

Church Can Speak on Issues Nuncio Tells Spanish Regime

Madrid — (RNS) — Archbishop Luigi Dadaglio, apostolic nuncio to Spain, declared here that the Spanish Catholic Church had the right to speak out on public affairs and to criticize the government.

In what was seen as a clear rebuke to attacks on a reformist movement within the Spanish Church by conservative Church groups and their backers in the government, the Vatican spokesman insisted that the Catholic Church in Spain had the duty to remain independent of the state and to criticize its actions when necessary.

The archbishop spoke in one of the final sessions of the Conference of Spanish Bishops, which overwhelmingly endorsed the reformist views of Cardinal Vicente Enrique y Tarazona of Madrid and strengthened the Church's position as a force for political and social change in Spain.

In elections, liberals and moderates won virtually every important position in the conference, the ruling body of the Spanish Church. Cardinal Tarazona, who became acting head of the conference last year, was elected president, and Cardinal Jose Maria Bueno y Monreal of Seville vice president.

Significantly, the prelate who led the attack on the reformist movement, Auxiliary Bishop Jose Guerra Campos of Madrid, was ousted from his position as secretary of the conference. Elected to succeed him was Auxiliary Bishop Elias Yanes Alvarez of Oviedo, reputedly one of Spain's most liberal bishops.

Focus of the attack by a minority of bishops, led by Bishop Campos, and supported by the Spanish regime and Opus Dei, an influential conservative Catholic lay organization, were resolutions of a reformist Assembly of Bishops and Priests held here last September.

The Assembly, chaired by Cardinal Tarazona, adopted a program calling for an end to the Church's political and spiritual support of the Franco government and its restrictive political, social and economic policies.

On the eve of the Conference, the conservative bloc leaked to the press a Vatican document, highly critical of the assembly's resolutions, that was, by clear implication, alleged to have the approval of Pope Paul VI.

The document in question, issued by the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy, accused the assembly of sacrificing religious values for social values and of favoring Marxist forms of society and charged that the assembly's program was "immature" and contrary to Catholic dogma.

Cardinal Tarazona informed the Bishop's Conference that the September Assembly had the basic endorsement of both Pope Paul and Cardinal Jean Villot, Vatican secretary of state.

A letter from Cardinal Villot, obtained by Cardinal Tarazona personally in Rome and read to the bishops, flatly contradicted the implication that the document of the Congregation for the Clergy had the approval of the pontiff.

In an oblique, but unmistakable, reference to the basic argument used by the government and Opus Dei, that the Church's involvement in social controversy was a violation of its religious mission, Archbishop Dadaglio criticized those "who consider religion some restricted to piety and worship and in this manner, diminish these same concepts of piety and worship."

Methodist Theologian Praises Catholics

Dallas — (RNS) — A "severe slump" in the Protestant ecumenical movement has left Roman Catholics as "the most interested and actively committed of all the Churches in Christendom," according to United Methodist theologian Albert C. Outler.

Dr. Outler, a professor of historical theology at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, said that such things as structure and institutional organization have hampered the ecumenical movement among Protestant denominations.

Speaking at a Dallas area study of the Consultation on Church Union's plan for uniting nine Protestant denominations, he asserted that, "On these two sunken rocks of denominationalism and sectarianism, the ecumenical movement is currently foundering and is in very grave danger of sinking."

(Father Henry Atwell, executive director of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries (GEM) agrees that "the euphoria of the Vatican Council era has certainly subsided."

"The COCU approach which focuses on Faith and worship as a goal is in trouble, nevertheless it is a goal worth pursuing," he said.

(Father Atwell feels that the GEM approach is "more realistic." He said GEM concentrates on works of mercy in the local area "and this bond is just as necessary as the COCU approach."

(He feels that, judging from reactions of the congregation at Ashbury Methodist Church where he was recently installed GEM director, "The enthusiasm here is still very high.")

The Protestant theologian suggested that the ideal structure for unity could be patterned after the "religious order" concept of the Roman Catholic Church.

Citing such Catholic religious orders as the Jesuits, Dominicans and Franciscans, Dr. Outler observed, "These orders don't have to do much with each other, nor are they ruled directly by a single hand. But they are members one of another in baptism and the Eucharist."

