

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

Project Equality Grows

Eighteen religious bodies in Illinois have committed their multi-million-dollar purchasing power to a national, ecumenical program designed to end discrimination in employment.

Project Equality (PE), sponsored by the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, now has more than 350 religious bodies in the program. Their combined purchasing power is estimated at \$4 billion.

The new Illinois project will serve the largest population among the nation's 20 PE units. Under this program, Illinois business firms dealing with participating religious groups will eventually be listed in a national buyer's guide.

Listing requires a firm to pledge to hire and promote without discrimination, file a report detailing number of its minority group employees and their job classifications, and to undergo periodic reviews by PE representatives.

Priest Challenges Vote Law

A Washington, D.C., priest has challenged the Maryland Constitution's ban on clergy in the legislature by filing as a candidate for the House of Delegates.

Father Joseph M. O'Connell, 34, formerly assistant to St. Mary Mother of God Parish, Washington, but now on "leave of absence" and residing in suburban Chillum, said he is aware of the constitutional ban on clergymen but decided to run anyway as a delegate from Prince George's County.

The priest was delayed temporarily from registering as a candidate when his voting record was found to be in error, but he said the discrepancy would be corrected when he brought in proof of three years residency in the county.

William Meyers, attorney for the county board of elections, said he will advise the board to reject Father O'Connell's attempt to file on constitutional grounds.

The proviso in the state constitution reads: "No minister or preacher of the gospel or of any religious creed or denomination... shall be eligible as senator or delegate..."

With Friends Like These...

For the first time in history, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia remained silent as Communist China's bid for membership in the United Nations was rejected for the 20th consecutive year.

The 126-nation General Assembly, after a 10-day debate, defeated a resolution advocating the expulsion of Nationalist China and the admission of the Communists. The vote was 58 to 48, with 21 abstentions.

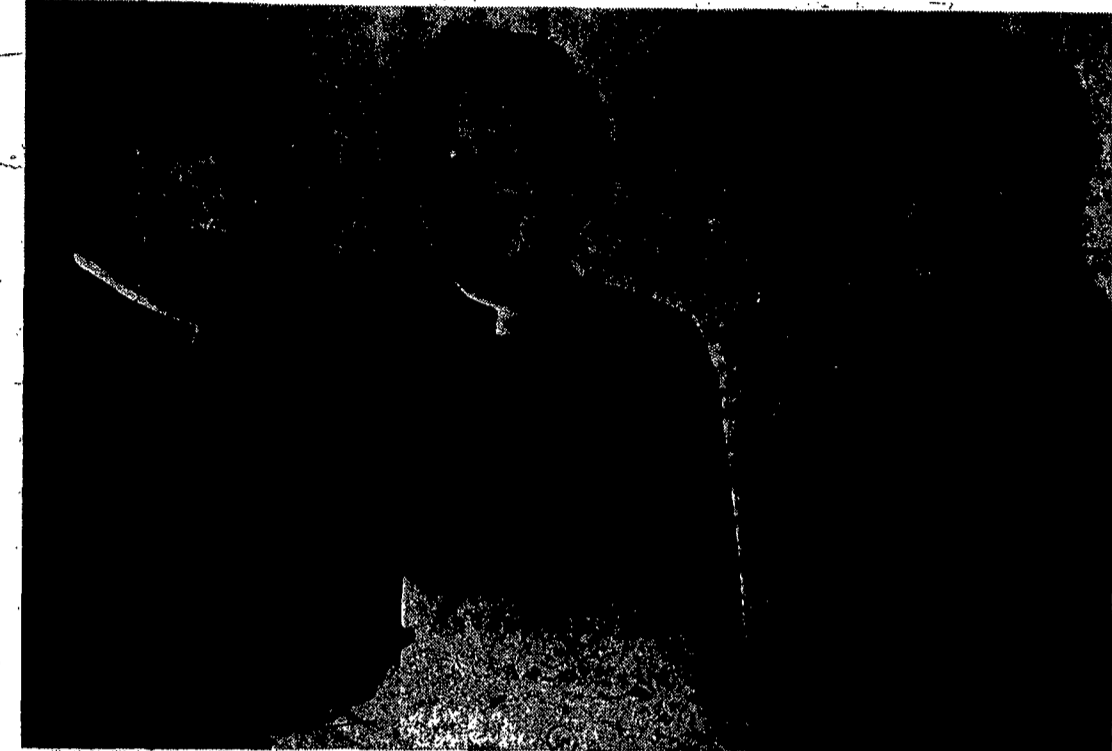
Among other Communist countries, Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland made only prefatory statements in favor of "universality" without praising Communist China and always linking the question of East Germany with the China admission issue. Only Romania and Albania advocated admission of Red China.

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COURTESY PARKING IN REAR



Spellman Award Presented

Father Richard A. McCormick, S.J., right, is shown as he received the 1969 Cardinal Spellman Award in theology from Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York. Looking on at the ceremony in Washington is Father Charles Curran, president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. The society presents the award annually for contributions to theological study. Father McCormick is a faculty member of the Bellarmine School of Theology, East Aurora, Ill., and an editor of America magazine. (Religious News Service)

Catholic Aide Backs Social Legislation

Washington —(NC)— The director of the department of social development, U.S. Catholic Conference, has made recommendations to the Congress designed to buttress the family assistance plan, health insurance, old age pensions and other social security legislation now pending.

John E. Cosgrove, director of the USCC department, testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee (Nov. 21), said the pending legislation was a thrust in the right direction, but suggested that a number of features be enlarged.

