

First-Hand Report On Bishops' Meet

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priest said he had come to speak "not as a son to our fathers, but as brother to brothers."

"We priests are asking for a share not only in the implementing of programs for the good of the Church but in the decision-making for that Church," he stated.

Admitting that priest-representation in the episcopal levels of policy-making was a step toward the laity's participation in a future "National Pastoral Council," Father O'Malley claimed: "No approach to the problems facing the Church is valid unless the Church is united. That unity will be achieved only by openness and honest sharing and true charity."

Bishop Cletus O'Donnell of Madison, Wis., and Archbishop Philip Hannon of New Orleans, explained that a national council composed of bishops, priests and laymen had been clearly suggested in the documents of Vatican II and "would surely come in the United States" but that diocesan pastoral councils should become operative first.

On Tuesday morning a "task force" which had spent a year and a half investigating big city poverty, black Catholics' problems and the needs of Spanish-speaking Americans testified before the Bishops. They then split into seven regional meetings to discuss the information as it applied in their areas.

Father Don Clark of Detroit, head of the national Black Priests' Caucus, faced the press that noon to recount how he had urged the Bishops to

sponsor a "National Office for Black Catholics" to help relate the Church more effectively to the 800,000 black Catholics in this country.

"There are only 165 black priests and about 800 black Sisters in the whole country," he told the reporters. "We need an organization to encourage the aspiration of the black people in the Church, to train white Sisters and priests to work in black communities, to reach out to black Catholic collegians and stimulate black lay leaders."

That afternoon the Bishops unanimously approved the founding of the Black Catholic Office and promised Father Clark \$5,000 to conduct an election of a national directors' board to shape its future functions.

Father Geno Baroni of Washington explained to the press that his task-force presentation to the Bishops on poverty had asked for an "urban mission policy" beginning in each diocese. The individual Bishop had to provide leadership in developing "a moral response to the human needs of the poor," he claimed.

"The Bishops must reach the middle-class Catholics to get a commitment from them," he said. "There must be a new coalition of church officials, agencies and parishes producing a spiritual response that is informed, sensitive and well directed."

What the Bishops would do collectively after a summary of the regional meetings had shown the priorities for diocesan and national social work, had not been settled when it flew home Tuesday evening.

He Talked About God So Student's Sent Home

Fremont, Calif. — (RNS)—A high school student who was suspended from school briefly for talking about God during his lunch hour has been given legal assurance that he was "within his constitutional rights."

In a formal opinion to the Washington High School principal, Alameda County Counsel Richard Moore ruled that Steven Minden was not violating principles of separation of church and state when he discussed religion with classmates over lunch.

The suspension of the 18-year-old student had caused widespread controversy. Local newspapers and radio and television stations headlined the story, while various church groups and individuals rallied to his support.

The incident began when a faculty member overheard Steven "witnessing Christ" with several classmates on the school lawn. He reported the incident to the school principal.

The principal, Dr. Robert Callahan, had allegedly asked Steven, "Will you stop these discussions or do I have to suspend you?"

When Steven told the principal that he "couldn't honestly make such

a promise, since God is the most important thing" in his life, he was "sent home to discuss the matter with his parents." A school district spokesman emphasized that the boy was not "dismissed."

Dr. Callahan had explained to the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Asa J. Minden, that "the state's education code prohibits the teaching or instruction of any sectarian or denominational doctrine, directly or indirectly, on a public campus."

The parents and Steven were dissatisfied with the principal's opinion. Mrs. Minden said her son had been attending Assembly of God services all his life and feels strongly about "how God can help people in times of need." Steven insisted he was not "preaching" but merely "describing his experiences."

Moore's ruling held that the boy's discussion had not interfered with "normal class operations." Since other students were free to "walk off" if they did not wish to listen to him, Steven was entitled to the same freedom to "sermonize about God," if he wished, the counsel held.



Protests Conspiracy Trial

Dr. Benjamin Spock, noted pediatrician and anti-war leader, is framed by flags saying "Stop The Trial" as he addresses a rally at the Federal Building plaza in Chicago, protesting the trial of the "Chicago Eight," who are charged with conspiring to incite riots during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. (RNS)

Bishops Tackle Ills Facing Minorities

(Continued from Page 1)
ing, if not destroying, the effectiveness of authority in the Church."

Andrew Gallegos, co-chairman of the executive committee of the Urban Task Force, said 12 million Spanish-speaking Catholics live "in the shadows" of American Catholicism.

Gallegos' talk to the more than 200 prelates was given jointly with papers by Father Donald M. Clark, of Detroit, president of the Black Clergy Caucus, and Father Geno Baroni, of Washington, Task Force co-chairman.

Their presentations formed the main progress report of the Task Force, established by the bishops in April, 1968, in St. Louis, and criticized by John Cardinal Dearden, NCCB president, at the opening of the five-day session here as not living up to expectations so far. Gallegos is a field representative of President Nixon's Council on Youth Opportunity.

The problems which have surfaced in Task Force studies made so far have been so wide-ranging that the bishops divided themselves into 11 regional discussion groups to consider their implications for their largely urban Church.

"We have been discriminated (against) by our fellow Catholics," Gallegos said, "we have been excluded, clergy and laity alike, from positions of influence and leadership... from the episcopate, from the chanceries, and from national regional offices."

