

A Look at S. Vietnam Election Process

By FR. PATRICK J. BURKE

Saigon — (NC) — Amid charges that the legislature has been subverted and that President Nguyen Van Thieu is preparing to stuff the ballot boxes to elect his candidates, South Vietnam is getting ready to elect half its 60-member Senate on Aug. 30.

There are 18 lists with 10 candidates each on them, making a total of 180 candidates for 30 seats.

In South Vietnam, senators

are elected at large; that is, people in all parts of the country vote for the lists. All 10 on a list are elected or all fail. Thus, the vote will select three lists from the 18.

Elected in September 1967, the present Senate held a lottery in December 1969, to decide who would receive six-year terms and who three-year terms.

Four of the six bloc leaders and all four retired generals in the Senate lost out in the lottery and had to take three-year

terms. One of these, Tran Van Don, is not seeking re-election because he maintains that President Thieu has so subverted the legislature that opposition can be more effective outside the Senate.

Don was regarded as guide and counsellor to Lt. Gen. Duong Van Minh, "Big Minh," the nominal head of the government that came to power after the murder of South Vietnam's first President, Ngô Dinh Diem, in November 1963. That regime proved so ineffective that Gen.

Nguyen Khanh replaced them in January 1964 without firing a shot.

Since candidates are elected at large, balance is important in the composition of a list. Each list usually includes persons born in various parts of the country and even in North Vietnam, representatives of different religions and of the more important ethnic groups.

A typical list is therefore made up of a candidate from North Vietnam, one from the

central part of the country, one from Saigon or the Mekong River Delta region, a Buddhist, a member of the Hoa Hoa or Cao Dai sects, a Catholic and a Montagnard tribesman.

Often a single candidate will have several of these qualifications. Sen. Nguyen Gia Hien, for example, is a northerner and a Catholic who draws a large vote from fellow refugees living in the Honai area north of Saigon.

Many observers think the strongest list is the one that includes the much respected former prime minister, Tran Van Huong, and the president of the Senate, Nguyen Van Huyen, perhaps Vietnam's most respected Catholic layman. Huyen will receive heavy support from Catholics in the Saigon area, while Huong will be supported in Saigon and his area of origin, the Mekong Delta.

Among the 180 candidates are 44 Catholics. Catholics head six lists and appear on five other lists. One list is composed entirely of Catholics.

Opponents and critics of Thieu are accusing him of preparing to stuff the ballot boxes to elect his own candidates or those of parties that generally support his policies.

The Central Election Committee is now determining whether the credentials of the candidates meet the provisions of the election laws.



Digs In Rubble

A girl digs in the rubble that was her home in the northeast section of Iran, hit by an earthquake recently. More than 100 were killed. (RNS)

Chavez, Teamsters Work Out Dispute

Salinas, Calif. — (RNS) — With another assist from the special committee established by the Catholic hierarchy, Cesar Chavez's farm workers and the Teamsters have been able to work out an agreement in their jurisdictional dispute here.

A pact was signed Aug. 12 between the Western Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee concerning representation for agricultural workers in the Salinas Valley and other coastal areas of California.

The agreement was announced by two representatives of the U.S. Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on the Farm Labor Dispute which provided the impetus recently for settlements with nearly 80 per cent of the growers in the 5-year-long grape pickers dispute. They were

Msgr. George G. Higgins, director of the Division of Urban Life of the United States Catholic Conference, a committee consultant, and Msgr. Roger Mahony, director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Fresno, committee secretary.

According to Msgr. Higgins, the bishop's committee regarded the agreement "as a truly historical document in the annals of farm labor and are fully confident that it will work for the mutual benefit of all concerned, growers and workers alike.

Under terms of the contract, the Teamsters said they would withdraw from organizing field farm workers. In return, the UFWOC agreed to refrain from attempting to "raid" canneries and creameries, frozen food processing plants, produce markets and warehouses, and professional truck drivers.

Surplus Churches Up For Sale

London — (RNS) — About 700 English churches may be declared surplus in the next 10 years and offered for sale. More than 30 old parish churches already have been. Some may find overseas owners.

The Church Commissioners said many inquiries had come from Canadians who would like to have a church from the area of their ancestry.

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1969 SILVER Coupe; 425 H.P. 427 engine, 4 speed, side exhaust, radio.
1968 BLUE Convertible; 350 H.P. 327 engine, 4 speed, radio, white top and interior.
1967 MAROON Convertible; 350 H.P. 327 engine, 4 speed, radio, white top and interior.
1967 GREEN Coupe; 300 H.P. 327 engine, 4 speed, radio.
1967 BLUE Convertible; 300 H.P. 427 engine, 4 speed, radio.
1966 COUPE; light blue, 390 H.P. 427 engine, 4 speed, radio.
1966 MAROON Convertible; 300 H.P. 327 V-8, 4 speed, radio, saddle interior.
1966 WHITE Convertible; with black interior and top, 300 H.P., 4 speed, radio.
1966 DARK BLUE with Blue interior Coupe; 417 V-8, 4 speed, radio.
1965 SILVER with black interior convertible; 300 H.P., 4 speed, radio.
1965 MAROON with black interior convertible; 300 H.P., 4 speed, radio.
1963 RED Convertible; 250 H.P. Engine, 4 speed, radio.

NEW

BLUE with Blue interior Coupe; 350 H.P. V-8, 4 speed, radio.
MAROON with black interior convertible; standard engine, 4 speed, radio.
GREEN with saddle interior coupe; 390 H.P. automatic, radio.
GREY with Red interior Coupe; Standard V-8, 4 speed, power steering, radio.
BLUE with Blue interior convertible, 370 H.P. Lt. Engine; 4 speed, radio.
GREEN with Saddle interior Coupe; Standard engine, 4 speed, radio.
MAROON with Saddle interior Coupe; 350 H.P. V-8 automatic, air conditioned, radio.
GREEN with Brown interior Convertible, 4 speed, standard engine.
GREY with red interior convertible; 390 H.P. 454 engine, 4 speed.
WHITE with black interior convertible; standard engine, 4 speed.
RED coupe; 4 speed standard engine, radio.
YELLOW with black interior convertible, 4 speed, standard engine, radio.
BLUE with blue interior convertible, 390 H.P. 454 engine, 4 speed radio.
GREEN with green interior convertible; standard engine, 4 speed, radio.
YELLOW with black convertible, 350 H.P., Radio, 4 speed.
RED with red interior coupe; 350 H.P. radio, 4 speed.
SILVER with red interior coupe; 390 H.P. 454, radio, 4 speed.

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