

RACISM! Where Did It Come From?

By R. M. McCONNELL
(NC News Service)

Washington — "Racism is a dirty word in America — and a hotly controversial one."

These are the opening words of a new pamphlet published here by the United States Commission on Civil Rights, chaired by Notre Dame University president Father Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C.

The pamphlet was written by Dr. Anthony Downs, senior vice-president of the board of directors of the Real Estate Research Corporation and a consultant to the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders.

Downs' essay pointed out that "millions of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Negroes, Indians and other minority

Moonlighter Keeps Sunny Disposition

Detroit—(NC)—In these inflationary high-cost-of-living days, countless workers with a variety of skills are holding down two jobs to make ends meet.

But a moonlighting nun — that's something else again, especially since she doesn't keep a dime she makes from extracurricular activities.

After Sister Mary Conrad Kreusel puts in a full day teaching home economics and religion at St. Philip Neri school here, she takes on job No. 2 as a consultant dietician at four local nursing homes. She's been helping there for four years.

She explained the motivation for her after-school-hours job: "There are some 20 million senior citizens in our country now, and it's the most neglected area of service I know."

There are more than 400 elderly residents at the four nursing homes she serves. One home is planning to open an addition to accommodate 200 more residents — and Sister Conrad is ready for that job, too.

"There is much discussion about restlessness among Religious, frustrations and so on, but I feel I am really one of the unfrustrated," Sister Conrad said. "This is work I love to do, and I'm doing it with my religious vocation. I work with patients and administration at the homes and I know much of the consultation is spilling over into the homes and lives of the nursing home employees."

Lay Distribution Of Communion Approved in France

Paris — (RNS) — In all dioceses in France nuns and laymen may be authorized to help priests distribute Communion, the Liturgy Commission of the French Episcopate announced here.

In the past two years, special permission had been granted in certain dioceses. The bishops have now decided it would be better to allow each bishop to organize his diocese according to needs.

WAR TEST

Boston—Gov. Francis W. Sargent signed an "anti-war" bill declaring Massachusetts as a legal adversary in the employment of its residents in the Vietnam conflict. The bill is intended to force a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on whether the President has usurped the power to declare war delegated to Congress by the constitution.

groups in our society suffer from severe deprivation and injustice."

The reason for this, Downs charged, is what white Americans have never fully understood, but what the Negro can never forget: that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. "White institutions created it," he continued, "white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

The failure of the report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (Kerner report) to define its charges of racism led many people to reject the whole report, according to Downs.

To correct that situation, Downs outlined an operational definition of racism. In his view "racism is any attitude, action or institutional structure which subordinates a person or group because of his or their color."

This subordination, Downs claimed, as the core of the race problem in the United States. He said it manifests itself in

two ways: through overt racism, the blatant use of color as a tool of suppression, and through institutional subordination.

It is institutional subordination, Downs claimed, that leads to blacks being excluded from jobs because they are unskilled. Of course they are unskilled, he pointed out. Overt racism barred them from getting an education and the residual effects bar them from getting the jobs, he added.

So the jobs go to the whites, Downs said, and the wheel of misfortune turns once again.

One effort to break the cycle is the school busing program, designed to move nonwhite students into previously white schools and vice versa. The programs have been opposed for many reasons, he said, some of them rather logical. But, Downs pointed out, "opposition to all busing as undesirable is clearly racist in nature."

Downs blamed the persistence of racism in the United States on the fact that it "yields sig-

nificant psychological, economic and political advantages to millions of white Americans."

To solve the problems of racism, Downs offered some proposals:

- Make all Americans conscious of the existence of racism and its cost to the nation.
- Build up the capabilities of minority group members.
- Provide legislative programs to benefit all those in need of help, whether white or non-white.
- Make the nation realize that elimination of racism is going to be expensive, and help citizens develop the will to bear the expense.
- Organize alliances of whites and non-whites in the pursuit of common goals.
- Create opportunities for positive encounters between whites and non-whites.
- Consciously integrate white-dominated organizations, schools, and neighborhoods.



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