

Suicides Tied to Abortion Law

London —(NC)— Dr. Charles Rickards, 61, a Catholic gynecologist, was so disturbed by Britain's new abortion law that he drowned himself, an inquest in London was told.

His brother, Dr. James Rickards, an anesthetist, told the coroner: "He was a devout Catholic and he said that this statute put him and many others with strong religious beliefs upon the horns of a terrible dilemma."

At another suicide inquest in London, Mrs. Mary Moruzzi, 33, was said to have killed herself with drugs after having had a legal abortion. Her husband, Roger, told the inquest: "Afterward she felt very guilty and told me she would be punished for having the abortion, that something would happen to me and she would be left with nothing."

Iraq Wants Its Jews Back

Beirut—(RNS)—The Iraqi government in Baghdad is trying to persuade former Iraqi Jews to come back from Israel, according to reports current here.

The government has for several months been defending its position regarding the Jews, following the uproar that started over the execution of 14 Jews condemned with other Iraqis for spying. Recently it lifted restrictions on the Jewish community by cancelling laws applied by the regime of President Abdel Rahman Aref, who was overthrown in July 1968.

The Association of the Jewish Community in Iraq, a number of emigrants who have returned from Israel, called upon their countrymen in Israel to return and urged international Zionism "to stop interfering in the affairs of Iraqi Jews."

The Jewish community in Iraq at one time was one of the largest in the world, numbering about 50,000. Today, Jews in Iraq are estimated to number about 3,500.

Arson Charged in Basilica Fire

Paris—(RNS)—Fire raged through the crypt of the famous Sacre Coeur Basilica May 10. Hundreds of firemen fought for hours to bring the blaze under control. Many church archives were destroyed, but there appeared to be no structural damage to the huge marble building that dominates the northern skyline of Paris.

Police said the fire was the work of an arsonist.

ECUMENICAL APPROACH

Maseru, Lesotho — (RNS) — Representatives of the Roman Catholic, Dutch Reformed and Anglican Churches in this independent state in southern Africa, in an unprecedented meeting, discussed revision and joint translation of all Biblical texts into the Lesotho language.

SMUGGLED SMUT

Canberra — (RNS) — Australian customs officials reported here that pornography had been smuggled into the country in envelopes bearing the printed name of evangelist Billy Graham. The "art studies" apparently had been advertised in American magazines.

Doctors Urged: Help Catholic Schools — Rabbi No Abortions In Office

New York — (RNS) — Doctors in New York State have been asked not to perform abortions in their offices when the liberalized abortion law goes into effect July.

The recommendation (it is not binding under law) was made by the State Public Health Council in cooperation with the State Medical Society.

The new rules for physicians suggest that an abortion "be performed only in a hospital as an obstetrical procedure . . . or in a suitably equipped or staffed facility."

State guidelines also recommend that no physician who refuses as a matter of conscience, be required to perform an abortion.

New York City Health Commissioner Hollis Ingraham, in commenting on the rules, said they were drawn up with the idea of guarding the "health and welfare" of women seeking abortions. He said the guidelines committee would sanction an abortion in a doctor's office only if a blood supply and an operating room were "immediately available." This could mean at a hospital in the vicinity — up to 10 block away — providing immediate transportation was available.

Dallas — (NC) — A national Jewish leader characterized the crisis in this country's Catholic schools as an American, not a religious, problem.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of New York, national director of the American Jewish Committee, asserted: "I am troubled

by the uncreative, inflexible, wooden response to this crisis by members of other faiths and the general public."

"We have a stake in Catholic kids, as we have in all kids — black kids, Mexican-American kids," Rabbi Tanenbaum stressed.



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