



by Morrie Turner

Drug Problem

Called 'Most Serious Threat'

New York — A spokesman for the New York State Catholic Committee called the drug problem, particularly among the young, "the most serious threat to the well-being of society" today.

Msgr. William B. O'Brien of the Archdiocese of New York appeared before the Joint Legislative Committee on Protection of Children and Youth and Drug Abuse in New York City to express the "grave concern over the prevailing tide of drug abuse across our state."

Speaking for the committee which represents all eight dioceses in the state Msgr. O'Brien cited the "toll in human lives, especially among the young" as the major consequence of the "prevailing drug-oriented environment" now invading society.

He asked for legislation to meet the problem and promised the assistance of the Catholic Committee in aiding in alerting its people to the grave problems involved.

3 Dioceses Set Bans Policy

Manchester, N.H. — (RNS) — Three New England Catholic dioceses have announced a new policy for the publishing of bans for mixed marriages, to become effective March 30.

In a statement by the Manchester diocese in conjunction with the dioceses of Burlington, Vt., and Portland, Maine, it was agreed that "pastors may announce the bans for mixed marriage after consulting the parties to the marriage and securing their approval," and after a dispensation is granted to the Catholic party.

The statement noted that the omission of bans in mixed marriages has often been a source of misunderstanding in the past to both Catholics and members of other churches.

It added that bans should be announced only in the home parish of the Catholic party and should be omitted if their publication violates the norms of the other religious body involved.

KING SUNDAY PROPOSED

London — (RNS) — Churches in Britain are being asked to observe Sunday, April 12, as Martin Luther King Sunday.

The Rev. Jack Hywel Davies, British director of the Martin Luther King Foundation, said that there was no intention of making this an annual event.

"Nor do we wish," he added, "to perpetuate the memory of this good man merely as a memorial, but as a means of encouraging people to adopt his principles based on non-violence to promote racial justice, harmony and integration in Britain."

CAPITOL HILL

ROUND-UP

A look at the legislative calendar indicates there is little time left to pass bills this year.

With three weeks of March already gone, Easter vacation and Passover coming up and only 62 laws enacted out of the usual 1100, legislative experts agree: anyone who wants anything out of this legislature had best get right down to it.

There is talk of adjournment in mid April... certainly by April 29th. Since the Jewish festival of Passover begins on April 21 that leaves only three or four work weeks.

There is little chance that the legislature will continue beyond the end of April. Every senator and assemblyman is up for reelection and all are anxious to return home to begin their campaigns.

"It is of the utmost importance," J. Alan Davitt, sec-

retary of the New York state Council of Catholic School Superintendents told the Courier-Journal that "parents and others seeking aid to the children in Catholic schools make their views known to their legislators."

"I would heartily suggest calling Senators and Assemblymen over the Easter recess. I would suggest urging the House education chairman, Mrs. Cook, and the Senate education chairman, Senator Dominic, to discharge the Speno-Lerner bill from committee and bring it to the floor for debate."

The bill provides tuition aid grants to parents of non-public school children on a sliding scale based on income.

Parents groups across the state are strongly in favor of the bill because:

- it provides immediate relief in the mounting financial crisis that will hit with

devastating effect next September.

- it fulfills the constitutional requirements of Church-state separation.

- it provides most help to the poor and, like the Scholar Incentive Program, after which it is patterned, can be easily administered immediately, beginning this fall.

- it has the support of both Democratic and Republican Assemblymen and Senators from urban, rural, down-state and up-state areas. Such solid support is rare for any program.

- supporters are convinced that Governor Rockefeller's initial objections to the bill can be overcome with some minor changes.

"The important thing now," Davitt said, "is to get the Legislature to move. Write, phone, telegraph. Tell them your needs."

Bishop Suggests Catholic-Anglican Plan

London — (NC) — A Catholic bishop has suggested that in a united Catholic-Anglican Church under the primacy of the Pope, the Pope would become patriarch of the Western, or Latin, rite and the Anglican archbishop of Canterbury patriarch of the English rite.

The suggestion was made by Auxiliary Bishop Christopher Butler, O.S.B., of Westminster in an article in the Tablet, a Catholic weekly review here.

Bishop Butler was a participant in the first meeting of the Joint Anglican-Catholic Permanent Theological Commission, which met in January at Windsor.

In his article, Bishop Butler cited the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism, stressing its recognition of the Anglican communion

as a special case among the separated Western churches.

"It would be outrageous to suggest that the Catholic Church, in taking part in this commission does not mean serious business and specifically ecumenical business," Bishop Butler said.

"Both rites would acknowledge the primacy of the successor of St. Peter but each—presumably—would have its own patriarch or the equivalent. The bishop of Rome would be the patriarch of the traditional Western rite and the archbishop of Canterbury the patriarch of the English rite—unless indeed that rite took a leaf out

of the book of recent developments among ourselves and preferred a conference of bishops under an elected president to a patriarch in the ancient sense."

Bishop Butler went on to say:

"I was not the only Catholic participant at Windsor Castle to note the close approximation of Catholic and Anglican ideas about the Real Presence and the Eucharistic Sacrifice."

And he added that "there is a similar remarkable convergence" on the subject of Holy Orders. But Bishop Butler admitted that the validity of Anglican orders is still a problem.

Earlier, Anglican Bishop John Moorman of Ripon had said that the outlook seemed so dark at the first meeting of joint Anglican-Catholic permanent commission that at one point the wisdom of continuing the talks was in doubt.

Bishop Moorman said that the basic idea behind the commission is the "full organic union between our two communions." And he declared:

"If Christ wants his disciples to be one, then it is intolerable that two great Churches, such as the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican communion, should remain apart for a day longer than is necessary."

Buildings Hamper Handicapped Persons

Washington — (NC) — With the approach, in April, of its annual meeting here, the President's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped is calling attention again to architectural barriers as they affect persons with disabilities.

More than 20 million Americans are "built out" of normal living by unnecessary barriers, a study has revealed.

"The greatest single obstacle to employment of the handicapped is the physical design

of buildings and facilities they must use," asserts the report of a national commission which the committee has helped to circulate.

It notes that physically handicapped persons encounter a stairway, a too-narrow door, too-high telephone, and other obstacles because "at the right moment, their needs were overlooked."

"The most common causes of inaccessibility are due entirely to failure to think of the needs of the handicapped at the design and planning stage" of a building, it is reported.

One out of every ten persons has some disability which prevents him from using buildings and facilities designed only for the physically fit, it has been found. Among this tenth of the population are two million children with orthopedic handicaps, and millions of adults who are enfeebled by age or who have heart disease, arthritis, deafness, blindness, and other chronic disabilities.

The report recommends legislation requiring all new public buildings and facilities intended for public use to be designed to accommodate the elderly and infirm if any federal funds are used in the building, and issuance of an executive order designed to bring about feasible changes in existing buildings and facilities.

Billy Graham Sets N.Y. Crusade

New York — (RNS) — Evangelist Billy Graham announced here that he will return to New York for a five-day crusade June 24-28.

Mr. Graham held a 10-day crusade in June 1969 at the 20,000-seat Madison Square Garden. This year's crusade will be held at the 60,000-seat Shea Stadium, home of the New York Mets and Jets. As during last year's crusade, the services will be televised nationwide.

The emphasis of this year's crusade will be on students, Mr. Graham said. He added that in his crusades over the past year many young people have found a solution to their drug addiction through "an experience with Christ."

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