

N.Y. Senate **Reduces** Wait

Albany — (RNS)—The New York Senate has passed a bill reducing the waiting period for a divorce from two years to one. and increasing the waiting period for a marriage from three to ten days.

"Living apart for a year is ample proof of the death of a marriage,' said Sen. Roy M. Goodman (R.-Manhattan), sponsor of the bill. "Making people wait an extra year puts unnecessary obstacles in the way of those attempting to start new lives and families."

The bill would make marriage counseling and concilia-tion services voluntary. Under present law, husband and wives involved in divorce action must seek such services.

Sen. Goodman pointed out that extending the waiting period before a marriage can be performed will help prevent "hasty and ill-advised mar-riages."

## ND Bowl Profit To Aid Minorities

Notre Dame, Ind.—(RNS)— The University of Notre Dame has earmarked \$210,000-proceeds from its first post-season football bowl appearance in 44 year - for min ority group scholarships and programs.

Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president, said about \$50,000 would be set aside for salaries of personnel in the university's black studies program. Now under final review by the university's Academic Council, the program will be launched

The \$160,000 balance will go into a fund for minority group students and will be distributed in the form of four-year schol-

Notre Dame was given \$340,-000 for its appearance in the Cotton Bowl, Dallas, on New Year's Day. The Fighting Irish lost, 21-7, to the University of Texas. Major expense items were transportation and maintenance of the team, coaches and a marching band.

## Blasphemy Law 'Unconstitutional'

Annapolis, Md.-(RNS)-The State Court of Special Appeals has declared Maryland's 257year-old blasphemy law unconstitutional.

It upheld the decision of the Carroll County Circuit Court which overturned the conviction of 22-year-old Irving K. West. The high court said the state must remain neutral in matters involving religion.

West, an Army veteran, was found guilty under the law when he allegedly told a policeman to "take your goddam hands off me" during a street fight in 1968. He served 30 days in jail and paid a \$25 fine.

When the law was first enacted in 1723, the penalty called for the offender to have a hole bored through his tongue.

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# **British Bishops Back**

#### Pope on Celibacy

London — (RNS)—A special message supporting Pope Paul's celibacy position has been is-sued by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales at their annual Spring meeting.

The bishops expressed their "whole-hearted support of the reaffirmation made by Your Holiness of the apostolic value of celibacy as a sign of the priests total consecration to love of Jesus Christ and the service of his fellowmen.

"We would like to emphasize our determination not to permite the priestly ministry to be exercised by those who, in your own words, 'have turned back after putting their hand to the plough.'"

#### Pope May Upgrade Yugo Relationship

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI conferred here with the apostolic delegate to Yugoslavia, Archbishop Mario Cagna, to discuss the question of raising Yugoslav-Vatican diplomatic representation to full ambassadorial level.

Yugoslav - Vatican relations have steadily improved since the June 1966 agreement under which Yugoslavia guaranteed the Catholic Church free con-duct of its religious affairs and rites, while Oatholics were pledged to observe the Yugoslav constitution.



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Wednesday, April 22, 1970

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