

Paisley Wins Parliament Seat

The election of the bitterly anti-Catholic preacher, Rev. Ian Paisley, to the Northern Ireland parliament is viewed as a double blow against Ulster's long-time ruling Unionist party and Northern Ireland Catholics.

Paisley, a 44-year-old minister of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster, which he founded in 1951, campaigned as a candidate of a party he created, the Protestant Unionists. He did so on an unwavering platform of opposition to the Ulster Unionist party's new policy of granting equal rights to Catholics.

Cardinal Backs Jews' Request

Julius Cardinal Doepfner, Archbishop of Munich and Freising, has called for revision of the text of the Oberammergau Passion Play to eliminate references considered anti-Semitic by Jewish groups. He remarked, however, that he did not believe the play violated the declaration of Vatican II which absolved the Jewish people of responsibility for the crucifixion of Christ.

The play is performed by the villagers of Oberammergau every ten years in fulfillment of a vow made in 1633 in gratitude for the end of a plague. May 18 is opening day.

A Day to Remember the Unborn

Catholics of England and Wales henceforth will observe Dec. 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, as a day of prayer in sorrow for the "unborn victims of abortion."

According to latest official figures, 54,013 abortions were performed in England and Wales in the first full year of the liberal Abortion Act of April, 1968.

Uruguayan Bishops on Celibacy

The Uruguayan Bishops' Conference has stated that for the present it chooses to have only celibate priests and will not admit to the active ministry "those who have asked dispensation from their priestly duties." The bishops added, however, that they are "well disposed toward considering, under Pope Paul VI's guidance, the possibility and convenience of calling to the priesthood mature married men with established professions and family life."

Divorce and the Concordat

The controversy over the introduction of divorce in Italy has taken a new turn. Proponents of the divorce bill, which has been passed by the Chamber of Deputies and is up for a Senate vote, are seeking a national referendum on the 1929 Concordat between Italy and the Holy See.

The Vatican position is that legalization of divorce would violate the provisions and intent of the 1929 agreement signed by Pope Pius XI and Benito Mussolini. The controversial measure would permit divorce in Italy in certain cases, such as the imprisonment of a marriage partner for more than 12 years, attempted murder of one's spouse, insanity, and the like.

Abortion an Issue in India

India's Catholic Union has called on the central government to withdraw a bill for legalization of abortion now pending before the parliament.

The lay organization's 19th annual meeting, in Madras, also voiced concern over denial to Christian converts of the special relief aid extended to Hindu backward communities.

Rabbi Urges Moratorium On Temples, Churches

Alexandria, Va. — (RNS) — Architects attending a conference here were challenged to design no new structures for religious institutions until every sub-standard family dwelling in the country is replaced by a liveable one.

Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman of Washington's Temple Sinai made this and two other proposals in his keynote address to the opening session of the 31st National Conference on Religious Architecture.

He also suggested that the architect "talk" church and synagogue building committees out of "monument-building" until human needs have been taken care of and "talk them into" sponsoring new low-cost housing.

"That would be real, coherent, sacred involvement," the rabbi said, referring to the conference theme, "Architecture of Involvement."

His third recommendation was that each architect undertake to "design one church or synagogue — no more; that he do so as early as possible in his career; and that he do so for his denomination only.

"Don't build it, just design

it," he urged. "Get an artist you respect to design it with you. Take out the design every five years. Throw it away if you must, then start a new one. Keep it if you can.

"Then one day," he continued, "a relevant and worthy institution may come along which has earned the right to build. Give your design. Make a joyful sacrifice to your God."

Elaborating on his proposal for a moratorium on religious construction, Rabbi Lipman said that in newly-planned cities, "let space be allotted for churches and held.

"Let religious institutions meet in halls and other structures until we all earn the right to try to build a new structure. In old cities, let renovation suffice us until we earn the right to build anew.

"In suburbia," he added, "There are enough structures

to house our vague attempts at religiosity until we earn the right to try to build anew. Let the task of religious institutions be the housing of people."

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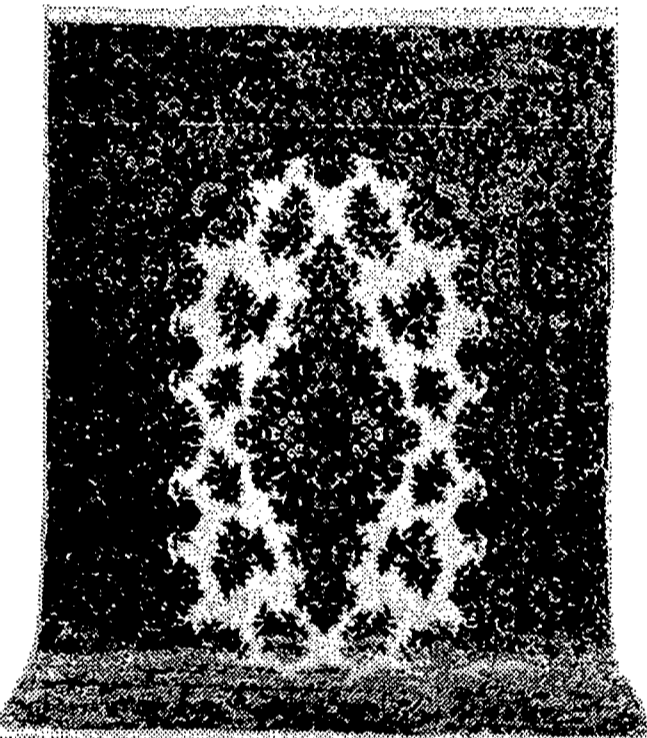
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