

# THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

## Italy Abolishes Adultery Penalty

Italy's highest court, in a sweeping decision, removed all criminal penalties for marital infidelity, leaving it a purely civil offense constituting grounds for legal separation.

The Constitutional Court, in a follow-up move to a decision a year ago which ruled that a wife could not be jailed for one adulterous act, removed both penal code provisions on adultery, which treated men and women differently.

It declared the unequal penalties violated constitutional guarantees and thereby invalidated the provisions that allowed a woman to be imprisoned up to two years while a man might receive a similar sentence only if he kept "a concubine in the conjugal home or notoriously elsewhere."

## Adventists Back Sex Education

Eighty-five per cent of Seventh-day Adventist families responding to a questionnaire believe that home and family-life education should be taught in their denominational schools.

But 95 per cent of the respondents believe that the schools should not be solely responsible for sex education, the role of parents being recognized as equally important.

A committee prepared and distributed the questionnaire to a cross section of members. Replies were received from 1,243 persons.

Some 83 per cent agreed that sex education should be a part of, and correlated with, such courses as health, science, social studies, physical education. Twenty-eight per cent felt only medical personnel should teach the subject, while 65 per cent did not feel that was necessary.

The committee recommended that the denomination develop programs to suit the needs of all grades, kindergarten through grade 12.

## Push End to Biafran War

The Catholic bishops of Canada joined the Canadian Council of Churches in a statement calling on the Canadian government to act to hasten a peaceful settlement of the Nigerian-Biafra war.

The Catholic organization also repeated its "vigorous protest" to all governments providing or permitting the sale or transfer of arms to either side.

The bishops, meeting at their semi-annual conference in Ottawa, called upon the United Nations and the Organization for African Unity, as well as other concerned governments and international agencies, to work for a just and durable settlement.

## Biafra Mercy Flights Top 5,000

Officials of Church World Service expect the number of Biafran relief flights by Joint Church Aid to reach 5,000 by New Year's. The international agency began flights in April 1968.

Eleven planes of Joint Church Aid have recently been delivering more than 200 tons of relief supplies each night. Officials of Church World Service warn, however, that a minimum of 500 tons is needed to check the death rate from starvation, estimated at 2,000-6,000 daily.

The volunteer crews of the "mercy air bridge" have delivered more than 50,000 tons of relief supplies since the airlift began 19 months ago. Three planes and two flight crews have been lost in the operation.

## Fulbright, Hatfield Lauded

Two U.S. senators—J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) and Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.)—have been awarded the Salvation Army Association's 1969 Citation of Merit.

At an annual luncheon in New York, Commissioner J. Clyde Cox, Eastern Territorial Commander, made the presentation to Sen. Fulbright. Sen. Hatfield was unable to attend.

In the citation, Sen. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, was praised for his devotion "to his native state, nation and God by courageous and forward-looking actions that would enable all in need of spiritual, cultural, and material uplift to have broader horizons."

Sen. Hatfield was cited for his "concerned compassion for all in human need" and for his "dedication to a deep-rooted faith that compels him to bring Christian truth to bear on political and social problems."

## Legalized Firewater Promoted

A Navajo leader charged that religious spokesmen err when they oppose legalization of liquor sales on the Navajo Reservation.

Howard German, a Navajo Council member, charged that those opposing legal liquor sales "are the present tribal administration, the missionaries and the bootleggers."

German advocated tribal operation and control of liquor stores on the reservation.

Speaking at the Navajo Community Center in Many Farms, Ariz., he noted that alcoholism is a major problem among Navajos and that liquor is involved in a majority of car accidents on the reservation. At present Navajos must drive off the reservation to such bordering communities as Gallup, N.M., to purchase liquor, and these distances increase the accident rate, he said.

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## BRITAIN

### Abortion Probe Sought BBC Program Assailed

London (NC) — A motion signed by more than 100 members of Parliament of all parties has been introduced into the House of Commons calling for an independent inquiry into the working of the Abortion Act.

Its sponsor is Norman St. John-Stevens, Conservative member for Chelmsford and the leading Catholic M.P.

The motion reads: "That this House noting the deep and widespread public anxiety over the working of the Abortion Act of 1967 calls upon the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Social Services to set up a committee to carry out an independent and impartial inquiry."

St. John-Stevens commented: "The Commons has been quick to react to the demand of the public, shown in last week's Gallup Poll, that the Abortion Law should be reformed so as to stop abuses and ensure that abortion is not obtained on demand, but only for special reasons."

Motherwell, Scotland — The British Broadcasting Corporation's radio and television sex instruction courses for children between the ages of eight and ten have been banned from the schools of Motherwell diocese by Bishop Francis Thomson.

He gave this directive after consulting parents, teachers and priests who had seen the programs.

Bishop Thomson, who is chairman of the Scottish bishops' committee on health education, said that the programs appeared to ignore the most important aim of sex education: to formulate correct attitudes to love, sex and marriage.

The Scottish bishops, he added, are well aware that parents needed guidance and have set up a committee to make recommendations regarding methods of cooperation between parents, teachers, clergy, doctors, health visitors and marriage counselors.



### Elected by Paulists

Father Thomas F. Stransky, American expert on Christian unity, has been elected president of the Paulist Fathers in the United States. He will assume direct leadership of the 250-member society, which was founded in 1858, at the June 1970 general assembly in New York City. A native of Milwaukee, the 39-year-old member of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity becomes youngest priest to head the society since its founder, Father Isaac Hecker, C.S.P., founded the order at age 38.

### Human Life Foundation Opens Offices

Washington (NC) — The Human Life Foundation, created to sponsor research in the area of human reproduction, opened offices here, with Lawrence J. Kane, former assistant to the president of Brandeis University as executive director.

The nonsectarian foundation, which was created by

an initial grant of \$800,000 from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, will conduct fund raising programs to broaden its base of support for research.

"In addition to exploring the medical implication of human fertility control, the foundation is interested in the implications of human

fertility control in relation to social and economic pressures upon family life and in relation to demographic problems," he stated.

A primary goal of the foundation will be "to determine simple and accurate methods of fertility control through the use of rhythm."

This 13-foot Christmas tree, designed by Terence Cardinal Cooke, is the focal point of a display of yule decorations which went on exhibit at the Hallmark Gallery in New York. (RNS)

## Celebrities Help Decorate N.Y. Christmas Exhibit

New York (RNS) — A 13-foot Christmas tree, decorated with small framed photographs of children from various ethnic backgrounds, is the focal point of a display of yuletide decorations which went on exhibit here.

Designed by Terence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York, the tree is one of 18 decorated to the specifications of famous personalities in religion, entertainment, politics, sports, music, literature, fashion and the arts.

The exhibition will be on view through Jan. 3 at the Hallmark Gallery here.

Personalities who contributed to the Hallmark greeting card firm's display included:

Actor David McCallum: tree carrying ornaments made by retarded children of "everyday" materials—paper, yarn, egg boxes, milk cartons, tinfoil, all gaily printed.

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm of Brooklyn: a tree decorated with costume dolls of all races and nations and paper chains carrying the words "peace . . . harmony . . . love . . . brotherhood."

Jets quarterback Joe Namath—a three-foot tree decorated with lipsticks.

Dame Judith Anderson—An English garden theme with the tall tree completely filled with fruits and vegetables.

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