



Bishop in Prison

Archbishop Humberto Medeiros of Boston on his way to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass for the prisoners in Boston's Charles Street jail, passes through the prison's security barriers. He told the prisoners he too was a prisoner, "a prisoner of my brothers."

Archbishop Describes Abortion as Barbarism

Hanover, Mass.—(RNS)—Describing abortion as the destruction of human life at its source and "objectively evil," Archbishop Humberto S. Medeiros of Boston, charged that this "new barbarism" is moving to upset God's moral order which is the foundation of peace on earth.

He said that modern science and technology "should serve life, not destroy, should protect the unborn, not eliminate them."

Archbishop Medeiros preached during a special Mass at Cardinal Cushing High School here, commemorating both the Roman Catholic feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 27) and the Holy Innocents (Dec. 28). The Mass was in protest of increased acceptance of abortion in the U.S.

Archbishop Medeiros, who was joined by five Boston priests in concelebrating the Mass, noted that various legislatures have

revised traditional laws that protected the life of unborn, making abortion "easy and available."

But he added that while this legislation was doubtless accomplished in good faith, "all the good reasons in the world—progress, pity, freedom, health—cannot justify or allow what we know to be wrong in itself."

Speaking in particular of the "burdens" of defective children, Archbishop Medeiros said the "exceptional" child is also a gift of God, which in God's mysterious providence has its part to play in the unfolding of His plan for all men.

"we cannot condemn Herod for the slaughter of the Holy Innocents," he said, "and, at the same time, propose abortion as the solution to some of our pressing problems and the legalization of abortion as our legal policy."

Nixon Signs Family Planning Legislation

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—A bill creating a federal office to coordinate ways of controlling population and authorizing funds for contraceptive information and research has been signed into law by President Nixon.

The Office of Population Affairs created by the \$382 million, three-year program will be headed by a deputy assistant secretary. It will grant funds to public and non-profit organizations to assist them in establishing family planning services.

The law stresses that family planning services must be voluntary and that abortion must not be included as a method of birth control.

Mr. Nixon said he hoped the legislation would "achieve the goal of providing adequate family planning services within the next five years to all those who want them but cannot afford them."

The bill "completes the legislation I requested in my message on population," the President said.

The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare will administer the grants on the basis of local need and ability to use effectively the federal assistance. He may also make allocations to state health authorities to aid them in establishing, coordinating and evaluating family planning services.

Smokers On Increase

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—For the first time in the four years since the big tobacco scare emanated from reports of health hazards here, tobacco consumption has increased in the United States.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Americans puffed on the average of 4,030 cigarettes this year. This amounts to 201.5 packages a year for each adult smoker.

During 1969, the average adult smoker used 3,993 cigarettes.

The department said much of the upturn is due to promotions and advertising by the industry before the upcoming ban on TV and radio ads.

Quakers to 'Invade' Island To Protest Bombing Range

Philadelphia—(RNS)—An 11-man contingent, committed to non-violence and sponsored by a Quaker Action Group (QAG) here, will "invade" a small island off Puerto Rico to protest its use as a bombing range by the U.S. Navy.

The "direct action" peace assault on the island of Culebra slated for Jan. 9 is also aimed at influencing a forthcoming decision by President Nixon, who has been urged to turn over an additional area of Culebra to the Navy for target practice.

Graham Clark, a spokesman for QAG, in announcing a Jan. 4 news conference in New York to kick off the protest move, said that 11 persons will journey to the island—22 miles east of Puerto Rico—to rebuild a former Methodist chapel in the middle of the Navy range.

He said the former chapel

site is located on the third of the island belonging to the Navy. The other two thirds is inhabited by native Culebrans who, technically are governed by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Culebrans have protested the use of the island as a Navy range and have claimed that stray missiles have often landed outside range limits.

The Culebrans have refused to be evacuated by the U.S. government, but if President Nixon decides to give more of the island to the Navy, they would be forced to leave, the QAG spokesman said.

Residents of Culebra—about 600 persons on the island of only 7,000 acres—have made several attempts, through federal court action and in the Puerto Rican Assembly, to revoke the 1941 executive order giving control of parts of Culebra to the U.S. Navy.



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