

# WASHINGTON Pornography Report Rejected by Senate

Washington —(RNS)— The U.S. Senate has denounced the findings of the Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography.

Sixty-five of the Senate's 100 members voted on a resolution which rejected the recommendations of the commission's majority. The vote was 60 to 5.

The five senators who refused to support the resolution were Jacob K. Javits of New York, George S. McGovern of South Dakota, Walter J. Mondale of Minnesota, Stephen M. Young of Ohio, and Clifford Case of New Jersey.

The resolution stated that the Senate could not accept the commission's claim that there was no evidence that exposure to explicit sexual material caused criminal behavior in youths or adults or affected adversely moral attitudes toward sex or secular conduct.

It also opposed the commission's most publicized recommendation — that "federal, state and local legislation prohibiting the sale, exhibition or distribution of sexual material to consenting adults should be repealed."

Most vehement in his condemnation was Sen. John McClellan, Arkansas Democrat, chief sponsor of the resolution. He took the side of the commission's minority, which held that the commission majority was "slanted and biased in favor of protecting the business of obscenity and pornography which the commission was mandated by Congress to regulate."

According to Sen. McClellan, "The Congress might just as well have asked the pornographers to write the report, although I doubt that even they would have had the temerity and effrontery to make the ridiculous recommendations that were made by the commission."

# Welfare Reform Plan Loses in Committee

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — President Nixon's welfare reform plan, the administration's top-priority domestic legislation, was rejected here in a Senate Finance Committee vote of 14 to 1. The bill had been supported by many of the nation's top churchmen and religious agencies.

The program was designed to abolish the present Aid to Dependent Children category and guarantee families an annual income of \$1,600 for a family of four. Through a system of federal benefits, an annual income of \$500 for each parent and \$300 per child was suggested.

The Senate committee, instead, approved a proposal to test Nixon's Family Assistance Plan and at least one alternative welfare program in a group of cities before any new legislation with national effect is adopted. The proposal was approved by a vote of 9 to 3.

Although the committee's action did not kill welfare reform for this Congress, observers here agreed that it dealt it a serious blow.

Sen. Fred R. Harris of Oklahoma, former Democratic national chairman, cast the only vote for the Family Assistance Plan. All six of the Republican committee members voted against the bill, including Senator Wallace F. Bennett of Utah who had endorsed the legislation.

The opposition was a combination of committee liberals who supported the plan but felt that the income guarantees were totally inadequate, and conservative members of both parties who were opposed to the basic concept of putting a floor under poverty income.

The next move for backers of the Family Assistance Plan will be to offer it as a floor amendment to the Social Security increase measure, scheduled for Senate action in mid-November after the campaign recess.

Backers feel that the Social Security measure is one piece of legislation certain to be approved before Congress adjourns. It provides for increased benefits now and for future benefits tied to the Consumer Price Index.

Courier-Journal



HOLIDAY STAMPS

The Post Office Department has issued a series of stamps to commemorate Thanksgiving and Christmas. The stamp, left, notes 350th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth, Mass. By making two Christmas stamps available, one religious, the department hopes to avoid the annual criticism over religious issues. The one center shows antique toys and at right is a reproduction of "The Nativity" by 16th Century painter Lorenzo Lotto. (RNS Photo.)

# Cardinal Dearden Hits Report on Pornography

Chicago — (RNS) — The head of the U.S. Roman Catholic hierarchy, asserting that the presidential commission's majority report on pornography is conflicting and inconclusive, warned that steps must be taken to eliminate the "moral and cultural pollution" of obscenity in this country.

John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, noted here that the release of the report by the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography focused public attention once more "on this grave social problem."

But, he said, the report presents a "conflicting" picture, combining a number of "responsible and constructive suggestions" with several "radical and potentially dangerous proposals."

Cardinal Dearden observed that several dissenting reports were also written and he pointed to the apparent disagreement over whether prolonged exposure to pornographic materials leads to anti-social behavior.

"Acknowledging this disagreement, one must still conclude that a common sense view of the matter suggests that, at least in some cases, such exposure is a causal factor in anti-social acts," he said. "Certainly, lacking conclusive evidence to the contrary, society would be ill-advised to act on any other assumption."

The cardinal stressed that commercialized pornography, which exploits for monetary gain morbid attitudes towards a "sacred area of human life," does have a "debasing influence on individual and

social attitudes towards sexuality."

He charged that pornography and obscenity de-personalize and cheapen sexuality and complicate the task of the individual who is seeking personal maturity.

"Just as society is now acting to combat pollution of the physical environment," said Cardinal Dearden, "so it must take steps to prevent the moral and cultural pollution caused by obscenity."

Noting the distinction made in the report between the effects of pornography on children and adults, he agreed that society has a "most serious" obligation to create stringent safeguards for the young.

But he termed "unrealistic" the report's call for relaxation of obscenity laws affecting adults, asking: "What protection is to be provided the adult who, not wishing to be exposed to pornographic materials himself, may yet be victimized by anti-social acts of someone who has been so exposed?"

"What safeguards are people to have from the potentially debasing impact of pornography on social mores and attitudes towards sexuality?"

Acknowledging that the question of legislation to safeguard families against "pandering appeals" of smut peddlers is "a difficult and delicate one," the cardinal reminded that the U.S. Supreme Court removed obscenity from First Amendment protection.

He called upon Americans to work within the Constitutional framework and "seek effective means for controlling the commercial exploitation of sex."



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Wednesday, October 21, 1970

## ABP. McGEOUGH DIES

New York — (NC) — Veteran Vatican diplomat Archbishop Joseph F. McGeough—praised by Pope Paul VI for his "outstanding and faithful service" — died here Oct. 12 at the age of 67. In a telegram to Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, Pope Paul said he was "profoundly saddened" by the death of Archbishop McGeough, who had been apostolic nuncio to Ireland from 1967 to 1969. The Pope said the archbishop is remembered "for outstanding and faithful service rendered over long years to this Apostolic See."

## 1971 PREVIEW

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