



### Unconcerned

Some bird-brain with a complete disregard for authority waddles into Hopewell Lake in Berks County, Pa. The lake was closed to swimming for a month because of high bacteria. But, as the saying goes, it's just [dirty] water off a duck's back. [RNS]



### OUR PARISH COUNCIL

Bernard Lyons

The Vietnam war is not over! That poor, suffering country is still divided, not only in territory, but in loyalties and ideologies.

Nor is the Vietnam war over for us in the United States. And I am convinced that the Vietnam war will not be over for us until we have faced the issue of amnesty squarely.

"Amnesty" means literally "to forget." It is derived from the Greek word "amnestia," which means not remembering or an intentional overlooking. It has the same root as "amnesia."

Amnesty is a discretionary act by a government to decide that a class of offenses will be ignored. Amnesties usually apply to political offenses or alleged political offenses after the situation that provided the acts has changed.

The purpose of an amnesty is to provide an opportunity for a society to look to the future without recriminations and to make possible the larger goals of that society.

"The issue of amnesty will be with us — and divide us — until it is resolved," said Rev. Dr. Robert V. Moss, president of the United Church of Christ. "There are simply too many people on each side of the never-ending dispute over the morality of the Vietnam war. There are too many other problems facing us to continue to be at each other's throats over an issue which now belongs to the historians."

Dr. Moss, in his talk quoted above, identified himself as one of the parents who had sons who

were killed or disabled in Vietnam. He asked that these parents and the disabled veterans themselves begin asking the President to grant amnesty and that this would let the President see how generous this nation really is.

It is not just up to the President to grant amnesty. In the history of our country, amnesties have been granted by the President alone, by the President with the authorization of Congress, and by Congress alone. Public opinion also plays a large role in decisions about amnesty.

Even if your parish does not have a young man in Canada or Sweden or in jail, the issue of amnesty should concern the parish council. Reconciliation in the larger civic community is a must if Christians are to draw all men to Christ. The healing of the body politic is a spiritual work of mercy.

Here are some things a parish council might do to face the issue of amnesty:

- \* Place a table of literature about amnesty in the church.
- \* Ask the pastor to give one or two sermons on the topic while the literature table is up. One of the sermons should be in dialogue form.
- \* The parish council should study the issue and take a position. Sure, it will generate controversy, but if it is done with charity and sufficient preparation, it will result in a great educational effort throughout the parish and the community.

# Korean Primate Sees Need For Greater Democracy

Seoul [RNS] — Cardinal Stephan Sou Hwan Kim, the primate of some one million Catholics in Korea, praises the South Korean government of President Park Chung Hee for allowing free evangelization in the Korean armed forces; but he differs with the Seoul government on issues of social justice and democracy.

In an exclusive interview with RNS, Cardinal Kim said that the Church here called for "social justice, political fair-play for the sake of the nation and prosperity." He felt that it was necessary to unify the 30 million South Koreans in the face of continuing dangers from North Korea.

"There is no real opportunity for people's participation in our democracy," the cardinal said. "People are no longer interested in political parties. This is not healthy for the nation. People are getting egoistic. They are practicing survivalism. They feel they must be prudent in public comment to survive socially."

He was asked to comment on the government's contention that as long as danger from the North remains serious, existing measures such as a midnight to 4 a.m. curfew or government-controlled press take priority over full democracy.

"I agree to a certain extent. But in the long run, which is better?" he asked. The cardinal suggested that the Seoul government should allow "constructive criticism" and full freedom of the press.

"It could sometimes look like confusion, but the people would eventually unite," he said. He agreed that the South Korean people "are not yet well trained in democracy." But he added that "if you don't train them, they'll never learn."

The cardinal offered an example of the people's political maturity by recalling that when the first North Korean Red Cross delegation came to Seoul last year, the people here appeared excited at the prospect of national unity with the North, which could have been misread by the government as a demonstration of sympathy with the Communist regime in Pyongyang, North Korea.

"The South-North Red Cross talks, aimed at reuniting families separated by the war in the early 1950's, were put on television live, and as soon as the North Korean delegates started to propagate communism under the label of Korean nationalism, everybody rejected this approach on his own," the cardinal said.

He recalled that his message to

## Brazil Church Hits Censorship Of Harassment

Sao Paulo, Brazil [RNS] — The Catholic Church in Sao Paulo has denounced attempts by Brazil's military-backed government to quash reports of "arrests" and "disappearances" of church workers, and the seizure of church documents in two state capitals.

The Sao Paulo Archdiocesan Bulletin, in its issue of August 27, charged that Federal Army censors had prevented the Bulletin from reporting earlier on the "disappearance" last July of two laymen who were active in a church-sponsored project in the slums of Recife in northeast Brazil.

