



**Cardinal Honored**

Governor-General and Mrs. Roland Michener of Canada chat with Paul-Émile Cardinal Leger, left, and TV actor Lorne Greene, right, after presenting "The Order of Canada" medals to them. The medals are awarded by the governor-general for

outstanding service to the country. Cardinal Leger is the former Archbishop of Montreal who resigns his prestigious see to become a missionary to lepers in West Africa. (Religious News Service)

**Supreme Court to Rule On 'Erotic' Mail Law**

Washington, D.C. — (RN) — The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to rule on the constitutionality of a 1967 law which allows individuals to halt the flow of "erotically arousing" advertisements to their homes by simply asking the Post Office to stop it.

The law was passed in a response to public protests that mail order houses were indiscriminately sending unwanted "pandering advertisements" for erotic material to households and their children.

Under this law, the person deciding that the mail is "erotically arousing or sexually provocative" to him, may inform the Post Office, who then instructs the advertiser to strike the complainant's name from the mailing list.

Failure to do this can lead to court action to enforce the order and eventual punishment for contempt of court.

Fourteen California companies, including some that specialize in mail-order sales of erotic material, attacked the law in a suit before a federal court in Los Angeles.

The companies complained that the law was vague and too broad, and that it violated a free speech right to distribute ideas through the mail.

Furthermore, they said, it cost \$5 to remove each name from the mailing list, and they had received thousands of names for removal after the law went into effect April 1968.

David A. Nelson, general counsel of the Post Office Department, admitted that the law was flexible in accepting the individual's own interpretation of "sexually provocative" material.

Referring to the few cases where the law has been abused, Nelson said some individuals have objected to routine advertisements. One instance involved a man in Ann Arbor, Mich. who objected to the flow of catalogues and other advertisements. He said he was aroused by the pictures of such wares as lingerie, bed sheets, pillows and girdles, and requested his name be removed from the mailing list.

Direct mail users who went to court last year after receiving their first postal warnings were denied an injunction at that time, and the law was ruled constitutional. Two judges said the individual's right to privacy outweighs the mailers' claim of free speech and press. A third judge said the law was no danger to the mailers' rights, so long as its safeguards were strictly enforced.

**Portugal May Revise Concordat**

Lisbon, Portugal — (NC) — The Portuguese government will agree to revise its concordat with the Holy See if the Church also is disposed to consider changes, newly re-elected Premier Marcello Caetano said in an interview here.

Caetano said that there are delicate problems involved in concordat revisions, particularly concerning the clause that makes divorce illegal after a church marriage ceremony, but possible if there has been only a civil wedding ceremony.

"If the Church is disposed to revise this or other points of the concordat, then the government will revise them with pleasure," Caetano said.

The majority of Portuguese are Catholics and at least baptized, but a large number of them do not practice their religion. The legal observers point out that the impossibility of divorce after a church marriage because of the present law and the concordat leads to many irregular unions and illegitimate children among Catholics who do not practice their religion.

Although Church and state are separate in Portugal their relations are regulated by the concordat of 1940. In 1910, after the revolution, a divorce law was passed so that Portuguese courts could dissolve Catholic marriages. The Church protested and the law resulted in grave moral and social conflicts.

In 1940, the Portuguese state found a solution which was acceptable to the Holy See. This was that marriages already contracted continued to be under the old laws, but that in the future, couples could choose between a civil marriage, with the right of divorce, or church marriage and renounce that possibility."

**Sweden May Restrict Displays of Pornography**

Stockholm, Sweden — (NC) — All window display of pornographic pictures and books will be forbidden in Sweden, according to a proposal by a state Commission on the Extreme Limits of Freedom of Expression that has been presented to the minister of justice.

According to the Stockholm daily, Svenska Dagbladet, the commissioner's principle was to give full freedom to those "who want to come into contact with advanced pornographic publications," while protecting those who do not want such contact or who should not have it. It's intent was especially to protect children and

young people from presentations of any kind of pornography. Penalties provided are fines or prison terms up to six months.

According to an investigation made recently by the National Board of Statistics, 45 per cent of the population think that pornography should be opposed. The government is now inclined to change its hitherto liberal standpoint on the matter.

The commission also proposed stronger legal protection against restrictions of religious freedom. It is, however, the rights of the individual that should be protected, not those of the Church, the commissioner said.

**LATIN AMERICA**

**Bolivia... Some Hope for the Future**

By CARLOS ANDRADE (NC News Service)

La Paz, Bolivia — It has been more than a month since Gen. Alfredo Ovando took over the reins of this country in a bloodless coup, and Catholic observers are now beginning to discern some of the trends of the new regime.

For one thing, the priests who have struggled in the past for social justice for miners feel that they are making some gains.

The government has promised now to guarantee full freedom for the labor unions in the mining towns and to relieve those union leaders who had been ousted for being troublemakers.

Missionary priests from Canada, and a dozen others since 1967 have been exposing the inhumane conditions in the tin mines. In March, 1968, as the priests' protests gained momentum, Clemente Cardinal Maurer of Sucre obtained from Gen. Rene Barrientos, then president, the agreement that the administration of the mines and social benefits would be improved for the miners.

The second point observers make is that, although the army took over from a civilian president, Luis Adolfo Siles, on Sept. 26 (Barrientos was killed in a helicopter accident in April), the regime relies heavily on civilian leaders.

The "revolutionary committee" assisting Gen. Ovando is a sort of cabinet has nine military men and nine civilians, among these several active Catholics. Among these is Alberto Bailey Gutierrez, minister of cultural affairs and until recently co-editor of the Catholic daily *Presencia*.

Under such ideologies, the government has thus far:

- Re-established in full operation the Bolivian Workers Central Union (COB), and the Mine Workers Federation (both can now bargain for improved conditions and wages).

