

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

Law, Genetics Center Launched

Jesuit-operated Boston College Law School and the New England Medical Center of Tufts University have launched a new institute on law and human genetics.

It will be the first U.S. institute to undertake a concerted study of the moral, emotional, legal and scientific aspects of family planning, birth defects and therapeutic abortions.

Acting co-directors are Father Robert F. Drinan, S.J., who is on leave of absence from the law school in a bid for a Congressional seat, and Dr. Murray Feingold, director of the Tufts Medical School's Center for Genetic Counseling and Birth Defects Evaluation. In a joint statement they indicated that recent medical advances have prompted a reevaluation of "present moral, religious and philosophical concepts."

Pope Aids Endangered Town

The president of the Pontifical Assistance Works, Msgr. Abramo Freschi, visited the fishing village of Pozzuoli, near Naples, to convey the Pope's sympathy to people forced out of their homes by a strange "land drift."

During the last 18 months, due to a shifting of volcanic material there has been a gradual rise in the coastal strip where the village is located. Many homes have been damaged and rendered unsafe.

Msgr. Freschi took money to help the most needy. Catholic relief agencies and other groups stand ready to evacuate the town of 70,000.

NDU Honors 'Hope' Founder

Dr. William B. Walsh, 49, Washington, D.C., physician, was selected for the 1970 Laetare Medal of the University of Notre Dame for founding Project HOPE and dispatching a hospital ship to aid people in developing nations around the world.

The honor, highest conferred by the university, has been awarded annually since 1883. It takes its name from Laetare Sunday, the day the award traditionally is made.

Gowon Stresses Biafra's End

Maj. Gen. Yakubu Gowon told Nigerian bishops they must condemn priests in Europe and the United States

engaging in "anti-Nigerian acts." Gowon was critical of priests "organizing collection of funds for the reconstruction of a Biafra" which does not exist.

