

# THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

## Help 'Third World,' Cardinal Asks Vatican Notes Moslem Fast

In his last public appearance in Montreal before returning to his missionary work among African lepers, Paul-Emile Cardinal Leger, former Archbishop of Montreal, called not only for financial aid to Africa, but moral and social support as well.

Addressing more than 10,000 persons who filled the famed St. Joseph Oratory Basilica atop Mount Royal here, Cardinal Leger, who gave up his Montreal post two years ago to work at leper missions in the Cameroons, said:

"I am talking to your conscience, I am bringing you the message of the 'Third World'... where people long for your presence."

The cardinal, who returned to Canada in October to conduct a campaign for \$50 million to help in his work, was garbed in African liturgical vestments. Throughout the Mass a musical group from the Cameroons chanted.

## Vatican Notes Moslem Fast

The Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians issued a special message to mark the end of Ramadan, the Moslem month of fasting.

Broadcast by Vatican radio, the message called upon Moslems and Christians to work together for peace and economic development "in justice and fairness."

The message also expressed concern and sympathy for Moslems suffering from war and lack of employment.

## Biafra Aid to Continue

Delegates to the sixth plenary session of international Joint Church Aid (JCA) unanimously voted to continue night relief flights carrying food and medicine to Biafra.

In addition, the delegates representing 35 aid organizations

of Churches throughout Europe urged all governments to undertake political and diplomatic actions aimed at urging both sides in the Nigeria-Biafran conflict to begin serious negotiations as soon as possible.

## Pax Christi Congress Set

National delegations, including a large contingent from the United States are preparing special reports for the international Pax Christi Congress in Fribourg, Switzerland, Dec. 28 to 29.

Pax Christi, a Catholic peace movement founded shortly after World War II, will devote its meeting to various problems inherent in the organization and in the activities of the movement.

The movement, which is most popular among young people, advocates the end of all war and the unification of mankind regardless of international boundaries.

## Book Award

Chicago—(NC)—Father John L. McKenzie, S.J., Scripture scholar and theologian, has been awarded the Thomas More Association's 1969 medal for the most distinguished contribution to Catholic literature for his book "The Roman Catholic Church."

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## Religious Reference Allowed

A youngster dressed as Santa Claus pickets Marblehead, Mass., school with other children while members of the Marblehead school committee and clergy met to discuss a reported ban in the city's schools of all religious references to Christmas and Hanukkah. After the meeting the group announced that the program of observing religious holidays in public school system will continue as in past. The ban reportedly had resulted from complaints to superintendent of schools. (Religious News Service)

## Hold Open Meetings, Bishops Asked by Jesuit Theologian

Milwaukee—(RNS)—One of America's foremost Catholic theologians said here that bishops' conferences should be conducted openly and their disagreements, if any, should be publicized.

Father Richard McCormick, S.J., president-elect of the American Catholic Theological Society, said the bishops' teaching authority is in serious trouble and no longer credible to many educated Catholics because of the prelates' failure to consult others.

He said the bishops' 1968 statement on birth control contained "serious errors" which "could have been prevented" had the collaborative process been going on in the American church.

The speaker also referred to Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control, Humanae Vitae, which the bishops' statement supported.

"Specifically, theologians complained that the consultative wisdom and opinions of a theological and episcopal majority were not sufficiently weighed, that a heavy emphasis upon tradition, upon authority, overshadowed the persuasiveness of the analysis of sexual expression in marriage, and that the encyclical came out with almost no psychological preparation."

On the same day, McCormick complained that the theological dissent occurred too soon and in too organized a fashion, and obviously indicated in some extent other than a non-dile mind.

Father McCormick said there was always a temptation for "theologians to arrogate authority, and for the bishops to arrogate competence."

"The function of a theologian and a bishop, while distinct in the teaching process, is also closely related with it," the speaker said. "And that means there's a constant temptation for a bishop to move over into the area of the theological competence, a temptation for a theologian to

assume authority and present himself as more than he is."

Father McCormick, a professor of moral theology at the Bellarmine School of Theology, North Aurora, Ill., said the process required the "prophetic competence of laymen, the pastoral competence of the hierarchy, and the scientific competence of the theologian."

"When all three relate properly together we have a vigorous and healthy teaching office in the Church," he said.

Referring to a suggestion that theologians act as advisers at the bishops' conferences, Father McCormick observed: "They do it in Canada and in Germany. Why not in America?"

He said that the bishop must "stimulate, encourage and participate" in the learning process. "He can no longer be chosen because of his ability to administer a sprawling diocese. These administrative duties simply have to be turned over to others."

