



The Cardinal Has A Party

Terence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York, and Santa Claus share center stage at the Cardinal's annual Christmas party for the youngsters at New York Foundling Hospital. Proceeds from the party go toward buying gifts for the children and financing the youngsters' care. (RNS)

'It's Time for Change' Not Just Words for New NCC Directors

Detroit — (NC) — The new policy-making General Board of the National Council of Churches took seriously demands for change and began its three-year term of office by rejecting the proposals of its nominating committee and turning most of the committee members out of office.

The action came at the first organizing meeting of the 250-member General Board following the triennial meeting of the council's General Assembly.

The assembly had heard repeated pleas during its five-day session for a greater voice at decision-making levels for members of racial minorities, lay men and women and youth.

When the 15-member nominating committee presented its proposed general board officers for the coming three years, the body rejected it.

Particularly objectionable to some of the members was the fact that the nominating committee had renominated itself to serve for another three years and that nominations for members-at-large of the board's executive committee were keyed more to denominational power structures than to representation of minorities.

After heated debate, the Rev. George G. Beazley, ecumenical offi-

cer of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ), withdrew his name from nomination as new chairman of the nominating committee. Mr. Beazley tends to be identified with traditional to conservative positions.

The board elected a new nominating committee that included only three members from the previous committee. The new committee is headed by Miss Theresa Hoover, associate general secretary of the women's division of the United Methodist Board of Missions.

The new nominating committee includes five blacks (including Miss Hoover), one Mexican-American and three women.

The first task of the new nominating committee will be to prepare a new list of nominees for the openings on the Executive Committee. Action on this matter was put off until Jan. 19, when the General Board is scheduled to meet in Tulsa, Okla.

The General Board's unprecedented action here represents something of a revolution in control of the Protestant-Orthodox Council.

Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy, general secretary of the NCC, called the General Board action "the greatest revolution of the total week."

Catholic Official Observes NCC With Keen Eye

Detroit — (NC) — Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, watched the proceedings of the eighth General Assembly of the National Council of Churches here with an unusually attentive eye.

In some respects the Protestant-Orthodox gathering parallels the anticipated Catholic National Pastoral Council to be organized in the future.

"The National Pastoral Council will be similar to this," the bishop said, "in that it involves priests, bishops, Religious, and lay people."

Bishop Bernardin cited the "unusual phenomenon" that emerged both at the NCC gathering here and at the Catholic bishops' meeting in Washington two weeks earlier.

Both meetings were distinguished by the numbers of special interest groups from both in and out of the Church seeking to get their concerns heard. "It really is an unusual phenomenon," Bishop Bernardin observed. "On the one hand we hear they have written 'our' Church. But on the other hand, their presence at these meetings is evidence that they still take the institutional Church seriously."

Bishop Bernardin pointed out that except for the issue of celibacy in Catholicism, most of the same issues were before both bodies; the Vietnam war, special problems of racial minorities, women's rights.

How Do You Say Pony Express In Italian?

Vatican City — (NC) — The Vatican City daily newspaper has opened fire on the lack of service in the Italian postal system — or is it the lack of system in the Italian postal service?

L'Osservatore Romano noted that a pamphlet recently issued by Italian postal authorities says mail trucks may soon be replaced by helicopters "and even by missiles."

The newspaper's caustic comment: "Let's hope that in the meanwhile the mail arrives. For when it comes to the mail, whether letters or newspapers, whether in Italy or in the rest of Europe (with the possible exception of Switzerland), the mystery thickens. The equipment keeps getting better but the service keeps getting worse."

Vietnamese Catholics Praised by Pontiff

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has highly praised the Catholic populace of North and South Vietnam for remaining faithful to their religion and drying "the tears of the innocent victims of the conflict."

In a letter (made public in Saigon Dec. 8) he expressed the hope that the Paris peace talks will soon find peace.

Speaking of the Catholics of Vietnam the Pope lauded them for their "initiatives directed to the reestablishment of concord and peace among the sons of a same motherland."

The Pope stressed that he would not desist from the hope that the Parish negotiations will reach a speedy solution. "We pray to God that He may enlighten the negotiators (at Paris), make them sensitive to the sufferings entailed by the prolonga-

tion of the talks, and anxious to assure peace with liberty . . . by an agreement which we hope is near."

The letter was addressed to the Vietnamese Bishops' Conference, a body of bishops in the South. However, Vatican observers pointed out that the Pope intended these words of encouragement also for the bishops in the North, who, they said, are "impeded" from travel in the country.

The letter of praise spoke of "all our beloved sons in Vietnam," but in the conclusion Pope Paul stated:

"How we would wish this message to reach also our sons in North-Vietnam to bring them our encouragement, our blessing and the assurance that we have full trust in their fidelity to Christ . . . and to the Church."

Senator Weighs U.S. Affluence: For Hunger, 1 Billion; for War, 84

St. Paul, Minn. — (RNS) — In a lecture on the papal encyclical "Mater et Magistra," Sen. Walter Mondale, (D-Minn.), suggested that some \$1 million-an-hour in tax funds being spent in Vietnam should be used instead to feed the hungry and educate the ignorant in the U.S.

The budget for a year in Vietnam is \$84 billion, the senator said. The current budget to feed hungry people in this country is \$1 billion.

Giving the second lecture in the John Ireland Lecture Forum, the senator expressed little hope of quitting Vietnam soon under President Nixon's plan for Vietnamization of the war.

Sen. Mondale is the son of a former United Methodist pastor and married to a daughter of a retired United Presbyterian pastor. The John Ireland Lecture Forum honors the first archbishop of St. Paul and is sponsored by the urban affairs commission of the St. Paul-Minneapolis archdiocese.

"The strongest religion in the

world today is nationalism, and the people of South Vietnam don't want us there. They don't see that Thailand and Ky are worth fighting for. And they are not going to take over the war for us," the senator said.

To show the worth of \$1 billion, Sen. Mondale said it could run Macalester College for 125 years, or the City of Duluth for 50 years, or if the money were invested at current interest rates it would run Duluth forever and return a yearly profit of millions of dollars. A billion lasts only a few days in Vietnam, he added.

"I fail to understand how we can be so rich, so powerful and so unresponsive to the needs before us," he continued. "I have been in migrant labor camps, with Eskimos in Alaska, in poor black areas down South, and I am developing a growing belief that it is a fundamental necessity that we find out who we are and examine our views toward people who cannot defend themselves."

Sen. Mondale criticized the "guardian" approach to anti-poverty administration which has character-

ized the U.S. welfare program.

"Some would have the governors administer it," he said. "They would have us turn our aid over to people like Lester Maddox in Georgia to take care of poor blacks."

He referred several times approvingly in his talk to efforts of Cesar Chavez to organize migrant farm laborers. By maintaining a poor wage for migrants, he said, "we are refueling one of the cruelest institutions in this country."

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