- Abolished Barrientos' trade union code, which limited labor rights.

- Killed a "state security law" that had given past presidents wide powers of repression against "subversives".

- Ordered a troop pull-out from the tin mines, which were under military occupation since June, 1967, when guerrilla fighter Ernesto "Che" Guevara was active in the Bolivian jungles and miners were accused of aiding him.

- Started arrangements toward a wage increase.

- Suspended the petroleum laws under which foreign oil concerns operated large concessions in Bolivia.

**Paraguay Priests Expect Arrests**

Asuncion, Paraguay — (NC) — Church sources here expect more priests to be arrested or expelled, following the excommunication of government leaders responsible for the beating of several priests and religious who were protesting the expulsion of a Jesuit.

Father Francisco de Paula Oliva, S.J., a professor at Catholic University here and a youth moderator, was expelled (Oct. 22) after he joined student efforts to obtain the release of several youth leaders.

The excommunication decree, signed by Archbishop Anibal Mena Porta of Asuncion, was drafted along with a document of protest from his priests' council while police armed with machine guns blocked the doors of the chancery office across from the cathedral. The permanent committee of the Paraguayan Bishops' Conference also attended this meeting.

Comunidad — the national Catholic weekly now suppressed by the regime of Gen. Alfredo Stroessner — in its last issue for October had de-

nounced "the persecution of the Church in Paraguay" after citing police brutality against Catholic student groups and other organizations, the expulsion of Father Oliva and the beating of clergymen including a 73-year-old Jesuit, on Oct. 22.

"The barbarian acts reveal the true face of the Stroessner regime in relation to Church and religion," Comunidad added. "The regime seeks a submissive Church, and when they see that the Church stands up for the poor with evangelical independence and teaches them their rights and their claim to justice, these rulers throw away their Christian mask and angrily attack the ministers and the sacred signs of religion."

The paper was referring to the Oct. 22 procession around Christ the King church, in which police and Stroessner agents in civilian clothes desecrated the church and "the crucifix that led the Way of the Cross."

The weekly charged also that the Stroessner regime is trying "to follow the example of the military in Brazil, in the hope of making the Church harmless and submissive."

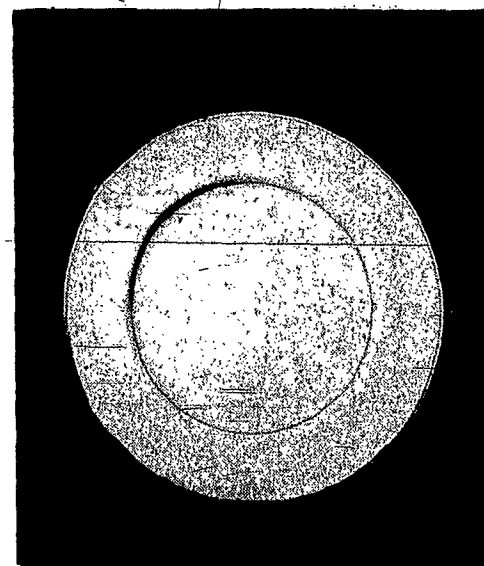
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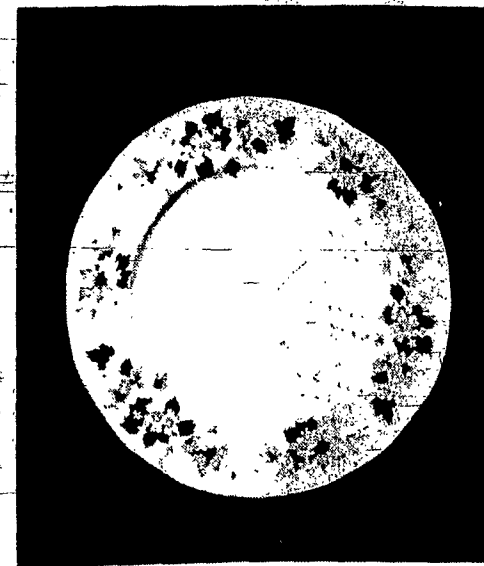
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Briarcliffe (Platinum Band)	\$14	9.34	\$56	37.34	\$112	74.67	\$168	\$112
Rosecrest (Floral Motif)	\$17	11.34	\$68	45.34	\$136	90.67	\$204	\$136
Oxford (Black Silk Screen)	\$20	13.34	\$80	53.34	\$160	106.67	\$240	\$160
Mt. Holyoke (Gold/Black Scroll)	\$23	15.34	\$92	61.34	\$184	122.67	\$276	\$184
Pembroke (Gold Band)	\$23	15.34	\$92	61.34	\$184	122.67	\$276	\$184



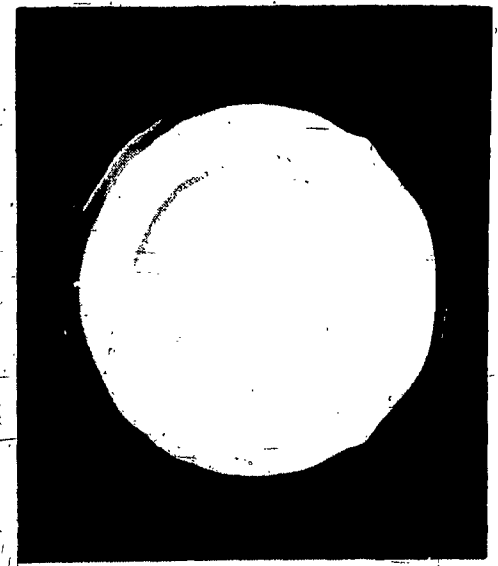
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