time turned to God, calling the cabinet to prayer, kneeling in prayer with a woman who came to visit him." Lincoln was "probably the most religious of all the Presidents," the evangelist said.

"I wonder," he continued, "if the fourth crisis is not the present crisis. I wonder if the time hasn't come (to pray for) the supernatural power of God that I believe has intervened in American history before."

"Everywhere I go in the world (people) are not looking for our gadgets and our technology so much as they are looking for that spiritual quality that makes up this country—our moral and spiritual strength."

"I think the greatest need in America at this moment is a spiritual renewal. How do you get a spiritual renewal... humility, prayer, turning to God by faith, repentance of our sins which are many... That is an irrevocable law from almighty God."

"I submit to you-men today (that) unless we turn (to God) as George Washington and Lincoln did in their hours of crisis, I must confess to you that I fear for the future of this country."

"Yes, we are in a crisis. Let's do what other men have done, let's turn to God," he urged.

"You men are helping lead the way by meeting in prayer. One of the most encouraging things that has happened in our generation has been the prayer groups in the House and the Senate. It is something we can tell people about, to say that people in Washington are praying."

Canonists Pinpoint Problems

Cleveland — (NC) — Rising dissatisfaction with practices ranging from the Holy See's closed-door handling of canon law reform to lack of local level co-responsibility was cited by the Canon Law Society of America at its 31st annual meeting.

Some 320 canonists representing the society's 1,200 members said they seek for priests' councils "a more effective contribution to the governing of the individual diocese."

One report urged abrogation of 17 laws remaining from the seven provincial and three plenary councils of Baltimore in the 19th century. They range from a parochial-school-in-every-parish order — "now neither attainable nor desirable"—to a prohibition against prelates becoming bankers. The other report urged "due process" procedures for priests through establishment of diocesan conciliation and arbitration boards.

The society, reaffirming action taken at its 1968 meeting in Boston, called on the NCCB "to urge all ordinaries to give most serious attention... to simplifying the process of dispensation from the obligations of the priesthood, and designed to safeguard the dignity of the men involved in resignations."

The society also recommended that a special ad hoc committee be appointed by the society to study "the growing interest and desire for a broader degree of participation in the selection of candidates for the episcopate throughout the Church in America."

Formation of another committee was resolved "to study the canonical implications of the exercise of academic freedom for all of those affiliated with Catholic educational institutions on all levels." This was cited as a "pressing problem."

Cardinal O'Boyle, Black Priests Concelebrate Mass

Washington — (NC) — Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle and eight black priests working in the Washington archdiocese concelebrated Mass at St. Peter's church, as the prelude to a five-week lecture and discussion series planned here on "Black Catholics and Black Awareness."

The series, sponsored by the archdiocesan office of urban affairs, was designed and planned entirely by black persons, including members of the Black Lay Caucus of the Washington archdiocese. The series is aimed at laymen living in 25 predominantly black parishes in the archdiocese.

Father Vernon Moore, a black Jesuit priest, preached the homily.

The purpose of the Black Catholics and Black Awareness series, according to a spokesman, will be to explore the historical evolution of the black man in the Catholic Church, to provide black Catholics with an opportunity to define and clarify problems which are unique for them because of their blackness and their Catholicity, and to help develop committed Christian leaders in the black community.

CRS Produces Film on Biafra

New York — (RNS) — A 13-minute film on conditions in Biafra has been produced by Catholic Relief Services and is available free of charge to schools and interested organizations.

The 16 mm. film, in color and with sound, is entitled "Suffer the Little Children." Non-political in content, it concentrates on the relief crisis brought about by the Nigeria-Biafran struggle and the combined efforts of Church agencies in Europe and North America to meet the needs of the Biafran people.

Requests for the film should be sent on an official letter-head and should list three alternative dates for showing. They should be addressed to: Catholic Relief Services, Office of Information, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001.

FIRST JEW IN CABINET

Ottawa — (RNS) — Herbert Gray, 38, of Windsor, Ont., named minister without portfolio but with special responsibility in finance, is the first Jew ever to hold a federal cabinet post in Canada.

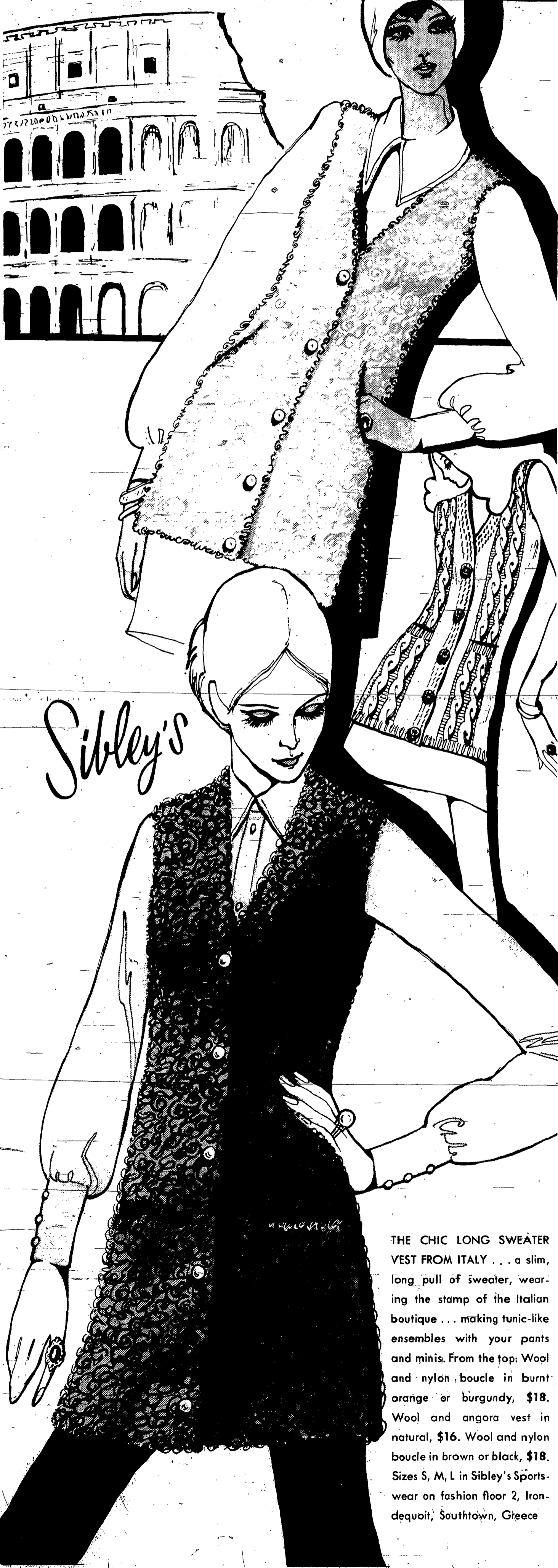
national origin.