All U.S. Sees Get Privilege

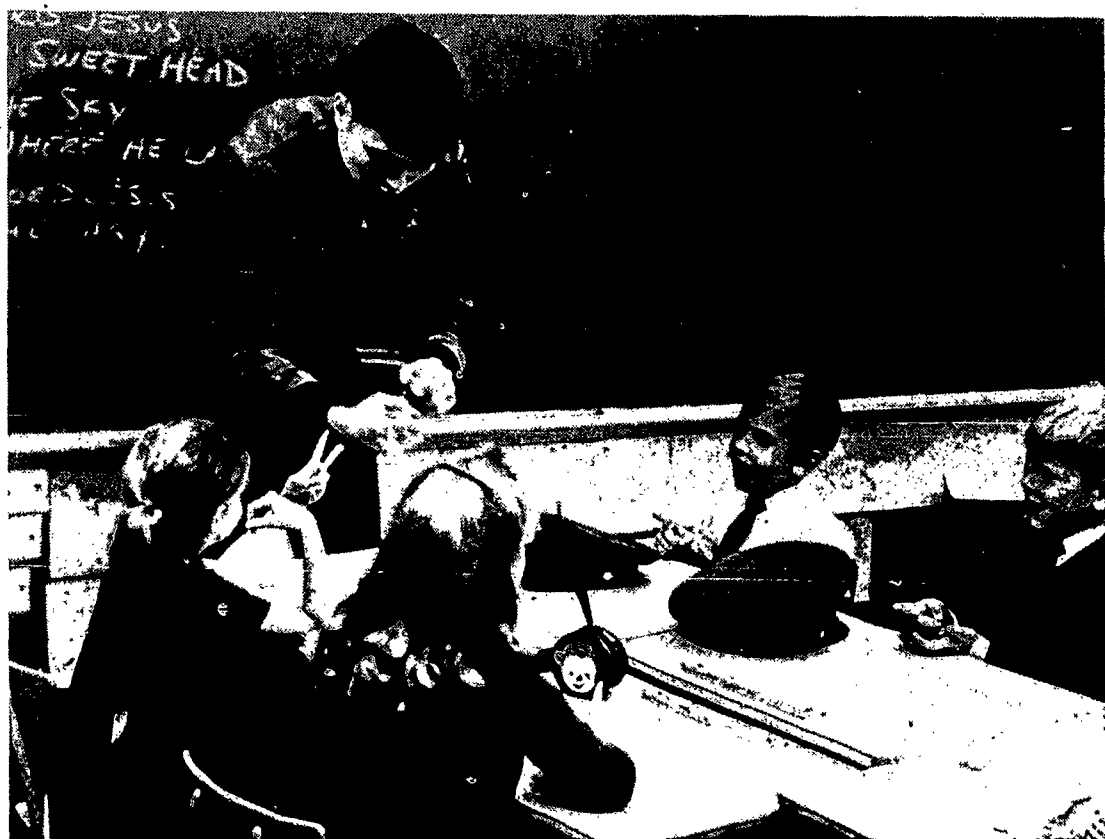
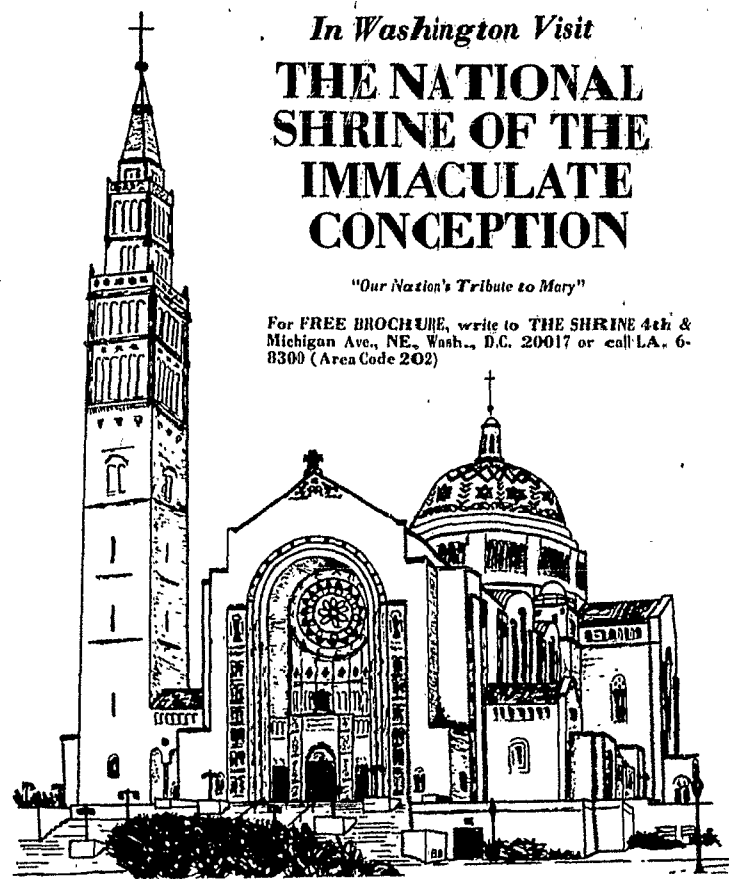
The National Conference of Catholic Bishops announced that the Vatican has given the heads of all United States dioceses and archdioceses permission to adopt at will the Sunday-on-Saturday Mass program. Previously, permission had to be sought on an individual diocesan basis. The concept allows a Catholic to fulfill his Mass obligation by going to Mass on Saturday evening and the evening before a holy day.

Message Seen in Canonization

In London, Father Joseph Munitz, S.J., charged that the proposed canonization of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales is designed only to buttress Church authority and structures against the challenges they face today. He accused Church authorities of using the martyrs to "deliver" a message that "runs counter to the most healthy movement in the Church today."

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Cadet Chet Richardson finds his Sunday School class eager and willing. Cadet Richardson is one of 177 cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point who every Sunday morning put aside the "rugged business" of learning to become army officers to become Sunday School teachers. The school is part of the Christian education program for children of civilian and military personnel at the Point. Between 600 and 700 children are enrolled.

Sunday School at West Point

West Point — (RNS) — Each Sunday morning 177 cadets at the U.S. Military Academy here put aside the "rugged business" of learning to become army officers and become Sunday School teachers instead.

The Sunday school is part of the Christian education program for children of civilian and military personnel at West Point. More than 600 children are enrolled.

West Point has no problems in recruiting Sunday School teachers, according to an article appearing in the March 4 issue of The Lutheran, a Lutheran Church in America publication.

"In fact," says author Verner Hansen, "there is a wait-

ing list of 70 cadets who want to be assigned to one of the 177 teaching posts" available.

