

**Racism Seen in Prison System**

New York — (RNS) — Rehabilitation in the New York State prison system was termed impossible by the Catholic chaplain at the Catskill Reformatory in Napanoch.

Father William M. O'Brien blamed patterns of racial prejudice for the situation in a talk at a conference here. Noting 90 to 95 per cent of the reformatory's inmates are Negro or Puerto Rican, Father O'Brien observed:

"There are no non-whites in the administration, one black officer in the custodial force, two black teachers and not one person of Spanish-speaking origin, although there are approximately 300 Spanish speaking offenders, many of whom do not communicate in English. This serious lack of non-white personnel . . . makes the Department of Correction unable to make the necessary changes to rehabilitate the offenders of our minority groups."

**Court Restores 'Hair'**

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that "Hair," complete with nude scenes, can be staged in Boston.

The big Broadway rock musical, which opened in Boston on Feb. 22 was closed shortly thereafter when the state supreme court ruled that the production violated Massachusetts' obscenity laws. This ruling was overturned by a U.S. District Court and Massachusetts authorities appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court's vote was 4 to 4. A tie is sufficient to uphold the action of a lower court.

**Anti-Drug Campaigner Honored**

San Francisco—(RNS)—A San Francisco pharmacist who began a one-man "drug abuse education" campaign in city grammar schools in 1968 has been honored by members of his profession.

Dino R. De Ranieri, a Catholic, was named "Pharmacist of the Month of May" by the Northern California Pharmaceutical Association for "outstanding contributions to both his profession and his community." Earlier, he had received the American Pharmaceutical Association's Public Education Achievement Award for 1969.

After several months of research into the drug problems, which included interviews with psychiatrists, law enforcement officers and social workers, the pharmacist began lectures to grammar school children, primarily in parochial schools. He also coordinated an "In Service Workshop on Drugs" for the Department of Education of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

**Cardinal Leger Lauds Celibate**

Milan—(RNR)—Paul Cardinal Leger, who resigned as Archbishop of Montreal in 1967 to become a missionary among lepers in Africa, praised priestly celibacy in an article in the Milanese newspaper *Avenire*.

"A priest who has lived alone for many years and who dies alone has been faithful to a charism of the Holy Spirit and has fulfilled St. Paul's injunction to fidelity," he wrote.

The Canadian prelate said it was to the celibate that the Lord's words were addressed: "Blessed are the servants whom the master finds vigilant."

**Church Leader Asks End of War**

Geneva—(RNS)—Dr. Eugene Blake, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, has asked again for an end to the "senseless fighting" in Vietnam.

The appeal came in a message to the Venerable Thich Thien Hoa, chairman of the Buddhist Unified Church of Vietnam, on the 2,515th anniversary of the birth of Buddha. Dr. Blake said all parties involved should negotiate an end to the Southeast Asia conflict.

**Conchies Follow Noble Tradition Bishop Says**

Collegeville, Minn.—(RNS)—A Catholic bishop said here that a conscientious objector to a specific war or to all war "stands within a strong and noble tradition in the Catholic Church."

It is a tradition which "has developed and seems to become more universally accepted as war becomes totally abhorrent," Bishop Ernest L. Untermyer said in a baccalaureate homily to the graduating class of St. John's University.

The bishop, head of the Charleston, S.C., diocese, said that "in no way does the Church desire to condemn those who are pledged to the service of their country as members of its armed forces for the security and freedom of the people."

But, he said, young men who "find it abhorrent to be involved in any war or in a specific war" have support of the Catholic bishops of the United States and from Catholic teaching.

The Catholic Church, he added, "takes into account those men who are conscientious objectors in the true sense, in no way making an open road in its teaching for cowardice or rejection of grave responsibility to the nation."

The bishop said that laws which recognize conscientious objection "show recognition of the role of conscience in reaching a decision based on religious and moral motives."

**Man Drafted Illegally Gets Freedom**

San Francisco—(NC) — A decision by a federal judge here may lead to the release from active service of more than 6,000 men drafted into the Army after being illegally classified as available for military service.

U.S. District Court Judge Alfonso J. Zirpoli ordered the Army to release draftee Pfc. Robert W. Andre of Downey, Calif., in the first retroactive application of a U.S. Supreme Court decision banning inductions as punishment for draft law violations.

The Selective Service decision that authorized classification changes for draft law violators was aimed at punishing anti-draft demonstrators. Andre, however, was reclassified and drafted because he failed to notify his draft board of change of address.

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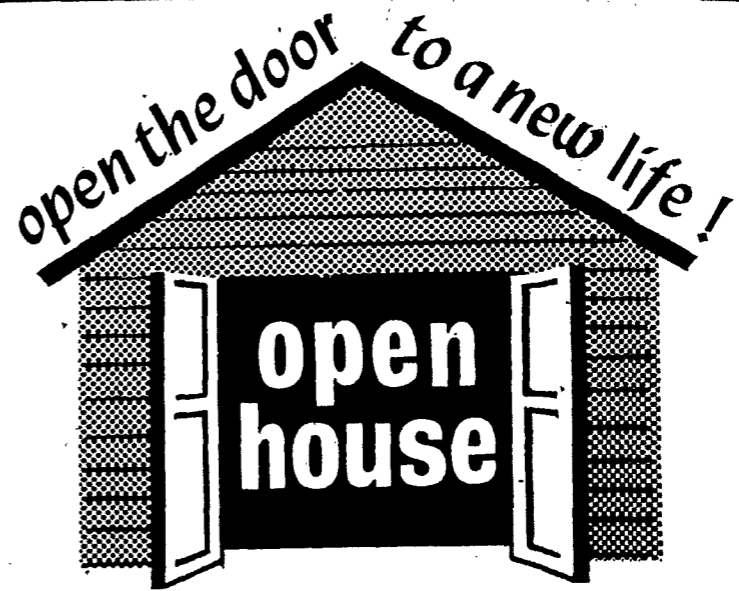
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