

# Latin American Aide Dismissed by Bishops

Washington, D.C. — (RNS)— Father Louis M. Colonnese, controversial and outspoken director of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Latin America Division, was dismissed here because of a lack of "mutual trust and confidence" between himself and his bishop superiors.

At odds with the hierarchy's approach to Third World development, especially in Latin America, his resignation was requested by Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin, general secretary of the USCC, who indicated that the priest's viewpoints on Latin America were increasingly incompatible with those of the American bishops.

Father Colonnese, 40, a priest of the Davenport, Iowa, diocese, charged in a statement that he was told his "ideology was too advanced for the USCC."

Noting that he remains committed to the "full spiritual and material liberation of man in Latin America and everywhere else in the world," he said, "I do not deny refuting the developmentalist — 'band-aid' — approach endorsed by the bishops" and "according to their standards and priorities, the U.S. bishops were entirely correct in firing me."

Father Colonnese, who is being succeeded temporarily by Father Frederick McGuire, former associate director of the division, said he has attempted

to make known to U.S. Catholics the "misery of millions" of Latin Americans and "when I could not be silenced or co-opted, I was fired."

Bishop Bernardin, in a statement concerning the priest's dismissal, said he believed that Father Colonnese "has a great love for Latin America and has made genuine efforts to sensitize North Americans to the conditions of their brothers in the South."

However, the prelate said that Father Colonnese had found it increasingly difficult to work "closely and sympathetically" with a wide range of sincere people with many points of view. He added that observations and consultations with "responsible observers" demonstrated that the priest found it difficult to cooperate with those who did not agree with him and "at times alienated them."

Bishop Bernardin indicated that the end result has been a "lessening of confidence in his leadership . . . among many people in this country and in Latin America, including many bishops."

Father Colonnese has consistently incurred the opposition of the traditionalist elements in the Catholic hierarchy by calling for rapid and radical changes in the Church as well as in the socio-economic structures.

# Zeffirelli Plans Film on Christ

Rome — (RNS)— Filmmaker Franco Zeffirelli, perhaps best known in the U.S. for his cinema version of "Romeo and Juliet," is planning a movie on the trial of Jesus.

Called "The Assassination of Christ," the picture will probably go into production in early 1972, Mr. Zeffirelli said.

In explaining his shift, the director said, "Socialism has turned out to be a grim joke and democracy seems to be going to pieces. The 1970s will be a decade of spiritual awakening."

Zeffirelli was reconverted from agnosticism to Catholicism following an automobile accident three years ago.

He said "The Assassination of Christ" will cover the story of Jesus from Palm Sunday to the Crucifixion.

# Search On for School Aid

Sidney P. Marland Jr., U.S. commissioner of education, recently said that the Office of Education is "intensifying" ways by which parochial schools in the nation may legally receive federal aid.

The commissioner explained that the Office of Education has authority under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to assist parochial schools by more rigorously enforcing the manner in which federal monies received by public school systems are distributed.

Marland said, "We are intensifying the ways in which a local school system in the pub-

lic sector receiving monies under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act must conform more actively with the terms of that law which says that a child qualifying in a non-public school shall have the same services, not money — the same services for which a disadvantaged child in the public school is entitled."

Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of Rochester diocesan schools, explained that "our relations with the public schools have been very good since the 1965 law was passed. They have been most fair in meeting the needs of our kids. It is not a problem around here."

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## The Church 1971

The normally sensitive and sensible columnist Charles Bartlett could not conceal his delight in a column on the Nixon economic reforms: at last the "hard hats" were being "disciplined." The American people—particularly those hard hats who (according to a Wall Street Journal article) lived in \$38,000 dollar homes and dreamed of owning airplanes—were going to be forced to give up "indulgence" and do serious battle against the evils of inflation.

I couldn't help but wonder if Mr. Bartlett was willing to give good example to the benighted "hard hats" by taking a cut himself in his real income equivalent to the inflation the American working man has suffered in recent years which Mr. Nixon is asking the worker to accept without protest through the wage freeze.

