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By 7-6 Margin

U.S. Panel Shuns Civil Disobedience

Washington — (NC) — A narrow majority of the national violence commission turned thumbs down on massive forms of civil disobedience warning that the toleration of such protests might lead the nation into anarchy.

By a 7-to-6 margin, the commission concluded that the tactics of civil disobedience practiced on a grand scale even when nonviolent and done for laudable motives, produce an "erosion of the law" which threatens the future stability of the country.

But a six-member minority, including Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York, while condemning violent or coercive tactics in civil disobedience, refused to go along with the broader indictment issued by their commission colleagues.

Cardinal Cooke said civil disobedience can be justified as a last resort when a civil law is seen as clearly in conflict with a higher law.

Commission chairman Milton B. Eisenhower, who also sided with the minority, stressed in a statement to newsmen that all commission members were united in their opposition to violence. The split in the commission came "solely on the question of nonviolent, noncoercive disobedience to law," Dr. Eisenhower stated.

The seven-member commission majority urged that laws deemed unjust by some persons be tested only by small, symbolic groups or by individuals and that all other persons abide by them until they are declared unconstitutional.

"For several years," the majority statement said, "our youth have been exposed to dramatic demonstrations of disdain for law by persons from whom exemplary conduct was to be expected."

The only two Negro members of the commission were both with the minority, and issued sharply worded

(Continued on Page 9)

Catholic Doctors Resolve to Fight Abortion

Denver — (NC) — The National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds at its annual meeting here unanimously approved a resolution opposing any action by the American Medical Association, or other organizations, which would approve the principle of abortion on demand.

The Catholic physicians' conclusion was preceded by these reasons:

- "When a physician assumes the care of a pregnant woman he incurs a responsibility to two patients, both mother and unborn baby."

- "The discipline of medicine is ordered to the preservation of life and not its destruction."

- "A patient has a right to expect that a physician, as a professional man will make his decision on the best possible medical judgment, and does not allow his judgments to be made on the basis of social and economic pressures or mere human convenience."

- "Any other type of judgment would reduce the professional man to a mere technician and potential instrument of third parties."

ON THE INSIDE

Commentary	17
Diocean	7
Editorial	6
Entertainment	12
Sports	14
News Review	5
Youth	9

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The Birds

Feeding the pigeons in Venice's St. Mark's Square is an overpowering experience, long a favorite with tourists. But the pigeons are no favorites with those trying to preserve the beauties of Venice for the birds' droppings have contributed greatly to the defacing of the city's bridges, canals, historic buildings and priceless statues. Venetian authorities are considering controlling the birds' population by introducing small birth control pills into grain fed to them. (Religious News Service)

Two Bills Planned on Parochial Aid

Albany — A Republican state senator and a Democratic assemblyman have introduced separate measures for consideration by the 1970 legislature that would provide financial aid to parents of children attending non-public schools, ranging from \$100 under a bill proposed by Sen. Edward L. Speno to \$300 under a measure offered by Assemblyman Albert J. Hausbeck.

Both proposals were prefiled and will come up for consideration by the 1970 legislature, which is certain to consider a way to provide some assistance to the financially-distressed parochial schools.

Speno, prominent Nassau County Republican and a declared candidate for the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Charles E. Goodell, proposed the \$100 payment be made by the state to parents for each child attending parochial or other private schools in Grades 7 through 12 in New York State.

Hausbeck said his plan would utilize a complicated "voucher" system to provide \$300 per student in statements to non-public schools. He said it would take effect next September as a "stop-gap measure" until repeal of the Blaine Amendment, the controversial Article 11, Section 3.

Speno said he had devised his "school expense payment" plan on the theory it would be less expensive to provide limited assistance to keep non-public schools running than to absorb their pupils into the public school system.

He had sponsored the law that requires school districts to provide free textbooks to private school children in the same grades and he observed that the law had been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Speno said that an estimated 330,000 children would be eligible for the payments, thus the annual cost to the State would be about \$33 million.

