



Touring St. Patrick's Cathedral

Terence Cardinal Cooke, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, shows a bust of Pope Paul VI to Anglican Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury, right, during a tour of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Dr. Ramsey was in New York to lecture before Episcopal Church bishops at Trinity Institute —(Religious News Service)

Floridian's Burial Request

Waiting on the Lord In a Rocking Chair

Tallahassee — (RNS)—An 83-year-old Tallahassee man has built a three-windowed mausoleum where he plans to sit "embalmed" in a rocking chair, "watching and waiting" for the Lord's return.

"I had already concluded I didn't want to be buried underground," explained B. L. Simmons, a retired employee of the Motor Vehicles Department and a west Florida county legislative representative (1933-35).

"Not many folks believe the Lord is coming back, but I know He is," Mr. Simmons announced. "That's why I'll be here watching and waiting."

Arrangements have been made with a funeral home for "burial" and health officials have given him permission to build the concrete block tomb in an old "forgotten" cemetery, shaded by mossy oaks and overgrown with underbrush.

"Mr. Culley (the funeral director) said he would put me in the mausoleum just like I want to be," the retiree said. "Just sitting in my easy chair with the back to the wall." The chair was a retirement gift from the Motor Vehicles Department.

County health Director Clifford G. Blitch stated, "We don't care how they are embalmed — sitting up, lying down, or what — so long as they are embalmed by a reputable firm."

The mausoleum, which contains "just enough room inside" for the easy chair, is engraved with the words, "Watching and waiting . . . B. L. Simmons . . . 9-5-1887." A space remains for the date of death.

Mr. Simmons said his wife will not join him in the tomb after her death, because she "has some idea about being sent back to west Florida to be buried beside her father."

Cattle Killed, Shot; Muslims Forced Out

Asheville, Ala. — (RNS)—Black Muslim farm operations in St. Clair County will be halted and the land sold as a result of white hostility and dying cattle.

The decision followed what was believed to be the poisoning of 30 cows, bringing to 69 the number which have died mysteriously or been shot since last fall.

In Chicago, Muslim leader Elijah Muhammad confirmed that the St. Clair County properties — amounting to about 1,000 acres — will be sold.

J. H. Davis, manager of the Alabama farm, said the operations near Asheville would be transferred to Green County, near the Mississippi line and where there is a black majority.

Purchase of the property had caused widespread and continued controversy in the county. The Ku Klux Klan bought adjoining property as a "buffer." The Pine Forest Missionary Baptist church, on the other side of one tract,

has opposed the Muslim presence.

Wallace Wyatt, a church deacon, told a federal court the Muslims were "a dangerous foreign nation." Mr. Wyatt's brother, Ray Wyatt, was a major negotiator of the original sales to the Muslims. Sale price was \$236,000.

Meanwhile, a state laboratory confirmed that at least some of the recent cattle deaths were caused by poison. The substance was identified as calcium arsenic.

Elijah Muhammad said in Chicago that the treatment of the Muslims "proves what the white people are. They don't want the black man to have any freedom to do for himself. . . . We don't want to be anywhere we're not wanted."

The Muslims have a successful dairy and cattle farm near Dawson, Ga. The St. Clair County project was designed for similar operations. Other properties are owned in Georgia and in extreme North Alabama.

Seminarian Reinstated in 'Go-Go' Case

Seattle, Wash. — (NC)—A second-year theology student suspended for recruiting go-go dancers to perform at a prison rock show, has been reinstated by the faculty of St. Thomas the Apostle Seminary in Kenmore.

James Pattenau, 24, was suspended in January by Archbishop Thomas A. Connelly for allegedly causing scandal. The archbishop imposed the disciplinary action after a Seattle daily newspaper reported Pattenau had visited several taverns to enlist performers for a special show at Monroe State Reformatory. The seminarian had taught religion there.

The suspension was protested by St. Thomas theology students who had threatened to boycott classes if the case was not reviewed by a compulsory review board.

Pattenau was reinstated by the St. Thomas faculty, composed largely of Sulpician Fathers. Their decision came after an advisory board of nine archbishops and bishops from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska met here at the request of Archbishop Connelly and recommended that the issue be remanded to the faculty. Students from dioceses in those states attend the seminary.