"The effectiveness of teaching and even more broadly of episcopal leadership in the Church, which we badly need, will depend on the effectiveness of the bishop in making his position and his person a rallying point for Christian

## Sikhism 500 Years Old Humanitarianism a Hallmark

New York—(RNS)—Turbaned men and women in flowing, festive saris paraded and gathered at Sikh temples throughout the world to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nanak, first founder of Sikhism.

In New Delhi, some of India's eight million Sikhs paraded on elephants, camels, horses, motorcycles, and on foot, while a group of young Sikhs performed a mock sword fight and a small plane circled overhead, dropping showers of rose petals.

Sikhism is a reformation of Hinduism that developed during a period of some 200 years under the leadership of 10 teachers or "gurus" in India. The first was social reformer Guru Nanak, a contemporary of Martin Luther.

The last was Gobind Singh, who bore his death in 1708 introduced, among other practices, uncut hair, tied in a knot and rolled in a turban.

The sect was founded in opposition to institutionalized religion, specifically denouncing the Hindu emphasis on caste. Today, about 25 per cent of the members are converts who were formerly Hindu "untouchables."

Sikhs have made a significant impact on Indian life, although they still represent only 1 1/2 per cent of the total population of 530 million.

Historically, they were considered a prime source of military power by the British army. They now make up 30 per cent of the Indian army.

There are no Sikh beggars in India. Every Sikh temple, on the contrary, carries out the precept that sharing the fruit of one's labors is an act of God.

Each temple has a community kitchen where anyone can get a meal at any time of the day or night. Shelter for travelers is also provided for as long as they need it.

Sikh migration to foreign countries began in the early part of this century. The largest group of about 100,000 settled in England, where they have thrived as businessmen.

Others have prospered as fishermen and railway workers in British Columbia, Canada and as fruit farmers in Southern California. They are found throughout Europe and Asia as mechanics and bodyguards.

In the New York area, there are an estimated 1200-1500 Sikhs of whom 500 are permanent residents.

There is no official "sabbath day," but worship services are usually held on Sundays when members are free from work. Services ordinarily consist of listening to the chanting of prayers, while, facing the Sikh holy book, Granth Sahib, enshrined at the front of the room.

OPEN EVERY NIGHT 'TIL 9 — BRANCHES OPEN 'TIL 9:30

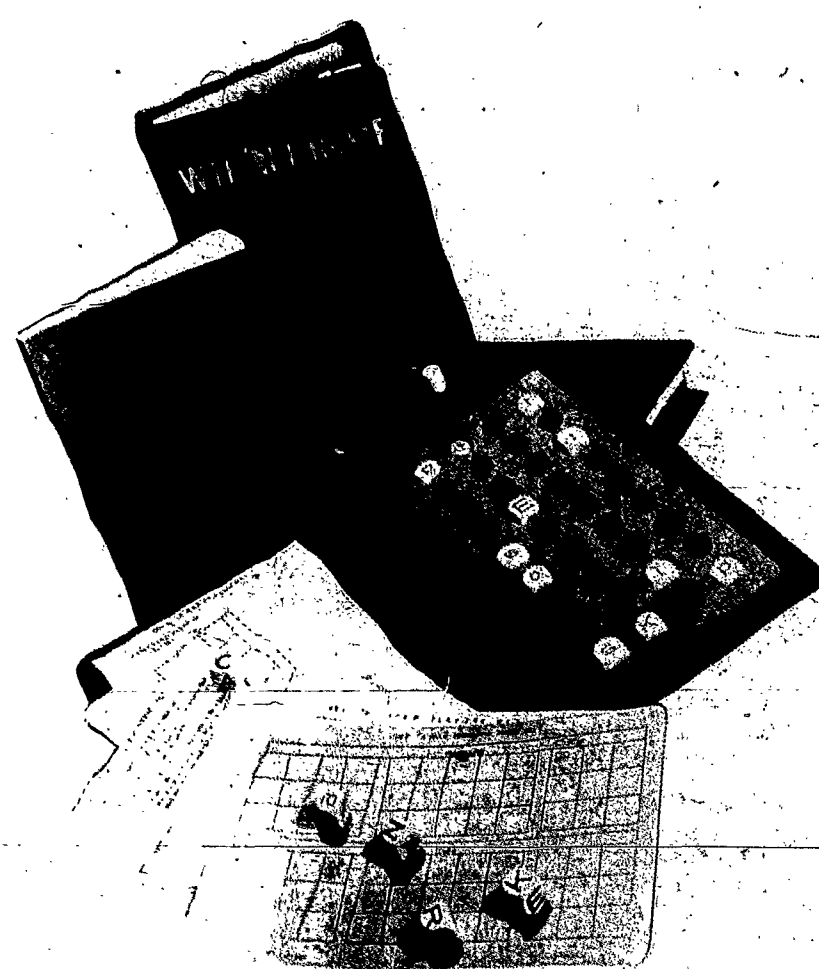
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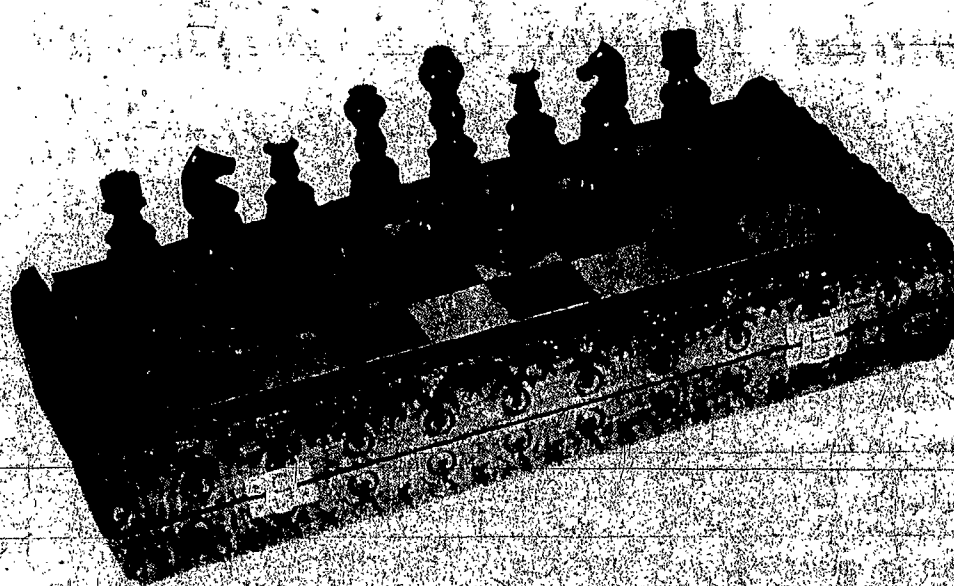
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## The 20 Sc