Hausbeck said his plan would cost an estimated \$75 million.

By JOHN NOVOTNEY
Special Correspondent

Washington, D.C. — The President and Congress were urged to meet a "national emergency of hunger and malnutrition" with "emergency action" by the eight task forces of the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health meeting here.

Some of the best minds in the country in the fields of food, nutrition and health were invited to discuss and advise on the problems of the hungry and undernourished in this country, variously estimated at from 10 million to 25 million.

Probably never has the problem been looked at so seriously and from every conceivable angle by such a battery of experts, national leaders and representatives of the nation's hungry.

Before the conference concluded, it became apparent there were groups committed to action "now" while others were concerned with long-range and continuing programs to alleviate hunger and malnutrition. There seemed to be a unanimous sense of concern for the plight of suffering fellow citizens.

Purpose of the conclave, only the third such convened to deal with this general problem in the nation's history, was to advise the President on how best to end hunger and malnutrition among the poor.

At the closing session, conference participants accepted a "task force action statement," drawn up by representatives of the task forces and containing a listing and elaboration of five "priorities" in order of urgency:

- Declaration of a national hunger emergency.
- Government-guaranteed adequate cash income.
- Interim food program extension to all poor people.
- Universal free school food programs for hunger relief.
- The religious unit sent a telegram to President Nixon:

"We, the Religious Action Task Force of the White House Conference on Hunger and Malnutrition, earnestly request that you take all possible executive action for your immediate implementation of the responsibility you claim for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition in America. We feel that this is a national responsibility to put promises into action. We therefore, ask that you take action now by declaring a state of national emergency."

The President told the conferees he recognized the enormity of pressure they are under to accomplish their goals but he added that "the pressure reflects the priority of the subject we are now here to discuss. It reflects the sense of urgency we all feel."

He said the moment is past when Americans can question the need for action. "Speaking for the administration, I not only accept the responsibility — I claim the responsibility."

"Malnutrition is a national concern," he continued, "because we are a nation that cares about its people, how they feel, how they live . . ."

Turning to his legislative proposals to alleviate hunger, the President said he has asked \$5 billion for "new and expanded programs for food and family assistance" that would considerably bring the problem under control.

Catholic Press Features

New York — If you still think Bingo has a monopoly on "religious games," you should go directly to jail, and not collect \$200.

In recent years, an increasing number of board games, for adults as well as for children, have been created with titles like "Journeys of St. Paul," "Ten Commandments," "Bible Bowling," "Year of the Lord."

These games, non-denominational in content, have come on the heels of two specifically Catholic games, "Merit" and "Catechism."

All of the games have one thing in common: to provide some unusual recreating while offering a bonus prize: more knowledge of religious events, characters and beliefs.

"Journeys of St. Paul," for instance, gives the players an appreciation of the great amount of territory covered by St. Paul in his travels from Damascus, where he was converted to Christianity, to Rome, where he was beheaded.

The board for this game is a map of the Mediterranean area, and the object of the game is to be the first to move little figurines representing St. Paul and his friends, St. Titus and St. Timothy, along a winding route, with progress being determined by a toss of a pair of dice.

Along the way, players must pick up a number of cards on which are printed Paul's various epistles, giving the players an understanding of where St. Paul was when he wrote his First Epistle to Timothy, for instance, or his Epistle to the Colossians.

The cards not only refresh the players' memory about the epistles' content, but the game also comes with a 14-page detailed documentary on St. Paul's life and travels.

"Year of the Lord" is similar in format, with the playing board being a calendar featuring the various holy

N.Y. Bishops Urge: End Resentment, Help Impoverished

Excerpts from Bishops' pastoral on Page 6.

New York State's Catholic Bishops, expressing concern over the "growing bitterness and resentment" against the poor, appealed in a pastoral letter read on Dec. 7 in all churches in the state "for support of legislation and public and voluntary programs directed at alleviation of the miseries of the poor."

