

Key 73

Jewish Scholar Unruffled By Evangelism Campaign

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

One of the country's most renowned Jewish scholars told 146 clergy last week that the Jew whom Key 73 will get into the Christian church "is not particularly worth having."

Dr. Jakob J. Petuchowski, a professor of Rabbis and Jewish Theology at Cincinnati's Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, was in town last Friday to address the 40th annual Clergy Institute which was established by Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein soon to retire from Temple B'rith Kodesh.

Dr. Petuchowski said the increase of mixed marriages upsets him more than any "Jewish Jesus freaks" Key 73 may bring about.

The rabbi doesn't see Key 73 as anti-semitic but does see a possibility of danger. In a national Christian movement you need a devil, he told his attentive audience, explaining that he fears Jews Key 73 doesn't draw may become scapegoat devils.

Some Christian clergy, including Father Andrew Teuschel, pastor of St. Joseph's in Rush, quickly reassured the speaker that "we are just trying to get people to join some established religion, any religion, we are not out to convert Jews."

"I don't think on the whole it could create the type of person

with much commitment," Dr. Petuchowski said.

"I don't think it is the business of either the synagogue or the church to convert the other," he continued, "but I recognize today we have a lot of accidental Jews and Christians who are basically pagan in a pagan world and as they shop around they may find answers in the other religion."

What does he think the future holds for institutional churches in a world filled with accidental Jews and Christians?

"We are all in for a rough period," he said in a quick interview after a day of speaking at the Temple B'rith Kodesh.

He thinks it was a mistake for the Catholic church to slacken its rules on mixed marriages and to use English in its liturgies. But he then said, "such changes may be healthy for the long run cause of religion."

His prediction for institutional churches in an ever-growing secular society is that organized religions will have to get used to the fact that what may be religious sin will not necessarily be civil crime.

"I'd be as opposed to abortion on demand as any Catholic priest but what may be religious sin is not necessarily civil crime," the



Photo by Susan Mc Kinney

Dr. Jakob Petuchowski, Professor of Rabbis and Jewish Theology at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, addresses 40th annual clergy institute. Listening are Philip Liebschutz, director of Max Adler Fund, sponsor of the institute; Elmer Lewis, executive director of the Jewish Community Federation; Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein of Temple B'rith Kodesh; Rev. Marvin Chandler, Genesee Ecumenical Ministeries and Rabbi Robert Baruch, assistant at B'rith Kodesh.

small-framed man explained.

"So the church will have to learn to live in a setting where

they are separate." It will be a struggle to adjust to sin and crime being separate, he ad-

mitted, "since we have so long lived with the support of Caesar, it will be hard to live without it."

Churches Support Farah Employees

At a three-day conference in Houston last week the ecumenical Texas Conference of Churches voted to endorse and support the Farah Slack employees' endeavor to secure collective bargaining rights and the boycott of Farah products until a union is recognized.

In an exclusive telephone interview last Thursday afternoon, Bishop Sidney M. Metzger of the El Paso diocese, told the Courier-Journal that a majority of the member denominations also passed a resolution asking "that member judicatories and their constituents be encouraged to support the Farah boycott."

More than 3,000 non-union workers have spent more than nine months striking Farah which is one of the nation's leading slack manufacturers, in a fight for the right of collective bargaining.

Farah management claims the employees, 95 per cent of which

are Mexican-Americans, receive substantial benefits and therefore do not need to join the ranks of Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

Bishop Metzger, who has been speaking on the laborers' behalf since last May, says the support of the Texas Conference of Churches is "very important" and a "great psychological support for the workers."

The Texas Conference of Churches' vote of support follows by one week Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's public announcement of his study of the dispute and support of the "current national boycott of Farah slacks until an equitable resolution of the issue is reached" (Courier-Journal Feb. 14).

The news of this support beat Bishop Metzger home from the three-day conference (Feb. 19-21) in Houston. Cheering crowds of striking Farah employees were waiting for him at the El Paso airport when he arrived there.

"Never before in all my years as a priest and then as a bishop have I been met in a station by a bunch of strikers holding signs and cheering 'Our faith is your faith and your faith is our faith,'" said the 71-year-old bishop. "I don't really like this publicity," he added sheepishly. "If I had not taken this stand, these poor Mexicans would have lost confidence in their Church and in their Bishop. I was aware I'd get a lot of brickbats thrown at me," he said.

According to Bishop Metzger, Farah has shown no sign of bargaining with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, though rumors are circulating that it is considering selling the slack business that employs more than 9,000.

At the request of Bishop Hogan, Bishop Metzger established a 13-member board made up of a cross-section of the community to serve as mediator between the strikers and Farah.

The first meeting is scheduled for March 15, said Bishop Metzger, adding that "the line of communication is open if Farah is willing to cooperate."

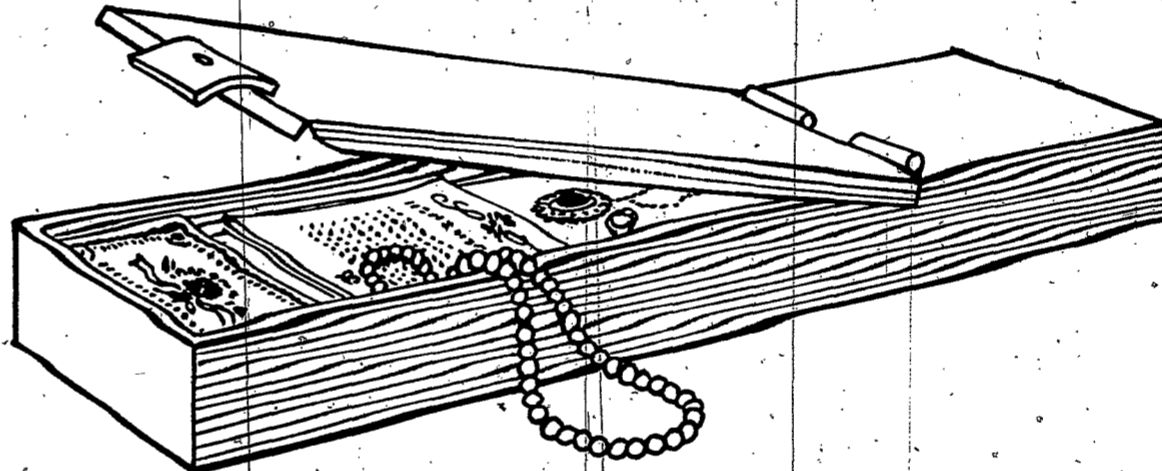


Remember?

Jean Peters returns to the theater after an absence of 17 years for the role of the mother in Sherwood Anderson's 'Winesburg, Ohio,' slated for broadcast over WXXI, Channel 21, March 5 at 8 p.m.

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