During his testimony Cosgrove was flanked by Msgr. Harold A. Murray, director of the USCC department of health affairs, and Father Charles Burns, associate executive secretary of the National Urban Task Force, USCC.

The pending legislation was drafted to carry out a program of aid to the poor and other social security betterment outlined by President Nixon last August.

Regarding the family assistance plan embodied in one measure, Cosgrove said the plan to provide a basic annual payment of \$1,600 a year for a family of four "is far too low."

"The government has defined poverty; it has provided a Congressional declaration that the nation has a responsibility to meet the problem of inadequate income; yet it has proposed a minimum federal benefit amount, which

fails to reach 50 per cent of the most modest definition of the need. At minimum, where the family head does not work, this is almost literally, a 'half measure,'" Cosgrove said.

Cosgrove commended the job training program proposals, but stressed that employment is a relevant answer to poverty only if one is not too young or too old, too incapacitated, and if one can find a job with "truly adequate pay."

He suggested that the federal minimum wage be raised to \$2 an hour, and extended to cover more workers. He said: "Millions of Americans could be raised from poverty by this action alone. A wage of \$80 for a 40-hour week is minimal at this point in history."

Georgetown Names Woman Officer

Washington —(NC)— Dr. Patricia Rueckel has been named by Georgetown University as vice president for student development, which is believed to be the highest post ever held by a woman at a Jesuit institution of higher learning.

Archbishop Hits Protests Which Ignore Rights

Milwaukee —(RS)— Archbishop William E. Cousins of Milwaukee holds that priests, nuns and others have the right to protest conditions that violate Christ's teaching of brotherly love but they "cannot in justice promote the rights of some by disregarding the rights of others."

In a pastoral letter which he asked priests to read at all Masses on Nov. 9, the Roman Catholic prelate said that such protest "can be justly criticized by Catholics and non-Catholics alike, if it becomes irresponsible... and consequently detrimental to the very cause we should be advancing."

Archbishop Cousins did not mention Father James E. Groppi by name. However, he apparently referred to the priest and in general, to the recent protests over cuts in the state welfare budget, actions which led to disruption of the state legislature by demonstrators and damage to the interior of the Assembly chamber in Madison.

"Some are disturbed by embarrassing publicity given to episodes in which members of the Church are involved. Unfortunately it is true that a few dissidents creating a dis-

turbance attract wide attention, while countless thousands of our Catholics spending time, energy, and funds in promoting world peace or relieving poverty can go almost unnoticed," Archbishop Cousins said.

"Let us emphasize, however, that when people invoke this right of dissent, they must also accept certain definite obligations," the archbishop continued. "They cannot in justice promote the rights of some by disregarding the rights of others. They cannot in justice, flout laws enacted for the welfare and safety of the community as a whole."

Fr. Groppi Replies

Milwaukee — (NC) — The pastoral letter written by Archbishop William E. Cousins and read at Sunday Masses in the archdiocese met with vigorous response from Father James E. Groppi, militant civil rights leader.

Father Groppi, at St. Boniface parish, responded to the letter, point by point, in the pulpit.

"I refuse to obey that order," he said. "The letter con-

cerns you; and I think it concerns me. This amounts to a 'law and order' sermon, and I wish the archbishop had issued a letter like this concerning the poor before our welfare demonstrations," he said.

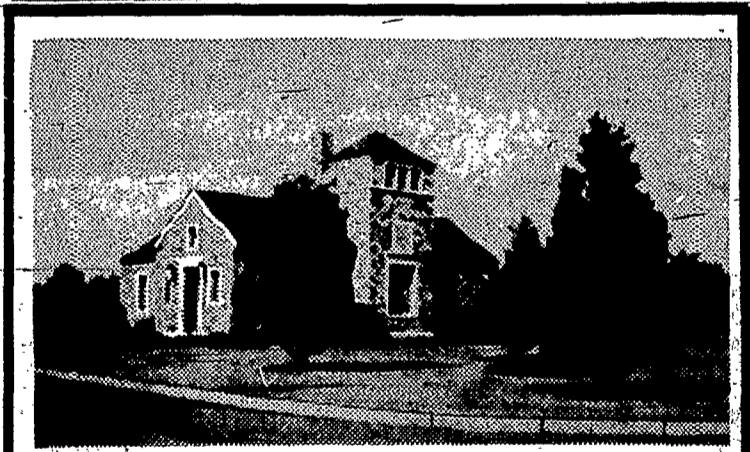
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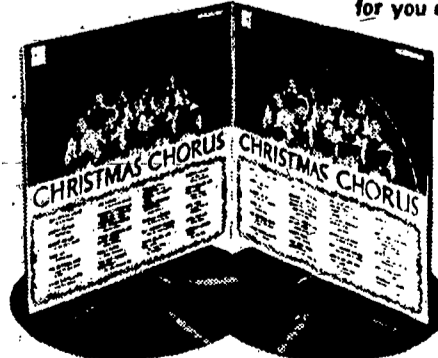
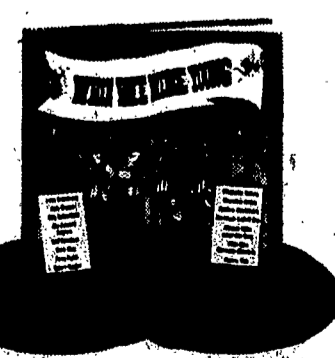
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