St. Paul, Minn.—Twenty, to 30 schools Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis likely to close or at the end of the school year, according to a report by the superintendent of schools.

In a letter to prie archdiocese, Father Gilbert said the dilemma complicated one in declining number of from religious order many cases, declining contributions could creased costs.

"Having spoken of you about finan

## Aid to P A Must,

Washington, D.C.—Non-support of schools would mean "death knell" for pluralistic education, a rabbi told a House mittee here.

"It is not the cre child which should l cus of our concern b the need of the cl clared Rabbi Bernar berg, director of s ization and pri services for the Na ctiety for Hebrew Da (Torah Umesorah).

Rabbi Goldenberg general subcommittee cation of the House tee on Education as that a "rethinking problem of federal cation is long over

Noting that his so been a staunch sup the principle of chi separation, the rabbi congressional concern 1970's and beyond "a low millions of citie making to share in a ble manner in the e al efforts of our gr try."

## Efficiency For Suc

Detroit—(RNS)—"efficiency" in Detroit school operat credited with keepin tion costs less t that of public schol keeping educational a high level.

The annual cost i in the archdiocese was computed at \$43 pared to \$900 per 1 year in public schol was disclosed in a report by the arch Department of Educ

The report said, "olc schools met all i set for Michigan sci

The report also po that while public sch ed to be a grade bel tional average in ac ment in grades te Detroit Catholic sch found, in a recent s be six months to a y of the national ave cept in the inner ci still reached the average.

Auxiliary Bishop I Gumbleton of Det

## Abortion Clir Planned for I

New York—(NC)—national Association for Abortion Laws annou it would open an abor in Washington, D.C., from all over the c the District of Colum Department and the of Washington do n within "a month or s

A U.S. District Co in Washington on No the anti-abortion law nation's capital are-tional because of vagi ruled licensed physic perform abortions. I is not binding on oth judges here. None o pitals in the capital h ed rules or procedur abortions.

Patrick Cardinal O Washington has issue ment asserting that "a murder" and denou posed change in the laws to abortion-on-re

## Prayers Cont In Public Sch

Netcong, N.J.—(N practice of daily pray tary meetings in the Public High School. time at least until J

State officials soug junction to restrain tice, which involves from the Congressio prayers offered by th the U.S. Senate and H

Judge Joseph Stam ed down the request mediate injunction and school administrators. Netcong Board of Ed show cause on Jan. 6 readings should not be