The non-denominational Sunday School is organized in six departments — ranging from nursery to senior levels. The directors are Chaplain James David Ford, an LCA clergyman, and his assistants, the Rev. Michael B. Easterling, an American Baptist and the Rev. A. John Wilson, a Methodist.

Some famous West Point graduates have taken part in the Sunday school program. They include Gen. Matthew Ridgeway and Gen. William C. Westmoreland. Both were superintendents at the Point. Dwight D. Eisenhower taught

Sunday school classes as a cadet.

"I came out to see what it was like, and I really enjoyed it," Cadet Roy Moore, superintendent of the nursery department said. "The first time you get up in front of the class of maybe 20 kids, they won't even listen to you."

"It's frustrating," he admitted to The Lutheran's writer. "But after a while you can get so you can reach the kids, you learn how to talk to them."

It was also pointed out that West Point has a tradition of religious emphasis. Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant services are scheduled Sunday and "Plebex" are expected to

1970 CAPITOL HILL 1970 ROUND-UP

Ever mindful that this is an election year and that legislators must get back home to campaign, the legislature has continued its lively pace all through February.

The deficiency budget (what government overspent last year); Blaine; Reapportionment of Congressional Districts; the 18-year-old vote; massive transportation loans . . . all have had their day, been debated and passed.

There are some hitches, of course (where Senate and Assembly have passed differing bills on the same issue a compromise still must be sought . . . that's true for Blaine and the 18-year-old vote for example) . . . but generally the work is going along more rapidly than usual.

It seems likely, now, that they'll finish by April 15 following an Easter recess. That means little time is left to impress on the legislators the needs and problems they must meet this year. Write, right now.

While there are some odd bills introduced this year, usually pet projects of one legislator or another, perhaps the most peculiar of this session is a proposal to repeal part of the child labor laws.

Of course it doesn't say that and the introducer would probably be shocked to hear of it that way. Yet it does make more child labor legal in the state. Here's how it works: The bill lowers every age in the state labor law by two years. So where it says only 16-year-old boys can operate mechanical devices (lawn mowers, mulling machines etc.) it says 14. Where the law reads 18 (operating machinery in factories, for example) the bill says 16.

So the net result is a lowering of the protections for young people (it was the child labor laws which first

brought the protections) and an encouragement for business to put younger, lower-paid people in the place of older, better paid people. It looks like a very bad bill.

A long time Catholic Committee member, Msgr. Edward Head, director of Catholic Charities in the New York Archdiocese was selected by the Pope as one of Cardinal Cooke's Auxiliary Bishops. The committee congratulates Bishop-designate Head and looks for his continued counsel and advice in his new post.

Local groups of parents in support of the Speno-Lerner Parent Aid Tuition Bill (Senate bill number 6874 and Assembly Bill number 3066) have begun to form all around the state.

The governor has expressed an initial unfavorable reaction to the bill which he believed to be a parent-teacher plan. It is not. It is a tuition aid plan. Further it requires full compliance with all laws in the state against discrimination. Shanty schools are impossible under the bill; lily-white anti-integration schools are also impossible under the bill. A letter to the Governor at this time would help. Tell him your needs.

MORE THAN FOOD

When Tunisia suffered the worst floods in her history last fall, CARE rushed food to 2 of the worst hit regions while a CARE-MEDICO team instituted a typhoid inoculation program for 80,000 persons. Now, the agency is helping to rebuild devastated wells and homes. Such "food plus" aid is supported by contributions to CARE, New York 10016.

Bishop Shannon To Write Column

Minneapolis — (RNS) — Dr. James P. Shannon, once auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, will write a weekly religious column for the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune.

The column will be entitled, "The Pilgrim Column," the same title under which Dr. Shannon wrote for Catholic newspapers while he was a bishop. He is now a tutor at St. John's College, Santa Fe, N.M.

Bower Hawthorne, the Tribune's editor, said Dr. Shannon's column will "cover religious, moral, ethical and social concerns of interest to persons of all religious faiths."

Dr. Shannon served as auxiliary bishop from 1965 until his resignation from his episcopal post in 1969. He later married. He was president of the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, 1956-1965.



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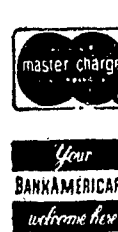
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