But the President calculated wisely. The snobbish contempt which some journalists and intellectuals feel toward the American working class was evident in the reporting of the freeze. The unsophisticated reader of the newspapers and the TV viewer got these impressions:

- Labor caused the inflationary situation.
- Labor is the only voice against the freeze.
- The President was firmly and vigorously refusing to be awed by the opposition of labor.

The poor hard hats: not only are they responsible for the war; they also caused inflation.

The wage freeze may not be the most clever and cynical ploy of a political career marked by clever cynicism, but it is certainly an example of Mr. Nixon at his most devious. As Milton Friedman pointed out, wage-price controls don't

eliminate inflation; they just hide the symptoms for awhile. This particular "freeze" is highly selective. Wages are frozen, but not interest rates, profits, or many kinds of food prices. Furthermore, it is quite easy to hide price increases and very hard to hide wage increases.

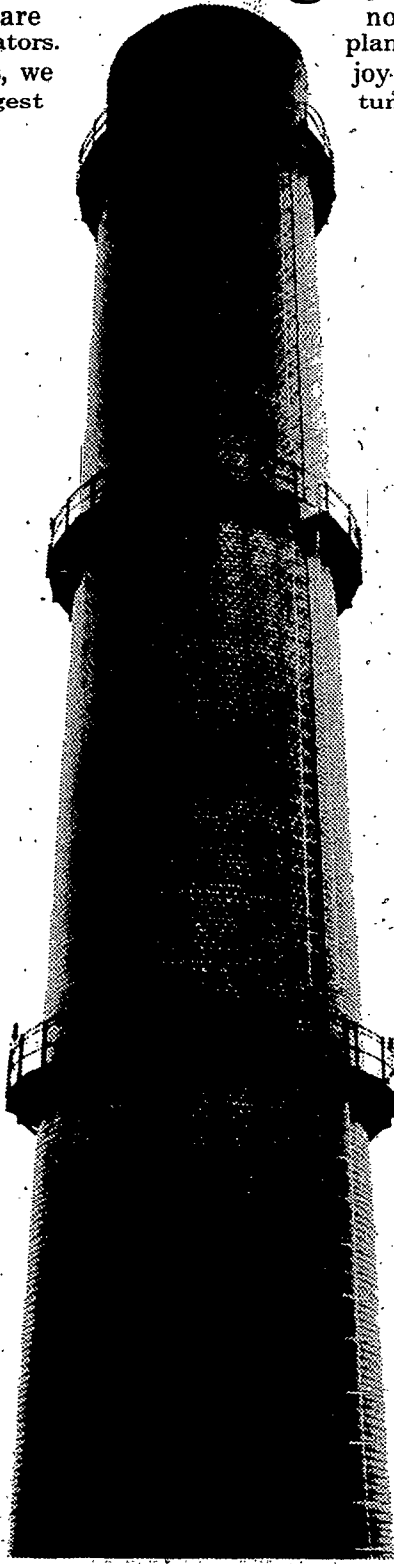
Industry gets investment credits, import tax protection and extra profits from the wage increases it is excused from paying. The working man gets a trivial tax cut and can buy a car for less — if he has the money to buy a car. He also gets the blame from Mr. Bartlett and others — including by implication the President — for causing inflation. As one "liberal" put it to me, "It's the only way to deal with labor."

The truth of the matter is that the current inflation is caused mostly by the pressures of trying to fight a war with a peace-time economy and by the cynical propensity of American business to use the increased demand of a war inflated economy to charge all the market will bear. The requests of working men for more pay is the result of inflation and not the cause of it. Workers ask for more money because their real wages are declining and not because, as Mr. Bartlett would have us believe, they are "indulgent" or "undisciplined."

If Mr. Nixon was serious he would combine his wage-price freeze and plea for a strike ban with tax credits for the working man and a plea for a price rollback. He might also ask some questions about the greed and incompetency of American management and its ability to pass on to the consumer the cost not only of wage increases but also of its own blunders.

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