

SONG OF BERNADETTE

She Heartened the Left in San Francisco



San Francisco — (RNS) — Bernadette Devlin declared here that economic exploitation, not religious antagonism, is the cause of continuing unrest and rioting in Northern Ireland and urged joint Protestant-Catholic efforts to create a new and just system.

"I've never seen a stone thrown in defense of either Catholic or Protestant dogma," said the militant Irish leader, charging that religious strife in Ulster results from a system that robs both Catholic and Protestant workers of their dignity and commits them to "religiously-segregated" ghettos.

Miss Devlin, the 23-year-old member of the British Parliament who is looked on as the leader of Northern Ireland's Catholic insurgents, spoke to nearly 4,000 persons, mostly students, at the Jesuit-maintained University of San Francisco.

Offering a clenched fist salute and defending black, self-

admitted Communist Angela Davis as a racial and political prisoner, she drew both loud applause from the largely college age audience and strong criticism from older Bay Area Irish-Americans.

Calling for a Socialist revolution "to free the people of the world" she defended her support of Miss Davis by stating that "Angela Davis and I are involved in the same struggle. She is a Communist. I am not a Communist but, here in America, Angela Davis' fight is the same as my fight in Ireland."

Miss Devlin, recently released from a six-month jail term for her role in the 1969 Londonderry riots, said that if Miss Davis were not black and a Communist she would not be in prison.

Desmond Fitzgerald, head of the USF philosophy department, described Miss Devlin as

"charming and articulate." But he said, he feared she was "badly used" by American radicals and misinformed on the Angela Davis case.

He also disagreed with her "economic conclusions" about Ulster, noting that "any system in which she gets elected can't be all that bad."

John Whooley, editor of San Francisco's Irish Herald, described Miss Devlin as "brilliant" and "a person to be listened to" but took exception to her calling Prime Minister Lynch of the Republic of Ireland a "traitor" because he opposed the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

However, he said, a Catholic-Protestant Socialist movement in all of Ireland would have "tremendous success," but it must have sound leadership. He added that emotional attacks detract from Miss Devlin's position as a leader.

CPA Honors Kerrs

New York — (RNS) — Drama critic Walter Kerr and his wife, author Jean Kerr, received the 1970 Jesuit-sponsored Campion Award as the Catholic Press Association's annual book awards were presented in nine categories here.

The Kerrs, cited for their "outstanding" contribution to Christian letters over the years, later collaborated on the main address at the Catholic book awards dinner.

Walter Kerr is a dramatic critic for the New York Times and the author of several books of drama criticism, while his wife, Jean Kerr has written several best-selling books, essays and articles.

The awards were bestowed in nine categories, including a special award category "for outstanding contribution to Catholic scholarship." The award went to "Sacramentum Mundi," edited by Father Karl Rahner and published by Herder & Herder.

The other categories and winners:

Fiction — "Maltaverne," by Francois Mauriac, published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Fine Arts—"The Art of Ecstasy," by Robert T. Peterson, published by Atheneum.

Scripture — a tie between "The New American Bible," published by St. Anthony Guild Press, P. J. Kenedy & Sons, and other publishers, and "The Gospel According to St. John," by Father Raymond E. Brown, published by Doubleday.

Biography and Autobiography — "Divine Disobedience," by Francine du Plessix Gray, published by Knopf.

Education and History—"Of Singular Benefit," Harold A. Beutow, published by Macmillan.

Philosophy-Psychology-Sociology—a tie between "American Culture and the Quest for Christ," by Father Anthony J. Padovano, published by Sheed

and Ward, and "Christ and Prometheus," by Father William F. Lynch, published by Notre Dame Press.

Contemporary Problems — "Celebration of Awareness," by Ivan Illich, published by Doubleday.

Theology and Spirituality — "A Theology of Protest," by Father Bernard Haring, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

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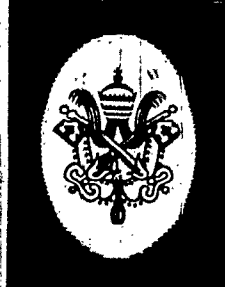
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