

# President Nixon Wants Death Penalty Reinstated

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — President Nixon has asked Congress to restore the death penalty for certain federal crimes and to make life imprisonment mandatory for narcotics sellers convicted of two drug-related felonies.

In a radio address on the Administration's crime control program, the President also strongly opposed the legalization of marijuana, suggesting that such a measure would lead to acceptance of hard drugs.

Mr. Nixon declared that "contrary to the views of some social theorists, I am convinced that the death penalty can be an effective deterrent against specific crimes. The death penalty is not a deterrent so long as there is doubt whether it can be applied.

The law I propose would remove this doubt."

He proposed to reinstate the death penalty for assassination, treason, kidnapping, air hijacking, and the murder of law enforcement officials and prison guards, but did not indicate whether capital punishment would be mandatory for these crimes.

With regard to drug control, the President proposed mandatory life imprisonment without parole for narcotics pushers convicted of a second drug-related offense. He also asked Congress to set a mandatory minimum five-year jail sentence for persons convicted of selling heroin and a mandatory sentence of 10 years to life for "major traffickers in drugs."

In opposing the legalization of marijuana, Mr. Nixon commented, "The line against the use of dangerous drugs is now drawn on this side of marijuana. If we move the line to the other side and accept the use of this drug, how can we draw the line against other illegal drugs? Or will we slide into an acceptance of their use as well?"

The President outlined his philosophy of crime control in the speech. "Americans in the last decade," he said, "were often told that the criminal was not responsible for his crimes against society, but that society was responsible. I totally dis-

## Bishop Fedders, Maryknoller, Dies

Juli, Peru (RNS) — Bishop Edward L. Fedders, an American Maryknoll missionary who headed the Juli prelature, died of a heart attack (March 11) as he concluded Mass in the small Andean community of Pomata, Peru. He was 59.

A native of Covington, Ky., he had been in Peru for 29 years, serving as a Maryknoll superior for South America from 1952 to 1956. He was regional superior in Peru when in 1957 he was named Prelate of Juli. He was raised to the hierarchy in 1962.

A pioneer in developing new approaches to missionary work among the Aymaras, he served some 350,000 Indians around the Peruvian shores of Lake Titicaca.

Bishop Fedders encouraged his missionaries to harmonize ancient Aymara customs and Christianity, pioneered in the formation of "married pastors" — who handled some pastoral needs — among the Aymaras to make up for the shortage of ordained priests. He had even asked Rome for permission to ordain a few married Indian men.

Bishop Fedders, noted for his devotion to historic church art, was responsible for the restoration of the 400-year-old Cathedral of San Pedro in Juli. His effort spurred the Peruvian government to sponsor the rebuilding of other historic churches.

## USCC in Search of OHD Director

Washington — The bishops of the United States have been asked to make recommendations for the position of executive director of the Campaign for Human Development.

In a letter to the bishops, Father Robert V. Monticello, associate general secretary, U.S. Catholic Conference, (USCC) said a number of suggestions on an appropriate method of recruiting and selecting an executive director have already been received.

"In almost every instance," Father Monticello wrote, "the hope was expressed that the person selected would have administrative experience and competence and demonstrated sensitivity to the poor."

Father Monticello said that the person chosen will probably be a priest but that others are not excluded from applying.

## Ballet Hispanico Due at Xerox

The Ballet Hispanico of New York, frequently cited as one of the most exciting examples of contemporary "street theater," will appear in Xerox Auditorium March 25 for a single performance at 3 p.m.

Ballet Hispanico is a community based, professional dance company of bi-lingual performers. It is New York City's only resident dance company whose repertoire is drawn from the dance traditions of Spain, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, Haiti, and Latin America, a heritage it shares with nearly two million Spanish-speaking New Yorkers and five per cent of the population of the United States.

agree with this permissive philosophy.

"Society is guilty of crime only when we fail to bring the criminal to justice. When we fail to make the criminal pay for his crime, we encourage him to think that crime will pay. Such an attitude will never be reflected in the laws supported by this Administration, nor in the manner in which we enforce those laws."

He described his proposals as "tough legislation," and added, "we must settle for nothing less. The time has come for soft-headed judges and probation officers to show as much concern for the rights of innocent victims of crime as they do for the rights of convicted criminals."

