

The Week's News In Review

NCEA Head Lauds President

President Nixon's proposal of March 24 that \$1.5 billion be used to finance desegregation programs was praised in Washington by Father C. Albert Koob, president of the National Catholic Education Association.

Father Koob pointed to the President's proposal for innovative educational experiences between children of different races. This means of reducing de facto segregation, would be "a wise choice" over expensive bus systems, he said.

"The immediate problem is to get as much quality education as possible to the underprivileged," the priest continued. He praised the President's "perception and courage in identifying racism as a national rather than a sectional problem."

President Nixon's 10,000 word statement reasserted his opposition to forced busing to achieve racial balance. He urged an end to segregated teaching staffs and said federal officials should not go beyond the requirements of law in attempting to impose their own judgment on the local school district.

Top Court to Study 'Curious'

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether "I Am Curious (Yellow)," is obscene. The Swedish film featuring sex and nudity has been a spectacular box-office success.

The Court accepted the case on appeals from Maryland and Massachusetts. Last year, Maryland's highest court ruled the film obscene. In Massachusetts, state anti-obscenity laws were used to bring criminal charges against exhibitors. A federal district court decided that the laws were probably unconstitutional and put an end to prosecutions.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision probably would stop a series of legal battles over the motion picture, now the center of litigation in 13 states and some 20 cities.

Defenders of 'Curious' say that it cannot be convicted as "utterly without redeeming social value."

Armenian Leader to Visit Pope

The heads of the Roman Catholic and Armenian Orthodox Churches will meet this May for the first time in history.

Pope Paul VI will be host to Vasken I of Echmiadzin, in Soviet Armenia, the supreme patriarch and Catholicos of the Armenian Orthodox. The Vatican announced that the Pope and patriarch planned private talks and would join in prayer meetings in each of the four major basilicas of Rome. Numerous receptions have been planned.

During his stay, May 8-12, Vasken I will live in the Towers of St. John within the Vatican gardens. He will be accompanied by the Armenian Orthodox Patriarchs of Jerusalem and Constantinople and archbishops of Western Europe and the Americas.

Vasken I is the spiritual leader of some 3 million Armenians in 26 dioceses found in the Soviet Union, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Europe and North and South America. He has been the Catholicos since 1955.

Detroit Gravediggers Strike

Gravediggers at three Catholic cemeteries in Detroit walked off the job after six months of unsuccessful negotiations for a new contract.

The 50 cemetery workers, members of Local 115 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, are seeking a 58-cent hourly raise over the next two years. The Detroit archdiocese is offering four cents over the same period.

Prominent Layman Dies

James R. Schule, a Papal Knight of Malta, died in Freeport when his car crashed after an apparent heart attack. His wife, who was riding with him, was unhurt.

Executive vice-president of Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn, the 50-year-old advertising official was a member of the Cardinal's Committee of the Laity and the Cardinal's Committee for Education in the Archdiocese of New York. He was also vice-chairman of the board of trustees of St. John's University in Brooklyn, of which he was a graduate. A former president of the Catholic Apostolate of Radio, Television and Advertising, Mr. Schule was named a Papal Knight by Pope John XXIII.

Study Compares High Schools

Catholic high schools send more graduates into higher education than public schools do, according to a nationwide study reported in Minneapolis.

Results of the study, presented at a session of the American Education Research Association, showed that the average percentage of public high school graduates going on to college was 54 per cent, while the percentage for Catholic schools was 74 per cent.

The research was conducted by James L. Morrison of Pennsylvania State University and Benjamin J. Hodgkins of Florida State University in 6,333 public high schools and 1,212 Catholic schools in 1965-66.

The findings suggest, according to the report, that through a process of student selection and institutional emphasis more Catholic school students are oriented to higher education.

Bishops Condemn Apartheid

Salisbury — (RNS) — In a joint pastoral letter, the Roman Catholic bishops of Rhodesia served notice to the government that "they cannot in conscience and will not in practice accept any limitation of our freedom to deal with all people, irrespective of race."

Commenting on Rhodesia's new "apartheid-style" (racial segregation) constitution, the bishops flatly asserted, "We cannot accept the discriminatory laws . . . which are contrary to Christian faith."

The new legislation, the Catholic leaders pointed out, may well force the Church "to do things in violation of its conscience, such as to refuse hospital beds to those not racially approved."

Further, "It may well be that we shall also be denied, in violation of our conscience, the right to educate in our schools whomsoever we wish. And priests, nuns and teaching brothers may have to be segregated in their communities according to their racial origins."

The new Rhodesian constitution, approved last June by a minority electorate, largely white, imposes an apartheid pattern on the nation. It is supplemented by a new land tenure act, dividing the land of Rhodesia into two equal parts, one for the white population which numbers between 240 and 250 thousand, the other for blacks, some 4,500,000 to 5 million people.

Irish-born Bishop Donal R. Lamont, in a letter to the Rhodesian Herald, charged that the men who framed the constitution were "the real terrorists in this country."