"This year will be particularly difficult for many of our aged, sick, dependent mothers and children," the Bishops noted, "for our state passed legislation with broad public support that increased the hardship of many poor people. Admittedly the state is experiencing serious fiscal problems in meeting the many demands for service. Nevertheless, the decision to make the poor suffer the cost of a balanced budget seems both unjust and insensitive."

The pastoral letter, delivered at the beginning of Advent, a season that prepares the church for Christmas said,

"We call the attention of the faithful to the needs of the poor during this holy season because the very birth of Christ, his life and teachings call us to make real our spirit of

poverty and our love for our brothers in need."

The Bishops' pastoral letter urging support of efforts and legislation that would improve the lot of the poor comes at a time when both national and state leaders are reviewing welfare programs. Gov. Rockefeller has endorsed a recommendation of the State Board of Social Welfare and the State Department of Social Services providing a 10 to 25 per cent increase in 1970 in public assistance payments, reflecting the rise in cost of living, and establishing public assistance payments on a statewide basis.

The broad welfare reform proposals of President Nixon have been shelved by the House Ways and Means Committee. The decision postpones until next year any federal changes envisioned by the Nixon Reform Plan.

The bishops said: "We Americans are confronted by an enigma—an affluent society has within its very midst shocking poverty. It is not only the existence of 30 million poor people that astounds us, but the growing bitterness and resentment of their presence among us."

"We tend to engage in invectives about the poor and the maligning of their moral character. The dependence of the poor is becoming a source of divisiveness rather than an opportunity for working together to remedy the fundamental causes of poverty and to find, in sharing, the meaning of our brotherhood."

Holding that "it is unlikely that we shall eliminate totally the incidence of poverty," they said, "it is the duty of the whole people of God to alleviate as far as they are able the sufferings of the modern age."

"This duty," they said, "will demand sacrifice. Our love will cost us something. Christian charity truly extends to all without distinction of race, creed or social condition; it looks for neither gain nor gratitude."

The bishops urged all "to become personally involved in knowing, loving and assisting the needy."

Courier Next Week: An Appeal for Needy

Poverty, hunger and loneliness never seem more poignant than at Christmas time.

Last year at this time the Courier-Journal printed some vignette accounts from charitable agencies in the diocese noting particular examples of family, adult or child misfortune and heartbreak, with identities disguised. Most appeals are statistical and impersonal; these provided an opportunity for direct personal Christmas charity.

We will again print a number of such stories in our issue of Dec. 19. Many readers last year responded by contributing to or contacting the particular agency; many more may be inclined this year to do so. Watch for these appeals next week and send off a gift before Christmas week.

Yule Idea: Games with an Edge

days and seasons of the Christian year, with players picking up some information on church seasons and saints as they go along the church year: from Advent to Pentecost.

"Ten Commandments" comes with a board map of the Holy Land, and the object is to collect all of the ten commandments, in card form, by performing certain "Good Samaritan" acts.

In "Bible Bowling," players roll marbles down a miniature bowling alley. Depending on what hole the marble lands in, a card is selected by the bowler, who must answer a Biblical question to score points. For instance: "For six pints on your first ball, who is Barabbas?"

Such games have come in for criticism for fostering the notion that religion might be regarded as mere child's play, not to mention the use of dice.

But the games have been defended by their creators as a harmless and effective way to encourage an interest in religious topics among young children and to teach them a few religion lessons as well.

Besides, comments the marketing director of the firm that manufactures "Journeys of St. Paul" and "Year of the Lord," "Religion is in such a state that people will welcome anything to get back to the Bible."

the music bag

The Courier-Journal this week begins a new series about current hit songs. Each week, "The Mission," a pop recording combo, will discuss the content and any underlying message of a leading song. The words of the song will be printed separately. For this week's song, "Everybody's Talkin'," turn to Page 9.

Another new feature, "Hometown Cookery," will begin next week. The Courier-Journal will print recipes from various parish cookbooks. If your parish has printed a cookbook, to aid a worthy cause send it to the Courier-Journal and we will print a recipe from it and help promote the cause.