One step toward attaining a greater voice in national Church structures, he suggested at a press conference, would be to double the budget — of \$100,000 last year — of the Division for Spanish-speaking of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Father Baroni, who is executive director of the Office of Urban Affairs of the Washington archdiocese, said the need for developing an urban mission policy must have a "moral response" from Catholics.

Specifically, he suggested that the NCCB establish an annual collection for human development as a "concrete initiative in leading the nation to develop new priorities and new efforts in meeting human needs in our society."

The funds, he said, might be expended "mainly at a diocesan and regional level" for self-determination of "all our citizens."

More than 100 bishops attended a Mass for peace on Monday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, marking the 10th anniversary of the

State Bishops Speak Our 'Firm Intention' To Keep Catholic Schools

The bishops of New York declared this week their "firm and unqualified intention" to keep the Catholic schools open as long as possible.

They noted the "increasingly heavy burden" of expenses that the schools place on the people, but pointed optimistically to the concern lately shown by public officials and educators for the needs of pupils in non-public schools.

"We look for further and particular encouragement in the months ahead," the bishops said.

"Less and less do we hear it said that these institutions are somehow apart from society's concern," their statement continued, "and more and more do we hear the call for cooperation and side-by-side effort in meeting the educational needs of our future citizens."

The bishops' statement, prepared to mark American Education Week, was released by Ter-

ence Cardinal Cooke of New York.

The prelates said they were evaluating the role of Catholic education with a view to sharpening "its responsiveness to society's needs."

They urged Catholics to take a special interest also in the needs of public education, to "be aware of our community's needs and help in whatever way we as Christians can."

"As our Church seeks a new beginning in ecumenical relationships with people of different faiths, we now look for a similar spirit of growing unity in education," the statement said.

"Recognizing the freedom of conscience formed from religious beliefs differing from our own, we ask a similar recognition for the freedom of parents whose concern for their children urges them to seek an education befitting their moral and spiritual commitments."

Federal Court To Rule on NY Abortion Laws

New York — (NC) — A three-judge federal court will hear a challenge dealing with the constitutionality of the abortion laws of New York state.

The course of action was decided by Federal Judge Edward Weinfeld, who ruled that "one or more claims of constitutional infirmity" were involved in four separate suits attacking the constitutionality of the state laws.

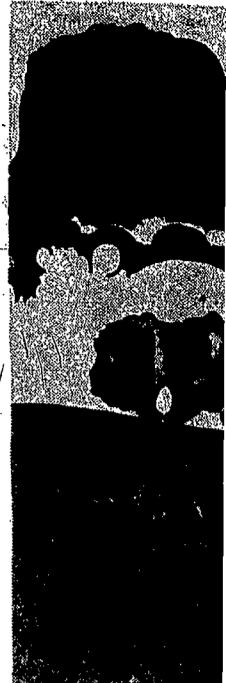
The suits were brought by physicians who practice obstetrics and gynecology; social workers, psychologists, married and unmarried women who are pregnant; victims of diseases, a minister and others.

The plaintiffs claimed the state laws were vague, invaded privacy, and denied due process and equal protection of the law. Attorneys for the state sought dismissal of the suits chiefly on the ground that they failed to raise a substantial constitutional question.

Judge Weinfeld held the challenge should be decided by a three-judge court. Chief Judge J. Lumbard of the U.S. Court of Appeals will name two judges to sit with Judge Weinfeld to decide.

POPE RECEIVES ENVOY

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI received in private audience (Nov. 10) U.S. Ambassador to France R. Sargent Shriver. The ambassador was accompanied by his wife and children.



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Catholic Church

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New Support

Newark, N.J. — ops of New Jersey pastoral letter su of sex education of the state.

The letter was Nov. 7 before be throughout the by Archbishop-T Newark, Bishop of Paterson, Bish of Trenton, Bish foyle of Camden, J. Dudick of the of Passaic.

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They Fought In the Bill

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Williamson ex and sells cars at cash.

"I never thoug in the Bible," h

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New Agency Formed to Fight Racism

Chicago — (RNS) — A major new ecumenical agency to combat racism, poverty and to promote world peace has been organized here by the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice (NCCIJ).

The unit, known as the John XXIII International Institute, will be formally launched at a testimonial dinner in New York City for Terence Cardinal Cooke on Nov. 26. Principal speaker will be Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.).

According to James T. Harris, NCCIJ executive director, the institute will have its headquarters here but will operate nationwide under the sponsorship of all major religious bodies.

The initial project, already planned, will be conducted in cooperation with Xavier University, New Orleans. It will provide a career development program to train minority group students for management positions in health, medicine, agriculture, social work, and international relations.

Other projects under consideration, said Harris, include training programs for professional religious workers, housing programs, and development of national projects supporting ecumenical work of the Pontifical Commission on World Peace and Justice.

Saturday Mass

St. Paul Minn. (RNS)—Catholics of the St. Paul-Minneapolis archdiocese will be able to fulfill their Sunday Mass obligation on Saturdays, beginning Nov. 29.

Under permission granted by Coadjutor Leo C. Byrne, the Saturday Masses may not begin before 4 p.m. nor after 9 p.m.

More than a score of the 156 dioceses and archdioceses in the U.S. have given permission to parishes for the longer Saturday Sunday worship period.

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