

# THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

## Catholic Newspaper Sold

The Universe, a Catholic newspaper which has the largest circulation of any religious publication in England, has been bought by a secular newspaper group in Liverpool.

An announcement said: "There will be no change in editorial policy." The change in ownership was endorsed by John Cardinal Heenan of Westminster. The Universe has a circulation of 242,000.

## Agency Board Names Goldberg

Arthur Goldberg, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, was named to the board of trustees of the John XXIII International Institute, an ecumenical agency working to combat racism and

## Reconciliation Effort 'Remarkable'

# U.S. Missionary Describes Nigeria Situation

New York — (RNS)—The "only American" so far expelled from Nigeria's secessionist region expects that before long all white, foreign missionaries will be "cleared out" of the area, including the bishop of Owerri, now under arrest with 26 others.

And while he can't agree with the "Communist methods" used by the federal government there — he spent two weeks in an army barracks under guard — he does concede that reconciliation in Nigeria is "going on without a doubt" in remarkable fashion.

Father Leo Horkin, born in the United States, raised and educated in England, and now a member of the Irish Holy Ghost Fathers, was in the first group of 32 priests, Brothers and nuns expelled Feb. 4 after trial and abbreviated imprisonment.



Seven members of a group of 32 Catholic missionaries expelled from Nigeria arrive at London's Heathrow Airport. A member of the expelled

group, Father Leo Horkin, C.S.Sp., feels that before long all white, foreign missionaries in the secessionist region will be "cleared out" of the area.

A second group of 19 priests, nine nuns and Irish-born Bishop Joseph Whelan of Owerri is awaiting trial in Port Harcourt, charged as Father Horkin's group was, with

illegal entry. A third group of about 30 is still active in relief work, but the priests suggests they may be rounded up soon and charged.

"We all had our credentials from the old Biafran government," the priest observed, "and, of course, technically that government was never recognized and technically we broke the law. But we really had no choice."

Ironically, Father Horkin pointed out, Bishop Whelan had resigned a year ago and was to be replaced by a native bishop but the Pope asked him to stay on until the end of hostilities. And the Holy Ghost missionaries, he said, also expected to be "phased out" within a few years.

He said there were more than 100 native clergy in the Biafran region and several native bishops. "Bishop Whelan was the only foreign bishop remaining in the whole eastern area," he added.

Father Horkin was hopeful that the publicity generated by the expulsion of his group and the notoriety given to

poverty, and achieve world peace. Goldberg, now a New York lawyer, is president of the American Jewish Committee.

The John XXIII International Institute was founded last year by the Chicago-based National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice.

## Bombay Laity to Have Voice

Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, has announced his decision to establish a Diocesan Pastoral Council, in which "responsible laymen will figure prominently."

In his Lenten Pastoral letter the cardinal took particular note of the American bishops' insistence on the teaching of Vatican II that "an individual layman, by reason of the knowledge, competence or outstanding ability which he

may enjoy, is permitted and sometimes even obligated to express his opinion on things which concern the good of the Church."

This is no "rhetorical concession to the mood of the hour," he said, "but an exercise of the pastoral office we share with Pope St. Leo, which impels us to say to the laity of our times what he said to those in his day, 'Recognize, O Christian, your dignity.'"

## Spanish Bishop Selling Home

Bishop Jose Cirarda of Santander, acting Bishop of Bilbao, Spain, announced that he will sell the bishop's palace in Bilbao and move into an apartment to raise money for new churches in industrial areas. The building fund goal is \$5 million to finance the construction of 40 new churches within five years.

## Priests' Ranks Lag Behind Catholic Growth

Vatican City — (NC) — The number of priests is failing to keep pace with the growth of the world's Catholic population, and the situation bodes to become worse before it becomes better.

According to statistics supplied in the Holy See's newly-published yearbook, there were 1,379 Catholics per priest in 1965, 1,401 Catholics per priest in 1966, and 1,437 Catholics per priest the following year.

The figures were taken from 41 nations of the Western world and do not include mission countries or states with Communist regimes.

Over that three-year period the number of Catholics in the cited nations grew to 507,505,420 from 493,632,180. Priests grew in number by 639, to 352,691.

However, the number of seminarians, both minor and major, dropped by 8,913 to 146,998.

THREE DENOMINATIONS — London, Ont. — (RNS) Joint Saturday religion classes are being held here by three neighboring churches — Anglican, Roman Catholic and United.

