



Church Women United Honor Senator

Senator Margaret Chase Smith (R-Me) receives a citation from Mrs. James M. Dolbey, right president of Church Women United, at seminar on political action, in Washington. (Religious News Photo)

COURIER / NATION

Moratorium Group Disbands

Washington leaders of the Vietnam Moratorium Committee announced that the anti-war organization is disbanding because of a drop in public enthusiasm for mass demonstrations.

The Moratorium, formed in the Summer of 1969 was dedicated to non-violent protest. It received widespread backing from religious groups and last October sponsored local anti-war rallies which drew millions of participants.

One leader said such rallies were "a political fad that has worn off."

Advise Wasted, Priests Say

Claiming the Jersey City administration wanted Citizens' Advisory Council to rubber stamp city policies, two priests have resigned from it.

Fathers James F. A. O'Brien and John P. Egan had been appointed in 1968 to the federally mandated body set up to advise the city on Office of Economic Opportunity programs. In their letters to Mayor Thomas Whelan, the priests charged that he was unwilling to listen to advice and said they could no longer serve on the council in good conscience.

Nigeria Relief Study Sought

Massachusetts' Democratic Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has asked the General Accounting Office to investigate the U.S. program for relief of Nigerian civil war victims.

Washington newspaper reports indicated that a State Department survey showed more than one million people starving in the former Biafra region. Department spokesmen have declined to comment.

Get Involved, Bishop Urges

Bishop Gerald L. Frey of Savannah urged some 2,000 delegates to the third Southeastern Congress on Worship to get involved in efforts for peace and social justice because "that's what Jesus did."

Bishop Frey commented that traditionally the Church had tried to improve the social structure by changing the hearts and minds of her children for the better. "History," he added, "shows the relative ineffectiveness of such an approach to the moral problems plaguing modern man."

Indian Gets Damien Award

A 70-year-old physician from India, who has fought against Hansen's Disease for 40 years, was presented with the Damien-Dutton Award at the U.S. Public Health Service in Carville, La.

Dr. Dharmendra (he uses one name) is emeritus medical scientist with the Central Leprosy Institute in Chingleput, India. The award of the Damien-Dutton Society of New Brunswick, N.J., is the highest international honor presented for work on leprosy. The society is named for the heroic Father Damien de Vuester, "apostle of the lepers" of Molokai, Hawaii, and his assistant, Brother Joseph Dutton.

Dr. Dharmendra praised the United States, which has a relatively small amount of leprosy, for its aid to countries where the disease is more prevalent. He took part in a seminar at the Carville hospital.

'Gravy' for Parishes

In the Milwaukee archdiocesan fund drive, each parish will set its own quota and share in money donated over the diocesan quota.

Archbishop William E. Cousins said, "This will not mean thousands and thousands of dollars. It could mean a couple of hundred dollars that normally might be hard to gather, and there is no parish that doesn't have a project of its own."

Courier-Journal

Bay State Revives School Prayer Movement

Boston — (RNS) — The Massachusetts House has given its initial approval to a bill to allow students to pray in public school.

The measure, endorsed in a 205-16 vote, would permit any child attending public school

"to participate in voluntary prayer with the approval of such child's parents before the commencement of each daily school session."

A legislative committee on education also approved four resolutions urging the U.S. Congress to enact constitutional

amendments to authorize Bible readings and prayers in the public schools. Enactment of any of the legislation, observers say, would present a challenge to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1963 ruling which barred Bible readings and prayers in public schools.

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Wednesday, April 29, 1970

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