



Father McCormack, Bishop Walsh meet the press in Hong Kong. (RNS)

## Bishop Walsh:

# "I Have No Bitterness"

By GERMAINE SWAIN  
**Hong Kong — (NC) —** "It is a bit hard for me to believe, even now, that I have been released. I have no bitterness toward those who tried and condemned me. I just could never feel angry with any Chinese."

At his first meeting with the press since his freedom, during a news conference that lasted 30 minutes at the Maryknoll Sisters Hospital in Hong Kong, 78-year-old Bishop James E. Walsh quietly spoke those words of love for the people he lived among almost half a century, both as free man and prisoner.

"I wasn't a spy either for the U.S. government or for the Vatican," he said. "I came to China in 1918 as a priest and missionary for the purpose of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Chinese people and tending to their spiritual and material needs."

"I can tell you in all honesty and sincerity that I've never spent a day during my 40 years on Chinese soil doing anything but that."

"It should be obvious that, from the time of my arrest (1958) until my release, my experiences have been varied. It hasn't all been sweetness and light."

"There were periods of harassment and personal suffering. The monotony of daily confinement in a small room for 12 years, waking up each morning and trying to plan how I would occupy my day so as to maintain my sanity and ideals as a priest and missionary to the Chinese people, was especially hard to bear."

"At the same time, I am grateful to Almighty God that, for the most part, I was treated with basic human dignity and given the basic necessities."

Bishop Walsh said that a fi-

ancial matter was "undoubtedly the real cause of my arrest," explaining:

"I sent a message to a Hong Kong bank to secure funds for Church purposes for a friend, and importation of money was against the law. I admitted I did this at the request of a Chinese bishop, since he did not have the means to send the message, whereas I could send it as my own personal mail through the British consulate."

"I confessed it and, of course, I did know importation of money was against the law — but I suppose in my own mind I felt a man should be free to send out a letter, and that's not against the law."

He went on to state that after 18 months of interrogation morning, noon and night he "signed an admission" that he was a spy "in a legal sense" because "I was fed up." But he said he made it clear he was not a spy "in the accepted sense in which we use the word but only in their sense, which I had repudiated hundreds of times."

Bishop Walsh said the basis of that admission was that a Shanghai friend in the shipping business had told him a submarine was being built there, "and my listening to it from his lips showed I was a spy."

Bishop Walsh told the report-

ers gathered at the hospital that he never thought he would live to see his release.

"I felt that I wouldn't live long enough to complete my sentence of 20 years and that I would die in prison," he said.

## Bishop Says 'Overpopulation' A Matter of Distribution

Burlington, Vt. — (NC) — Disputing claims of overpopulation in the United States, Bishop Robert F. Joyce of Burlington said the real problem is an overconcentration of population in urban areas.

The bishop claimed the overconcentration now has plagued the nation with such problems as pollution, tensions, tax burdens, poor housing, health hazards, plus serious moral problems.

In his column in the Vermont Catholic Tribune, diocesan newspaper, Bishop Joyce recalled the words of U.S. Secretary of Interior Walter J. Hickel — "We don't have too many people. The trouble is that they're concentrated in the wrong places."

He said 80 percent of the 200 million-plus population of the country is crowded into cities which constitute about 10 percent of the land area. There are 11 acres of land for every man, woman and child in the U.S., "but most people live on only a few square yards," he added.

"So the easy solution is offered of preventing life or destroying it," the bishop wrote. "Respect for life, for human nature, for profound human values and instincts, these are