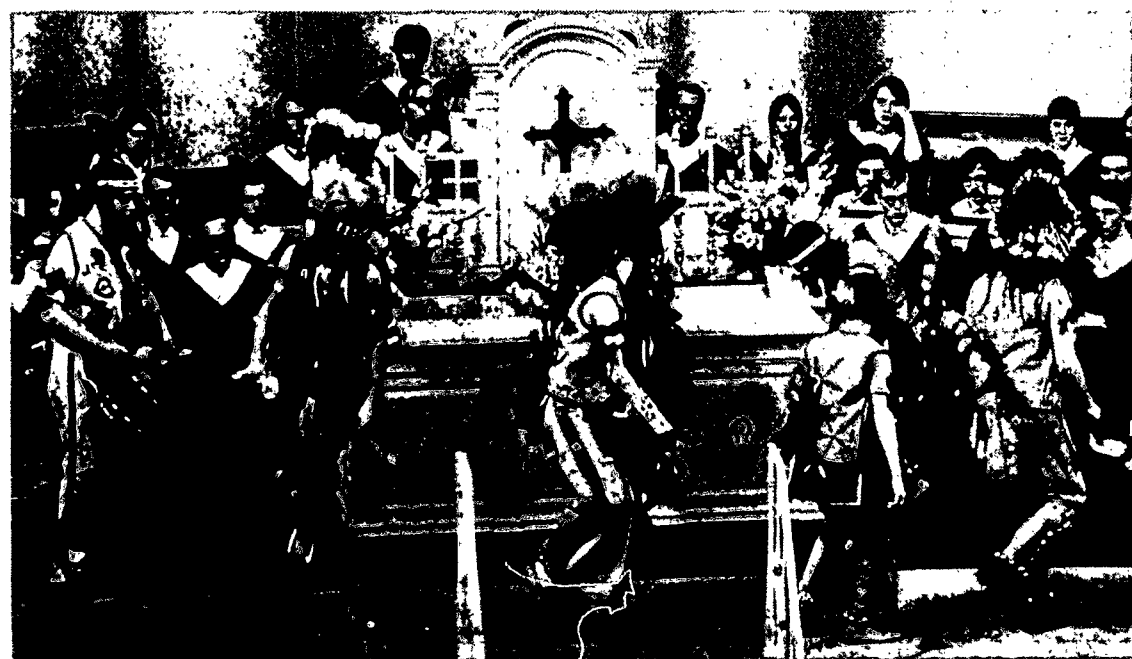
"Remember," he wrote, "physical violence or moral terrorism is as real. But it is a much more terrible thing."

Bishop Lamont scored the constitution as "the laughing-stock of lawyers throughout the world."

This "caricature of law," he added, "has made the nations of the world withhold recognition from the newly-declared republic. No civilized people could grant recognition to a country which so renounces legal principle and flouts every instinct of humanity."

SIT WITH CARE

Only 85% of the elementary schoolchildren in Guatemala are using CARE desks and chairs.



Indians Dance in University Chapel

Indian ceremonial dances are performed in Hendrix Chapel on the Syracuse University campus during an American Indian-Christian Celebration at the school. Performing are members of Explorer Post 204, all of whom are of Indian extraction. The service was intended to provide an explanation of Indian religion. (Religious News Service)

New Diocese In West Indies

St. George's, Grenada, West Indies — (RNS) — Territory detached from the St. George's Diocese has been formed into the Diocese of Bridgetown-Kingstown. Pope Paul named Bishop Patrick Webster, OSB., ordinary of the St. George's diocese and apostolic administrator of the newly-created see.

Bishop Webster, 46, had been apostolic administrator of St. George's since August. He is a native of Castries, St. Lucia Island.

The new diocese includes the islands of Barbados, and St. Vincent. It has a total population of 336,000. There are 20,000 Catholics in nine parishes, served by 15 priests, 12 Brothers and 41 nuns of various orders.

Vatican Paper Urges Drug War

Vatican City — (RNS) — "L'Osservatore Romano," Vatican City's daily newspaper, has urged all of Italy to "wake up to the danger of drugs" before it is too late.

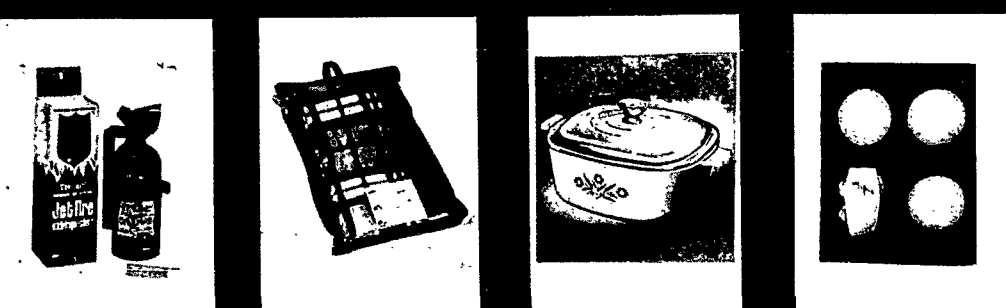
The editorial was prompted by the recent discovery of a "floating club" on the Tiber River near Rome where school children were found smoking hashish (10 times stronger than marijuana) and methadine, commonly referred to as "speed," and heroin.

Written by the editor-in-chief, Raimondo Manzini, the editorial blamed the "permissiveness of liquor."

the age" and added that such permissiveness led to the spread of "moral and psychological yielding." It urged widespread mobilization of forces throughout Italy to stop narcotics use among teenagers.

Rome police, in a late afternoon raid, found 90 boys and girls, all under 15, described as "under the influence" of drugs and another 90 preparing to use drugs. The boat, known as the Sporting Club, carried 35 pounds of hashish, heroin, hypodermic needles and 200 bottles of drug-spiked liquor.

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