According to Dr. Outler, there are four points on which "the Christian cause will suffer irreparable, irreversible harm" if COCU fails or "the ecumenical tide runs out."

"We shall deceive ourselves and we shall come to believe again that our denominational divisions are legitimate and tolerable in the sight of God and in the eyes of the world."

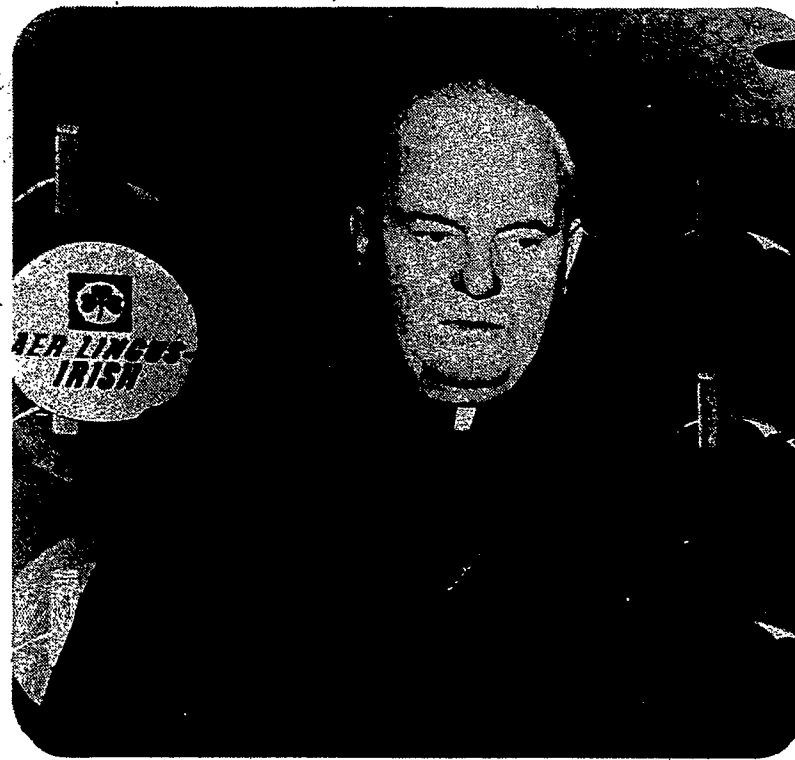
"We shall lose our sense of the central and urgent importance of the sacraments as symbols and agents of Christian unity."

"We will perpetuate the monstrous overlapping and duplications of denominational structures, programs and budgets."

"We shall have condoned the heresy of giving polity, structure, organization a higher value in our own common life than doctrine and the sacraments."

ST. AGNES REGISTRATION

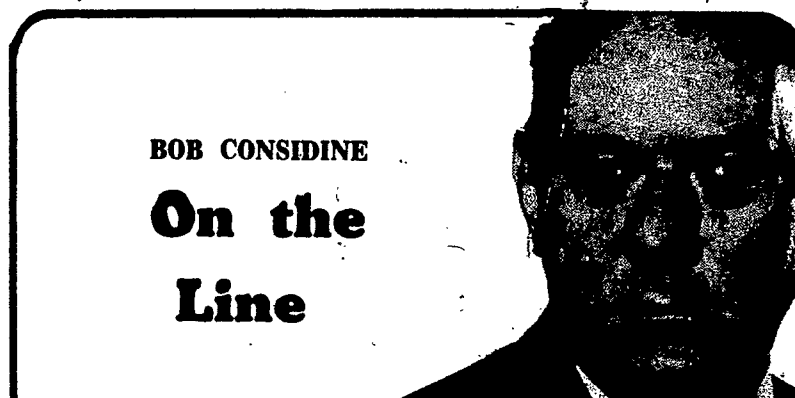
St. Agnes High School will register incoming freshmen and other new students on Saturday, March 25, from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., at the school on East River Rd.



CARDINAL CONWAY IN U.S.