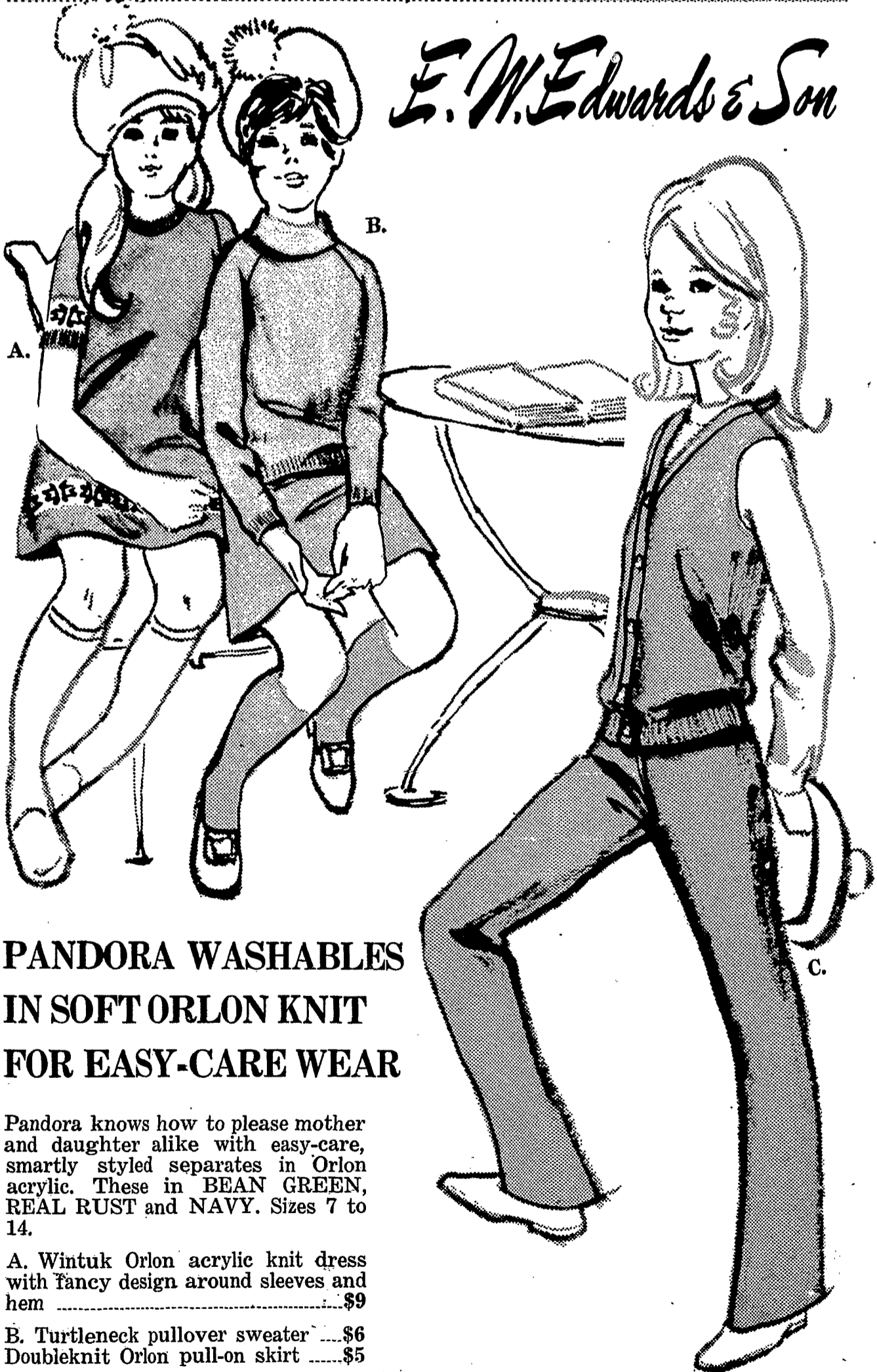
considered secondary and totally irrelevant. It is the old question of following the expedient way, of ignoring and denying any eternal moral principles which interfere with our comfortable way of life."

## Doctors Quit AMA Over Abortion

Coon Rapids, Minn.—(RNS) — Eight Coon Rapids physicians, all Roman Catholics announced they are resigning from the American Medical Association because of the liberal stand it has taken on abortion. The doctors are members of the Coon Rapids Clinic.

Dr. Joseph Moriarty, the group's spokesman, said the doctors "will contact, by mail or person, other medical clinics and physicians in Minnesota and urge them to take whatever action they deem necessary to express their conviction" on this issue.

The AMA's House of Delegates adopted on June 25 a resolution allowing doctors ethically to perform abortions for any reason that is "good medical practice" for the patient's welfare, so long as no state law is violated.



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