

French Bishops Change Public School Position

Lourdes, France — (NC) — The French bishops have abandoned their long-standing opposition to the attendance of Catholic children at public schools and have issued a statement recognizing parents' freedom of choice.

Since the last century the political life of this country has been marked by struggles between the supporters of secular public education and the supporters of private religious education.

For several years, this freedom of choice for parents has been recognized in fact. But in certain regions where religious practice is strong, Catholics sending their children to the public school were still objects of discrimination on the part of the clergy.

Now the bishops have stat-

ed clearly: "By the choice of one school or another, parents bring into play their responsibility as Christians. Made in good conscience, this choice is legitimate and worthy of respect."

After noting the importance of the present evolution in education, it states: "The presence of those who are baptized in public schools is a risk and an opportunity for their faith. It makes more urgent the concern for their Christian education and the need for concrete conditions that make such education possible."

It stresses the importance of public school chaplains, who "have to carry on their research in respect for the University, with attention to the appeals of parents and the gifts of the young, in submis-

ion to reality and in fidelity to the Church."

It continues: "The Catholic school does not seek to be, and must not be, either the rival of the other school or a sanctuary for behavior problems. Its original contribution is to link at the same time and in the same act the acquisition of knowledge concerning the world and the meaning of existence."

The bishops' statement also asks that lay persons be given a share in responsibilities of all kinds in the organization of Catholic education.



CATHOLIC U PREXY

Dr. Clarence Walton has been installed as president of the Catholic University of America, becoming the first lay administrator to head the Washington, D.C. university in its 62-year history.

Weeklies Hit Charges

Low Alcindor Taken to Task

New York — (NS) — Two Catholic newsweeklies here have criticized professional basketball's prize rookie Lew Alcindor, charging that his complaints of exploitation and abuse were printed in a leading sports publication "at the expense of truth and reputations."

Both the Catholic News of New York and the Tablet of Brooklyn, in a joint editorial, reacted strongly to what they called Alcindor's "choice of motif of the alienated black boy exploited and abused by the establishment" as told in Sports Illustrated.

In the first installment the star athlete recalls that his coach at Power Memorial High School, Jack Donohue, once used the word "nigger" in an attempt to spur him to a better performance.

The 7-foot-2 star also intimated that the coach as well as school authorities attempted to separate him from the black community in the interest of self exploitation.

The joint editorial comparing Alcindor's school situation more to the "plight of the poor little rich boy," observed, "There is every evi-

dence that in his early years, and certainly when he entered Power Memorial High School, Lew Alcindor was respected and protected."

The editorial noted that it was "no simple task" to guide, protect, educate and coach such a prospect for stardom, but that four years later Lew emerged "not only as a polished athlete, but as an educated young man, recipient of a Regents Scholarship, having enjoyed a career which gave him national press coverage without invading the privacy of his personal life . . ."

"... We think it unfair, inaccurate and particularly adolescent for Alcindor, in the light of all that happened before and after, to cite the incident as indicative of racist influences during his high school days."

While at UCLA, Alcindor said, a book, Alex Haley's "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," changed his life. "I could see the whole transition of the black man and his history. And I developed my first interest in Islam."

Kindred Souls?

Lewisburg, Pa. — (NC) — Life in prison and in the seminary can be hard, but there are compensations. Coadjutor Bishop Joseph T. Daley of Harrisburg told inmates of the federal penitentiary here in a light-hearted talk.

"I think that you men feel you're very unfortunate being in an institution. I can sympathize with that. I was in an institution myself for about nine years. We called it a seminary. It was strict. We probably had more rules than you do here," the bishop recalled.

"But do you know, now that I'm on the outside, I sometimes wish I were back on the inside, because our society, as all of you know, is very disturbed. We have one big war in Vietnam. We have small wars in the Middle East and Biafra, border skirmishes between China and Russia. . . in here you're safe from that."

The banquet during which Bishop Daley spoke came at

the close of a three-day retreat conducted by Father Michael McLernon of Middletown. Some 400 prisoners, many staff members and 175 outside guests gathered for the meal.

Cleric to Oppose Fund Grant for Hispanic Group

El Paso, Texas — A campaign to block the granting of \$40,000 to a militant Spanish-American group claiming ownership of New Mexico land grants will be launched here by an Episcopal Church clergyman.

Dr. John W. Ellison said he hopes to block the grant to "Alianza," the New Mexico Spanish-American group headed by Reyes Lopez Tijerina. Tijerina asked the Episcopal Church for the grant from the denomination's funds to aid minorities.

Dr. Ellison, pastor of St. Clement Episcopal Church, said he attended an early November meeting in New York City of a screening and review committee of the Church's Executive Committee. It decided, he said, to recommend that "Alianza" be given \$40,000. Final action will be taken in December on the screening committee's recommendations, he told his congregation.

INDIA SEX EDUCATION

RHOPAL, India — (NC) — India has announced that a course in "population dynamics" will be included in the country's school curricula from the next academic year.

The course will be framed in such a way as to give students a basic sex education that might help in arresting population growth.



SOMEONE FOR THANKSGIVING

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

You'll be happier this Thanksgiving if you give something of yourself to someone who has nobody.

Giving belongs in Thanksgiving.

Attend Mass that morning in your parish church.

SOMEONE WHO HAS Take fifteen minutes to visit someone in the hospital.

NOBODY Have someone who eats alone join your family for turkey and all the trimmings.