"Affirm the right of every man, woman and child to a decent standard of living, as well as housing, and work diligently toward the effective elimination of poverty in the community."

Father Bogus received a call a few months later from the office of Rep. John Conyers, a black Congressman from Michigan, who had read of the resolutions in the Michigan Chronicle, a black newspaper.

Meanwhile, the Michigan Chronicle picked up and endorsed an editorial which had appeared in the Polish Daily newspaper. The editorial criticized the present system of electing councilmen in citywide elections, arguing that elections on a district basis would bring far more meaningful results for ethnic groups. Soon the two papers, having discovered areas of mutual concern, were regularly exchanging editorials.

ROMAN HOLIDAY



Sibley's

THE CHIC LONG SWEATER VEST FROM ITALY... a slim, long pull of sweater, wearing the stamp of the Italian boutique... making tunic-like ensembles with your pants and minis. From the top: Wool and nylon boucle in burnt orange or burgundy, \$18. Wool and angora vest in natural, \$16. Wool and nylon boucle in brown or black, \$18. Sizes S, M, L in Sibley's Sportswear on fashion floor 2, Iron-dequoit, Southtown, Greece

Sibley's Downtown open tuesday and thursday 'til 9 p.m. all Sibley suburban stores open monday thru friday 'til 9:30 p.m.



Jerry Koosman, star lefthander of the New York Mets, receives the 17 millionth copy of "Good News for Modern Man," best-selling modern language version of the New Testament, from Dr. James Z. Nettinga, left, of the American Bible Society. (RNS)

Their Other 'Bags'

Bob Hope Aids Missionary

Aurora, Ill. — (RNS) — Thanks to comedian Bob Hope, a diminutive lady flyer and over 10,000 "friends," a Catholic missionary in New Guinea will realize a 20-year-old dream.

After two decades of trudging the mountainous jungle trails of his South Pacific mission diocese of Kaviriga on the island of New Ireland, Father Anthony Gendusa, M.S.C., will have an airplane for emergency and mercy flights, literally cutting days from ordinary island-to-island travel.

Last July Mrs. Jerrie Mock, star of the Jerrie Mock Air Show and holder of numerous awards and honors for her contributions to aviation, along with Bob Hope, pianist Ginny Fur, and Chicago radio personality Eddie Hubbard, responded to a plea from 10,000 friends of the American Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Aurora, Ill., some 20 miles west of Chicago.

The entertainers offered their talents to help raise funds for the plane.

Koosman Reveals New Pitch

New York — (RNS) — Jerry Koosman, star lefthander who pitched two victories for the New York Mets in the World Series, has expressed a desire to have interdenominational services for the team before Sunday games in 1970.

The pitcher, a Lutheran, made his suggestion as he was honored here by the American Bible Society.

Interdenominational, or even ecumenical, services for a baseball team might be a "first" in the sport. The Green Bay Packers, professional football team, have long had a practice of observing Sunday with a Bible-and-prayer service led by quarterback Bart Starr.

"The message of the Bible has been a source of strength and guidance to me many times," Koosman told the Bible Society. "Some of us would like, next season, to start the custom of an inter-denominational half-hour service, conducted by a visiting clergyman, in the motel on Sundays before games."

Poles, Blacks Trying to Prove a Point

Detroit — (NC) — Recently some 300 persons got together for a dinner and small talk at the Polish Century Club here. This conviviality was unusual in that only half the dinner guests were Poles. The others were blacks.

The event, sponsored by the Black-Polish Conference of Detroit, climaxed a year-long effort to prove that Negroes and Poles, reportedly two of the most mutually antagonistic ethnic groups in the nation, can get along smashing when they choose.

But the conference has a deeper purpose, according to Father Daniel Bogus, pastor of St. Theresa parish, who has been involved in the conference since its founding. He envisions the day when the two groups will combine their weight to "lift this city out of chaos."

Polish churches are in the black areas of the ghetto," Father Bogus said. "These are people who live to-

gether, who work together on the assembly line, who rub elbows together — there has been a relationship between them for years."

"Naturally there are problems that do occur," he continued. "We did want to bring out a greater openness of the Polish to the black community."

That desire led in April 1968, to a series of resolutions which were later adopted by the Polish Priests Conference of Detroit.

The resolutions, forming a virtual magna carta of civil rights, pledged the priests to:

- "Support and encourage freedom of opportunity for all persons in housing, education, employment, use of public facilities."

- "Maintain that parishes, schools, and neighborhoods shall be open to all persons of whatever color, race or