FOR PERFECT DIAPER SERVICE — Stork BABY WASH 328-0770

## 'DC Nine' Convicted

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The last seven of the original "DC Nine," were found guilty of malicious destruction of property at Dow Chemical Company's Washington offices last March after only 40 minutes of deliberation by a jury. They had admitted the charge and a TV film of the invasion of Dow offices was shown during the trial.

The seven were also found guilty of illegal entry as the seven-day trial, highlighted by irate exchanges between the judge and the defendants came to an end.

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## DOUBLE BRESTED BLAZERS for HUSKY Boys

San Francisco — (NC) — He slung comfortably in a well-worn easy chair, puffed his cigar, smiled and commented: "This is my heaven!"

Father George Trunk, who'll be 100 come Sept. 1, was talking about his second-floor bedroom-study in the gray frame Nativity parish rectory, close by San Francisco's famed Opera House.

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Earlier in the trial, two members of the original "D.C. Nine" changed their pleas to "no contest" and were found guilty.

Three other defendants and one defense attorney were cited for contempt during the trial.

The defendants — four priests, a nun, an ex-priest, two seminarians and a "draft resister" — were not permitted to read their statements of intent. Judge John H. Pratt of U.S. District Court required them to be represented by counsel.

Q. Has somebody finally come up with a plan to aid the non-public school student that meets all the requirements of the law?

A. Yes. The Speno-Lerner Bill is a major bipartisan plan that aims to do exactly what is needed: aid the hard-pressed parents of the students in the non-public grammar and secondary school by providing a tuition grant for each child in school.

Q. Is there a lot of support for the plan?

A. Yes. When introduced the plan had 16 sponsors, eight assemblymen and eight senators, both Democrats and Republicans, including upstate, city and Long Island areas.

Q. What is the aim of the plan?

A. To provide tuition payments to parents of non-public school students and help them meet the financial crisis they are facing today.

Q. How does it work?

A. It works like the Scholar Incentive Plan on the college level with a grant based on 1) the cost of the secular education in the school; 2) the income of the parent; and 3) a formula that pays a "portion" of the parent's cost if tuition. It benefits the 850,000 students now in non-public schools.

Q. Who gets how much money out of it?

A. Every parent with a child in a non-public grammar and secondary school.

## Pushups a

There are red geraniums in window boxes. The walls are decorated with murals — scenes of snow capped mountains, lakes rimmed with pines, the way Father Trunk remembered his childhood surroundings in Carinthia, a province now divided between Austria and the Slovenian section of Yugoslavia.

Father Trunk always had been handy with a paint brush.

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## Scottish Church Charge

# BBC a 'Tool of Rome'?

Edinburgh — (RNS)—Britain's publicly owned British Broadcasting Corporation came under fire for alleged "Roman Catholic bias" for the second time in three days when one of Scotland's smaller Presbyterian Churches accused it of being an "influential ally of the Church of Rome."

The latest charge came from the Lewis Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland. This denomination, which is traditionally anti-Roman, has its strength in and off north-west Scotland, and Lewis Island is one of its main strongholds.

The church's voice is often echoed beyond the borders of Scotland. And in its latest blast, the influential Lewis Presbytery declared in a formal report:

"Last year, for the first time since the Reformation, a Roman Catholic cardinal was consecrated by the Pope and appointed to Scotland. (This was a reference to Archbishop Gordon Joseph Gray of St. Andrews and Edinburgh.)

"This is but another step in Rome's far-reaching scheme by which she hopes once again to gain ultimate supremacy in the Land of Knox (a reference to John Knox, an outstanding figure in the Scottish Reformation).

"The Church of Rome has many agents to advance her cause, and she has an influential ally in the BBC. It is true to say that hardly a day passes without the public's attention being drawn to the existence of the Roman Catholic Church in one way or another.

The Lewis attack appeared to be prompted by the BBC's decision to televise a series of programs on sex education for primary schools. The Lewis report said many parents were "greatly disturbed" by this decision, and it trusted the BBC would drop the plan.

But, coincidentally or otherwise, the Free church's report came just two days after Woodrow Wyatt, a prominent member of Britain's ruling

Labor Party, had alleged pro-Roman Catholic bias by Charles Curran, director-general of the BBC, and William Rees-Mogg, editor of The Times of London.

Both men are Roman Catholics and Wyatt attacked them in a statement in the House of Commons for an alleged partisan attitude towards the former territory of Biafra in its civil war with Nigeria.

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