Better yet, feed someone who needs food.

There are millions of people in the world who have hollow eyes and swollen stomachs because they have no food.

We don't see them because they're overseas.

We know they're there, however.

Can we ignore them, let them starve?

Your \$10 by itself will feed a family of refugees for a month.

\$100 will feed ten families.

\$975 will give a two-acre model farm to a parish in southern India, so that the priest can raise his own food and teach his people better crop production.

\$10,000 will enable Archbishop Mar Gregorios to give a churchless village a church, school, rectory and convent. Name the parish for your favorite saint, in memory of your loved ones. The Archbishop will write to you.

Giving belongs to Thanksgiving, it's part of life.

How much will you give back to God?

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND \$ _____

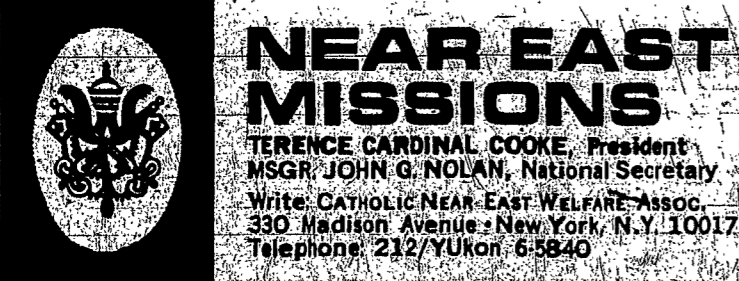
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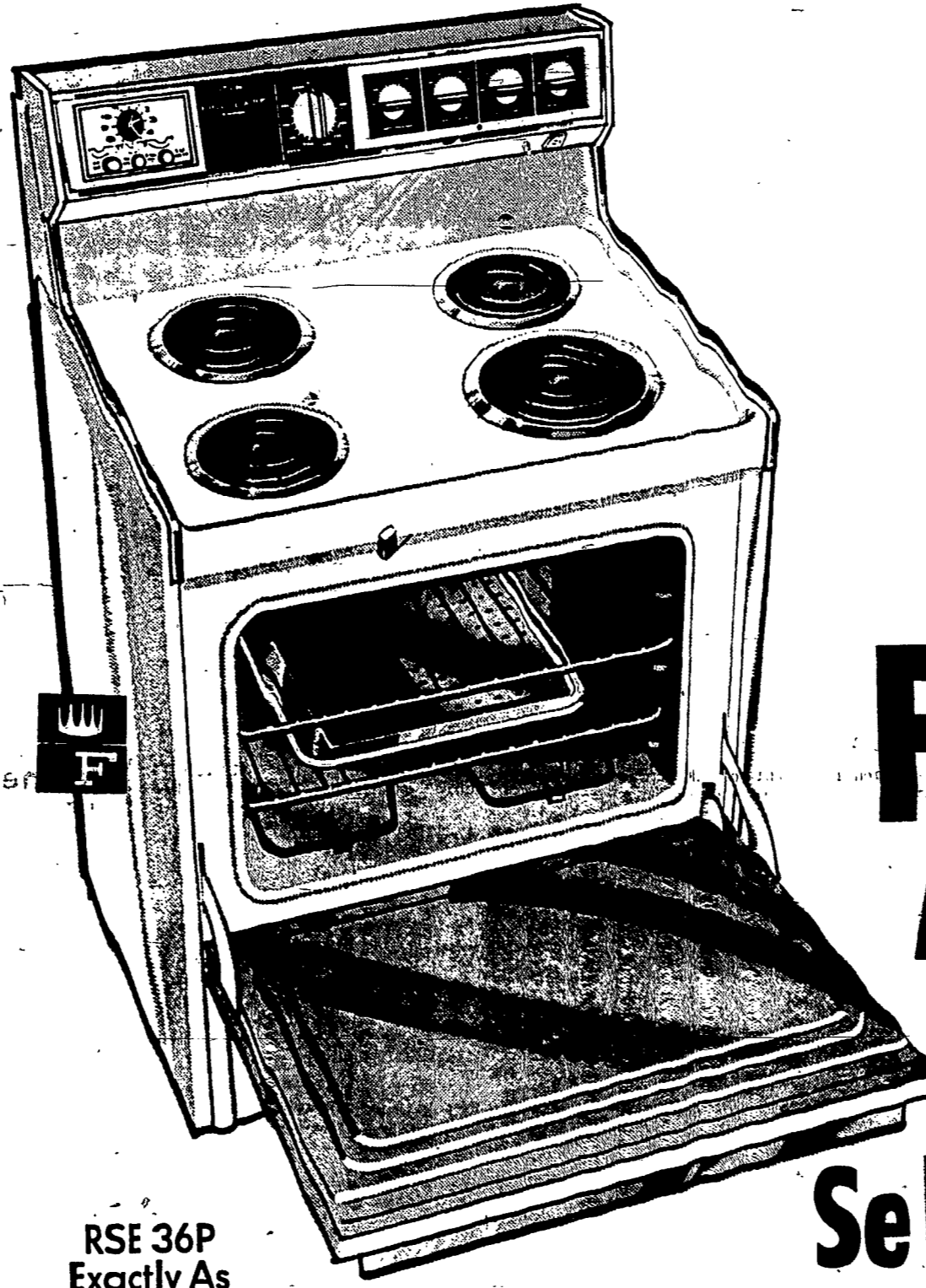
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