

\$1 Million Fine for Pollution

New Orleans—(NC)—A U.S. district court judge fined the Chevron Oil Company an even \$1 million for an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Judge Alvin B. Rubin fined the company the maximum \$2,000 on each of 500 counts. In exchange for a plea of no contest, the government dropped an additional 400 counts.

The spill followed a drilling platform fire that destroyed pumping equipment. The wells, never fitted with mandatory "storm chokes" to cut off the oil flow in the event of a pumping accident, spewed more than 35,000 gallons of oil a day into the Gulf. The last well was capped nearly two months after the oil started leaking.

Outlived His Funeral 52 Years

Brooklyn, N.Y.—(RNS)—The front page of the Oct. 12, 1918 issue of The Tablet, diocesan weekly newspaper, carried the following item:

"Chaplain Edward A. Wallace, first of the Brooklyn chaplains to enlist, is the first American priest to die in the service of his country in France." In later years, especially as a Navy chaplain in World War II, the diocesan priest liked to call the report "a slight exaggeration."

Father Edward A. Wallace, pastor emeritus of St. Margaret Mary Church in the Manhattan Beach section of Brooklyn, died Aug. 26 at the age of 85. The erroneous report of his death 52 years ago came from a base hospital where he was taken after being hit by a German high explosive mustard gas shell. The chaplain was confused with another man of the same name.

Two years ago, in an interview in the Tablet, Father Wallace recalled the incident.

"One of the strangest experiences after I came home from France was the opportunity to interview the undertaker who was in charge of my memorial service," he related. "My undertaker said it was a beautiful thing. Come to think of it, it probably was. With all that—the bugler, and the firing squad and the troops—really what more could any one ask for?"

Black Newmanites Organize

Houston—(RNS)—Catholic students attending black leadership sessions here voted to form a national Newman black caucus.

The caucus will attempt to get a financial subsidy from the national Catholic Newman office and solicit wide participation from black campuses across the U.S.

The black leadership lab, sponsored by the Josephite Fathers, was attended by 30 black students from 10 colleges and three high schools. Father W.D. Salisbury, a white Newman chaplain at Texas Southern University here, organized the lab and will serve as national coordinator of the caucus. Milton Davis, a senior at Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute, will serve as national "lobbyist" for the caucus.

Priests Issue Peace Call

Milwaukee—(RNS)—The Priest Senate of the Milwaukee Catholic Archdiocese has called on all believers "to pray earnestly for peace" but not to take the attitude "that prayer alone exhausts our obligations."

The statement, first of its kind by the senate, said it was incumbent on all Christians "to be peacemakers and instruments of reconciliation in society."

Priests were urged to deliver sermons on the subject. Priests, nuns and laity in teaching positions were requested to impart the principles of peace when instructing "especially the young."

"War and violence are contrary to Christ's example and Christ's teaching," the statement pointed out.

Adventist Scores Homo Proposal

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—A vigorous protest has been raised here by the head of the Seventh-day Adventist Church against a proposal to sanction homosexual marriages.

Dr. Robert H. Pierson, president of the Adventist General Conference, said marriage between "perverts" would be sacrilegious—thus, "clergymen in good conscience could not conduct such a ceremony."

He strongly scored the thesis of Mrs. Rita R. Hauser, U.S. representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, who suggested that homosexual marriages should be permitted.

"God was so offended by the wickedness of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah that He found it necessary to destroy them," he said. "What they were doing was precisely what Mrs. Hauser is championing."

Missions 'Greatest Experience'

Los Angeles—(NC)—Archbishop Timothy Manning, back from a visit to Los Angeles Lay Mission Helpers in Africa, described the trip as "the greatest experience of my priesthood."

He told of visiting Ngoji, Kenya, where Los Angeles Lay Mission Helper Pat Speidel had delivered 3,000 babies in a clinic she started there. He visited Driefontein, Rhodesia, and flew with the Los Angeles Mission Doctors in their Cessna airplane that covers a dozen mission stations.

"There's a sense of happiness there that we've lost here," he said. "There is a deep spirituality, not a single complaint. Joy is very obvious. I couldn't speak in more glowing terms of the Lay Mission Helpers and their total trust in the love of God."

Catholic Wins Discharge as CO

Fort Monmouth, N.J.—(RNS)—First Lieut. John J. Forrest, 27, was discharged by the Army as a conscientious objector. His attorney said it was the first such discharge based on Catholic theology.

Forrest had served six months in the Army. He is a graduate of Boston College Law School and a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association. In asking for release as a C.O., the Newton, Mass., officer held that pacifism or opposition

to war is not a requirement in Catholic doctrine or social theory. He maintained, however, that opposition is a valid minority opinion in the Church. He also argued distinctions between "just" and "unjust" wars. He was not, however, claiming selective conscientious objection.

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