Mr. Nixon also defended the use of "law and order" to de-

scribe his proposals.

"There are those who say that law and order are just code words for repression and bigotry," he noted. "That is dangerous nonsense. Law and order are code words for goodness and decency in America."



Msgr. John G. Kuhn, pastor of St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, chats with President Nixon following religious services in the White House.

## White House Preacher: Yes

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — President Nixon was told by a Roman Catholic priest, at a White House religious service the day following the Chief Executive's advocacy of capital punishment, that there is biblical sanction for the death penalty.

Msgr. John G. Kuhn, pastor of St. Matthew's Cathedral here, in leading the 39th White House service since Nixon's first inauguration, also told the President and members of Congress attending the March 11 service what their "tasks" are under God.

He based his 15-minute sermon on Genesis 9, 8-15, the text appointed for the day to be read in Roman Catholic churches, which tells of the covenant God made with Noah after the flood, in which He promised never again to cause a flood to cover the earth.

"Man's kingship over the earth, following the flood, is exercised not in peace but through fear," said the 40-year-old monsignor. But "there is something else about about this kingship,"

he added. "For your own life blood too, God insists, 'I will demand an accounting from man in regard to his fellow man, I will demand an accounting for human life.'"

"Man's rule over the earth, therefore, is not unlimited," Msgr. Kuhn said. "His authority is only a delegated authority. God remains the absolute Lord of life and history. For this reason," he continued, "it is said immediately following in the biblical text, 'If anyone sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for in the image of God has man been made.'"

Msgr. Kuhn, looking frequently toward the President, seated with Mrs. Nixon in the front row some 15 feet from him, said after reading the selection from Genesis:

"You should see the proclamation of this text as a word spoken to you who carry the heavy burden of the leadership of the people of this great nation, the setting — through your example and your work — of its public posture, its attitude before God and men."

## Tennessee Bishop: No

Nashville (RNS) — The Roman Catholic Bishop of Nashville has urged in a special pastoral on penal reform that Tennessee decline to reinstate the death penalty and offered a series of proposals to safeguard "basic human rights" of those in prison.

Bishop Joseph A. Durick, in a message entitled "Humanity Demands It," said that the "touchstone" of his considerations is the concept that God has endowed every person with "certain, defined rights." He noted that "very often, in the course of this (penal) process, basic human rights have been overlooked."

Declaring that few areas open to human improvement have such "exciting potentials for good," the prelate also emphasized that "religion has a most definite concern in this question" of penal reform.

Bishop Durick outlined nine "immediate" priorities and "moral imperatives," which included the granting to the offender all legal rights, an end to discrimination along racial,

ethnic, economic or religious lines, adequate health care, living wages for corrections personnel, availability of proper services in counseling, education and spiritual care for inmates, and new corrections facilities.

The bishop also urged increased visitation rights, including private family visits that would enhance an offender's marital association with his or her spouse. Finally, he called elected state officials to review the death penalty carefully and responsibly, and to vote against renewing it in the state.

Bishop Durick suggested to business and professional enterprises in the community that they participate in "work release" programs that provide offenders with job training and an opportunity for future permanent employment.

Finally, he called upon the church community to increase its concern for the value of human life, for "those who have broken the law and for their families."

**CHURCH & MASS INFO.**  
**DIAL DIRECT FREE**  
**THE Castaways**  
 Resort-Motel  
 Ocean at 163rd St.  
**MIAMI BEACH, FLA.**  
**1-800-327-5272**

• 5th Wheels  
 • Truck Campers  
 • Hitches  
 • Accessories, Etc.  
**TURNPIKE CAMPER & TRAILER SALES**  
 1370 RIDGE RD. E.  
 342-3655  
 Between Portland & Goodman

**Suede-life** A New Exclusive Process  
 for **seneca dyers**  
**SUEDE & LEATHER CLEANING**  
 SEE US FOR:  
 • DYEING • FUR CLEANING & STORAGE  
 • REWEAVING • VINYL & PLASTIC CLEANING  
 • HAT & GLOVE CLEANING  
 1227 Maple St.  
 328-1736

**Seagram's 7 Crown.**  
**It's America's whiskey.**

SEAGRAM DISTILLERS' CO., N.Y.C. AMERICAN WHISKEY — A BLEND OF PROOF