The Bulletin said the secular press in Recife had also been ordered not to publish any news touching on the alleged disappearance of the two.

the South Korean people last year was never published by the Korean press, and he therefore decided to give up a similar effort this year.

He said that such situations have resulted in a politically passive attitude to national affairs not only by the Catholic Church here, but also by other Christian Churches and the Buddhists.

The cardinal asked, "Who can succeed President Park in such a situation? Who can unify the nation under a strong leadership to face the North?"

But the Korean primate acknowledged that the government puts no obstacles in the path of the Catholic Church in religious matters.

He noted that out of the 600,000 strong South Korean troops, about 200,000 have been baptized.

Although he does not fully share evangelist Billy Graham's feeling that the Far East is currently in the "greatest

Christian revival" period, the cardinal agrees that Christianity is on the rise in South Korea.

He attributes it to people's "natural inclination for consolation." He said that in the increasingly industrial and materialistically-oriented society here, people feel "psychologically and spiritually deserted by society."

"Things are getting too complex for them," he said. "The value system is changing. Industrialization and politics are factors. The young people are especially affected."

The cardinal cited as an example a public poll taken a few years ago at a woman's college in South Korea. At that time, priority was placed on material values. This year, he said, the same college put emphasis on desire for religion and moral values.

Although he complained about "shortage of priests," the Cardinal agreed that 700 theology students in two seminaries in South Korea was above the average for countries in this region.



### ON THE LINE

Bob Considine

The highest paid reporter traveling with Sen. George McGovern during the 1972 campaign turned out to be a cute little dirty trick named Lucianne C. Goldberg. The free-lance correspondent wasn't free at all. She charged Murray Chotiner, political adviser-emeritus to President Nixon, \$1,000 a week, plus the costs of a first class seat on one of the McGovern press planes, hotels, meals, surface transportation and, it is believed, fresh batteries for her hearing aid.

Chotiner acknowledges this much but questions some of the lady's other revelations in the Washington Star-News: her reported assignment to find out "who was sleeping with who, what the secret service men were doing with the stewardesses, who was smoking pot on the plane — that sort of thing." She also wrote that she was just one of several such bogus reporters hired as political spies by Republicans to keep tabs on Democrats, and that there was even a Republican-paid agent in the camp of President Nixon's running mate, Spiro Agnew!

Seems to me that the Senate Watergate Committee and the Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, should now subpoena Lucianne's notes and the reports she dictated to Chotiner's secretary, which, she states, were rushed to the White House in the black of the night. They should spice up the tapes-and-notes harvest, if any... for one, would rather read Lucianne's gossipy accounts of those airborne bacchanals than details of Agnew's mortgage on his house in Towson, Md. A detailed rundown on who was sleeping with who beats browsing through those 13 "politically sensitive" documents that were conveniently lost when the Justice Department was delving into the relationship between high government officials and the IT&T.

I don't recall seeing Lucianne on any of the campaign press planes of old. If she was aboard, and had the same assignment, the poor soul would have been frustrated to the point of tearful tantrums. All she could have reported about who was sleeping with who would have been a little story to the effect that when the dumb candidate decided to spend the night in Walla Walla

there weren't enough hotel so the press guys had to double up. All snore.

As for what the Secret Service men were doing with the stewardesses, well, every Secret Service man I ever met on trips of this nature was as pompously pure as Dick Tracy. And, besides, all stewardesses are in love with the co-pilot.

Pot? Rot! That was just the fumes from Scotty Reston's scarred old wood-burning pipe.

But I wasn't on a McGovern plane last fall, so there's no way personally to deny or affirm here Lucianne's findings. But if things were as lively as her eye-rolling confession implies, McGovern's people would have had to book extra charters to accommodate the rush of correspondents and cameramen demanding accreditation. There wasn't any such rush, however, so it must have been business as usual. And that can be pretty dull:

—Everybody on the plane applauds the landings.

—Everybody, except the gentlemen from the Christian Science Monitor, accepts the free booze the airline in question distributes as a "courtesy."

—Everybody, typing away between stops, groans over how to get a fresh slant on the same tired speech the candidate makes over and over and over again.

—Nobody can sleep on the plane if he hears some other reporter typing. It's not the noise that bothers him, it's the worry that the bum might have come up with something new.

—Someone loses his laundry:

—Someone loses her make-up case.

—Someone loses the plane.

Anyway, the public has the right to know everything that goes on during McGovern's campaign, so it is Lucianne's duty, or Chotiner's or Chotiner's secretary's, or somebody's in the White House "drop" to cough up the full details. If only to serve as a guideline to liven up the coverage of the 1976 campaign swings.