NEW YORK — (RNS) — Cardinal William Conway of Armagh, Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, talks to the press about the situation in Northern Ireland shortly after his arrival at New York's Kennedy International Airport. The prelate, who was en route to Gulfport, Miss., to dedicate a new church and to other areas of the South to visit Irish priests and nuns, issued an appeal for "compassion toward all the people of the area, Catholic and Protestant, Unionist and Nationalist."

Cardinal Conway also said that "the idea that this is a religious war is quite false — it is essentially a conflict about social and political issues: civil rights and the unity of Ireland. When rival crowds appear on the street they do not wave Bibles and Rosaries at each other but two flags — the British Union Jack and the Irish Tricolor."



BOB CONSIDINE

On the Line

Those among the Nixon-trip correspondents who moved on to other Asian countries upon the President's return to Washington find themselves objects of curiosity. This is both flattering and frustrating.

I was buying a pair of \$50 (Chinese) cuff links for my friend Col. Tony Story the other day at a handicraft store in Taipei when I realized that the salesgirl and four or five other pretty Chinese girls behind the counter were staring at me as if I had just returned from the planet Jupiter. Eventually, one of them asked, "May I ask you a question, please?"

"Sure," I said. "Shoot." The girls were suddenly overcome with blushes. Finally, the one who was waiting on me said, "I hope you will not be offended by the question, please?"

"Not at all, not at all," I said with a casual wave of the nine-inch-long fingernails I grew in Hangchow.

"All right, then," she said, swallowing, and looking around for support from the eyes of the girls. "How was it on the mainland?"

She and the others had been born on Taiwan, after their parents fled to the island stronghold with Chiang Kai-shek 23 years ago.

"Mainland," I said, with the authority invested in me by having spent a week there, mostly riding buses and toasting Chou En-lai, "is gray, cold, bleak. The people don't smile. They are like robots under Big Brother Mao. Personally, I think that..."

The girls interrupted the bombast with a collective sigh. It wasn't what they wanted to hear. One stroked her long, lustrous black hair and asked, "What about the hair? How do the mainland girls wear hair—long, short? And make-up. Much?"

Clothes? Do they really wear thick pants like men? Any dance places? Rock-roll? What movies did you see?"

And so forth. I told them they were prettier than the mainland girls, better dressed, better haired, and that their Taiwan hot-pants should reassure the World that Chinese girls still have legs.

More blushes, not to mention hearty tee-hee-hees.

In the Shanghai communique we promised the People's Republic of China that we'd eventually pull all our forces out of Taiwan. The job of removing our garrison from Nationalist-controlled Quemoy will not be a great burden for the American taxpayer. It could be handled by a Piper Cub.

Our Quemoy force consists of one officer and four enlisted men.

Nobody is more interested in the fate of Lin Piao, once picked by Mao as successor to the throne, than the Nationalist Chinese.

"In my opinion, Lin Piao is still alive," Vice President C. K. Yen told us the other day in Taipei. (Mao's heir apparent has not been seen or heard from since last summer.) The reason why I think he has not been killed is because if he was really dead they would make an open announcement. They took the pains of elevating Lin to the No. 2 position and writing his name in the constitution—something rare in human history.

The conflict between Mao and Lin started early last year. It continues. Vilification at first was made by indirect reference. Lin Piao's name was not mentioned. Now his name is. Everything that is bad is attributed to him. We should soon know his fate.

Awarded Laetare Medal

Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, has been named the 1972 recipient of the Laetare Medal, the University of Notre Dame's highest honor. In a citation for the 74-year-old Miss Day, the university's president, Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., praised her for "comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable virtually all of her life."

The Laetare Medal has been conferred annually since 1883 on outstanding American Catholics. Miss Day is the 19th woman to receive the award. It will be presented to her at Notre Dame's commencement exercises on May 21. (RNS)

ARCHBISHOP DIES

Lagos — (RNS) — Archbishop John Kwao Amuzu Aggey of Lagos, the first African to head the Lagos archdiocese, died here March 14, after a brief illness. He was 64.

Archbishop Aggey was born in Anecho, Togo, March 5, 1908. He later became a citizen of Nigeria. Following studies in Lagos, he was ordained a priest on April 16, 1944, and served in parishes in Lagos until 1957, when he was consecrated as Auxiliary Bishop to Archbishop Leo Taylor of Lagos.