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2 Sections



Guerrilla and His Pet

A young Arab guerrilla gently pets a kitten as any child would, but the automatic weapon across his lap is a reminder that at any time he may be called upon to kill. (RNS)

New Way to Elect Pope Urged

Brussels — (RNS) — Leo Joseph Cardinal Suenens, Archbishop of Malines-Brussels, said there would be "a drama of credibility" if the next Pope were chosen without a reformed election method.

The cardinal, a leading progressive in the Roman Catholic hierarchy, told newsmen covering the World Congress of The-

ology on the Future of the Church, that a papal election should be in the hands of the Synod of Bishops, instead of the College of Cardinals.

Describing the present College of Cardinals as overly Italian and elderly in its makeup, the Belgian churchman said,

"This makes it unrepresentative."

(At present, there are 129 cardinals, of whom 39 are Italian, France has 11 cardinals; the United States, 10; Spain, 6; Germany, 5; Brazil, 5; Canada, 4; the Netherlands, 3; the rest of the countries have either two or just one.)

Cardinal Suenens noted he had no "ready made" solution to the problem but suggested that the Synod of Bishops, who "in turn, should be democratically elected by their dioceses," would provide a better forum for electing a Pope.

He added that, although bishops should be democratically elected, Rome could still have a final say. He said he disagreed with proposals which would limit the term of office of a bishop to eight years. "This is not long enough to do a thorough job," he said.

Survey of Aging Omits Spiritual, Priest Declares

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A spokesman for Catholic Charities in the U.S. criticized the White House Conference on the Aging here for omitting the subject of spiritual welfare from questionnaires to be completed at some 4,000 "forums" on the elderly held around the nation.

"This is an unfortunate omission. There is no reference to the spiritual well-being of the elderly . . . an especially important aspect of the older person's life," said Msgr. Lawrence J. Corcoran, secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities (NCCC).

One million of those questionnaires, containing a host of subjects pertaining to the problems of the aging, are to be filled out and discussed at the "forums" held in the 50 states and U.S. territories under the sponsorship of the White House Conference on the Aging.

Msgr. Corcoran also noted that there is a strong possibility that the neediest among the

aged would not attend or be represented in the Administration-sponsored "forums" held around the country.

In a related development, Father Charles Fahey, chairman of the NCCC's Commission on the Aging, criticized the Bennett Amendment (sponsored by Sen. Wallace Bennett of Utah), which requires prior authorization by a local professional review board of any major medical procedure or admittance to a medical facility involving any person or persons receiving federal benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid.

"The elderly should not have to go begging each year to Congress merely to stay even," said the priest. "They are entitled in justice to retain their purchasing power in an inflationary economy."

He added that it is difficult enough for the poor to receive medical attention without the initiation of "any more red tape."

Pope Paul, Nixon To Meet Again

Rome — (RNS) — President Nixon will meet with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican on Sept. 28, it was announced here.

The meeting with the Pope will take place following the President's talks in Rome with Italian President Giuseppe Saragat, Prime Minister Emilio Colombo and other government officials.

The meetings will take place in connection with President Nixon's eight-day tour of America's Mediterranean allies.

President Nixon's visit with Pope Paul will mark the second time he has met with the pontiff since his inauguration. The first was on March 2, 1969.

Although subject matter for the meeting has not been disclosed, there are indications it will concern world problems, particularly the problem of peace.

There is also speculation that the Pope and Nixon will discuss the crisis in the Middle East and the war in Southeast Asia as well as such topics as common efforts to assist prisoners of war and means of combatting drug traffic.

These are the subjects previously discussed by the president's special representative to the Vatican, Henry Cabot Lodge, during his first three-week mission to the Vatican last July.

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