Ex-City Man Resigns from Pastorate

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The Rev. Channing E. Phillips, the first black man ever to be nominated for the presidency at a National Democratic Convention, has resigned as co-pastor of the Lincoln Temple United Church of Christ here.

Inter-congregational tensions over his role in social issues are given by some members as the reason for his resignation. The resignation is expected to come before the church for consideration after Easter.

(Mr. Phillips belonged to the Class of 1940 at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.)

The clergyman did not comment on the reasons for his resignation, given during the second week of March and effective 60 days later. He said he was not leaving to become more involved in politics or to accept another church assignment.

Open Meetings, Bishops Urged

St. Louis — (RNS) — The Religious Newswriters Association overwhelmingly approved a proposal urging the U.S. Catholic bishops to open their semiannual meetings to the press.

The action, a resolution drafted by Dick Ostling of Time Magazine and approved by RNA President Hiley Ward of the Detroit Free Press, was taken "in accord with our purpose as a professional association to foster better informed, more accurate coverage of Catholic and other religious issues in the secular press."

The resolution was approved during the annual meeting of the RNA in St. Louis and calls upon the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to open all plenary business sessions to accredited reporters at its April session and all future meetings.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Some 18,000 people in two communities of Kenya were put within reach of markets, schools and health facilities after CARE gave \$1,500 worth of materials to build a bridge that cut travel by 52 miles.

Youth-for-Peace Plan 'Already Started'

Washington — (NC)—"It would be presumptuous to think that our division could start a youth movement for peace. It's already started," said Father Patrick McDermott, S.J., assistant director for peace of the Division of World Justice and Peace of the United States Catholic Conference.

"In fact," the priest said, "the momentum of the peace movement in this country is due largely to youth involvement."

He was commenting on a proposal for an international Catholic youth organization to work for peace approved by the peace committee of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace. That committee had also said that the establishment of such an organization will be left up to

individuals and groups on the national or regional level.

Father McDermott said his division will aim at channeling the energies of American youths "into a positive direction by alerting young people to the possibilities for non-violent change and the mechanisms by which it can be accomplished."

Many youths "are hitting drugs and copping out of structured society because they feel powerless to change society for the better," he claimed.

"However," he stressed, "it is important that those youth who are genuinely interested in change remain open to the complexity of the peace issue so that they can sustain some sort of permanent commitment to social change and not burn out too quickly."

U.S. Elect Atheist President? Couldn't Happen, Seminar Told

Iowa City — (RNS) — An atheist could not be elected president of the United States today according to a Catholic lay theologian at the University of Iowa School of Religion.

Prof. James McCue made this claim during a discussion series on "Religion in America" by scholars of the School of Religion.

Despite the American principle that church and state should be kept apart, the U.S., in practice, has had an "established religion," Prof. McCue said, noting that in some ways religion has been stronger here than in other countries usually considered religious.

In Italy and Latin America, atheistic Communists often run for office and are elected, he pointed out. This has not happened in America, and serious American candidates for public office are "quick to point out" their religious affiliation.

However, Prof. McCue predicted that as the 21st Century approaches, the need to be even "vaguely religious" will decline as a requirement for being "American." He said Americans are becoming "disenchanted" with the nation's religious "institutions."

Prof. David Belgium, a theologian of the Lutheran Church in America, held that the need for religious support will not decrease in the

21st Century — but religion must adapt to fulfill new roles.

"This should not surprise us because every new advance in biological science raises new human-ethical questions," whether the advance is in atomic energy, automation, social security or improved fertilizers.

Prof. Belgium said changes in society, and their effects on the practice of religion are reflected in the fact that 100 years ago death was an acceptable topic, but sex was not. The situation was reversed in this century until the recent heart transplant movement "restored death to conversational respectability."

MOSLEMS AT FATIMA Fatima, Portugal — (NC) — Thirty Moslems from Portuguese Guinea in West Africa, returning home from a pilgrimage to Mecca, made a special stop at the shrine

here. Due to the circumstance that the daughter of Mohammed was named Fatima, there has been more than casual attention given to the shrine throughout the Moslem world.

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EASTER

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