



'Sports Day' at White House

President and Mrs. Nixon pose with sports figures after four members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes conducted a religious service in the White House. Those conducting the service were, from left: the Rev. Jay Wilkinson, an ordained Episcopal priest (and son of former Oklahoma football coach Bud Wilkinson) who is a candidate for Congress from Oklahoma; John Erickson, former basketball coach at Beloit (Wisc.) College and the Univ. of Wisconsin, who is Republican candidate for the Senate in Wisconsin; Mrs. Nixon; the President; Bobby Richardson, former New York Yankees second baseman and South Carolina U. baseball coach; and Rex Kern, Ohio State quarterback. Mr. Richardson delivered a sermon during

Catholic Women Vote Union with Men's Unit

Minneapolis —(RNS)— The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) voted 513 to 380 here to join the National Council of Catholic Men (NCCM) in establishing a "National Council of the Catholic Laity."

The new coalition, which must be approved by the men's council at its convention Nov. 13-14 in Washington, is intended to enhance and strengthen lay involvement in the Church.

It would provide broad representation for all segments of the laity, including minorities and ethnic groups, and for lay organizations other than the women's and men's agencies.

The NCCW and the NCCM would retain their identity and operations up to the national level. The councils would each have 11 representatives on the Laity Council Board, to which a single staff headed by an executive would be responsible.

The NCCW and the NCCM are federations of diocesan and parish level councils of Catholic men and women throughout the United States. Each maintains headquarters in Washington.

Portugese Bishop Heads Blue Army

Washington, N.J. — (NC) — Bishop Joao Pereira Venancio of Leiria, Portugal, whose diocese includes the Marian shrine at Fatima, has accepted election as president of the International Blue Army, a group dedicated to prayer for peace.

The 66-year-old prelate succeeds Msgr. Harold Colgan, 76, a pastor here who founded the organization. The Blue Army operates a 120-room center next to the basilica at Fatima. In the U.S., it publishes Soul magazine. It also publishes newspapers and magazines in French, German, Spanish and Italian.

CHURCHES ACCEPT CLOTHING

The annual Catholic Relief Services Thanksgiving Clothing Collection is now being conducted. Your contribution of used and serviceable clothing, shoes and bedding materials for the poor of the world will be gladly accepted at the nearest Catholic church during November.

Bigger Role For Women in Liturgy Urged

Minneapolis —(RNS)— Full equality for women in all Roman Catholic liturgical offices which do not require ordination has been recommended by a task force of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW).

The recommendation grew out of a survey conducted by the task force which uncovered a "bleak picture of little or no participation by women in parish liturgical activity sanctioned by the Church."

It should be possible for qualified women to go into the sanctuary as acolytes, lectors, thurifers, homilists and so on the task force said in its report, which was presented to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In presenting the recommendation for the laity council, which would coordinate but not replace the existing councils, Mrs. Thomas Burke of Carbondale, Pa., said the main issue involved was not the survival of the women's federation.

It is rather, she said, "How we can best serve the Church in the future."

She said the coordinated laity council at the national level could operate more economically since it would have only one office and one staff.

A delegate expressed fear that a laity council would hinder formation of a proposed National Pastoral Council, which would include representatives of priests, religious and bishops, as well as the laity.

But Mrs. Burke said there would be no conflict since the pastoral council would not provide programs.

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Justice Dept. to Support Pa. Parochial Statute

Washington — (NC) — The U.S. Justice Department soon will file a "friend of the court" brief in the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the constitutionality of a Pennsylvania law providing state aid for non-public schools, NC News learned here.

A Justice Department spokesman said the brief will be filed in a Pennsylvania case—Lemon vs. Kurtzman — now on appeal before the Supreme Court.

A federal district court ruled in November 1969 that the states' two-year-old "purchase of services" law was constitutional. But foes of the nonpublic school aid program appealed the case to the Supreme Court, declaring that the law violates church-state separation principles.

Alton J. Lemon is one of three youngsters who are plaintiffs. David H. Kurtzman, the defendant, is Pennsylvania superintendent of schools.

Under the program, the state of Pennsylvania reimburses nonpublic schools for textbooks, teacher salaries and instructional materials used in teaching so-called "secular" subjects including mathematics, modern

foreign languages, physical sciences and physical education.

The Justice Department's plan to file a brief was viewed by some observers as another step by the Nixon administration to demonstrate its willingness to support aid programs for non-public schools.

President Nixon last spring named a special panel, headed by Catholic University president Clarence Walton, to probe ways to assist nonpublic schools.

Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, a group challenging the aid program, has fired off a letter to President Nixon, protesting the proposed Justice Department brief.

Other groups challenging the law include the Pennsylvania Education Association, the Pennsylvania branch of the NAACP, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, the Pennsylvania branch of the American Civil Liberties Union.

A three-judge federal court upheld the law last year, with the 2-1 majority ruling, "We cannot hold that the statute advances religion either in purpose or primary effect."

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- IV LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR DRUG PUSHERS
- V SPENO-LERNER BILL (This bill did not reach the Senate floor, but we did grant, and I supported, \$28 million aid for non-public schools)
- VI INCREASED PENALTIES FOR POLLUTERS
- VII RESTRICTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC LITERATURE

I hope you will continue to write, phone, or personally visit with me whenever I can be of service to you.