

Change Fails to Satisfy NAACP

Mormons Ease Rule On Black Boy Scouts

Salt Lake City [RNS] — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) has revised a policy that excluded black youths from leadership posts in church-sponsored Boy Scout troops.

A shift was announced a few hours before the Boy Scouts of America were to appear in federal court to answer civil rights charges brought by the Utah Chapter of the NAACP.

The policy challenged was "not intended to discriminate against anyone," said Mormon president Spencer W. Kimball.

Under an arrangement made between the Church and the national Boy Scout organization in 1973, the position of senior patrol leader in Mormon-sponsored troops was reserved for the president of local Deacons' Quorums.

A deacon is the lowest level of the Mormon priesthood which a boy usually enters at age 12. Blacks are barred from the priesthood, so that a black boy who belonged to a Scout troop sponsored by a church could never become senior patrol leader.

The suit challenging the practice was filed by the Utah Chapter of the NAACP.

According to the policy shift, the Deacons' Quorum president will serve as senior patrol leader unless someone else is "better qualified."

NAACP leaders in Utah were not satisfied with the extent of the change and the suit was expected to be continued.

"It is apparent that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Boy Scouts of America are bedfellows against the interests of black people," said NAACP spokesman, Mike Clark.

The suit was filed in the name of two black Scouts in the predominantly Mormon troop sponsored by the Liberty Fifth Mormon Ward. Named as defendants were the Boy Scouts

of America and the organization's area Council.

A hearing on the suit was postponed after Kimball's announcement. The Boy Scouts of America and the Mormon Church seek to compromise on an issue which we cannot compromise," said Clark.

Kimball was joined in his announcement by Alden G. Barber of New Jersey, chief Scout executive, and Arch Monson of San Francisco, a member of the national executive committee of the Boy Scouts.

Barber praised the Mormon Church for "recognizing the problem and taking affirmative action to resolve it."

The policy challenged by the NAACP was intended, Kimball said, to "achieve correlation of all the activities of the members of the Quorum." It was approved by the Boy Scouts.

The likelihood that the policy was not in accordance with the charter under which the Mormon Church operates its scouting program was first brought up in May 1974 by Donald May, Utah's black ombudsman.

In addition to reserving the senior patrol leader post in each troop to the Deacons' Quorum president, the former Mormon policy made a Teachers' Quorum president head of Venturer Scout groups and the Priests' Group president the leader of Explorer posts. The change also affects the latter two programs.

Last year, the Mormon Church sponsored 13,464 scouting units, or 7.8 per cent of the total, and enrolled 227,286 boys. It is the third largest sponsor of scouting programs in the nation and in 1913 became the first chartered sponsor in the U.S.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE
Father Paul J. Cuddy

Are you ever at home?
Where is "home" to a priest? In one sense, the rectory is home. In another sense, home is everywhere. Lacordaire wrote of the priest that he is "a member of every family, yet belongs to none. I try to live it."

You seem to be on the road a lot.

You refer to the travelogues occasionally narrated in the OTRSide column? Most priests take a day off each week. They ought to, anyway. Reminds me of a quip of Father John Guy, late pastor of Montezuma and Port Byron. Years ago I stopped en route from Clyde to Auburn to pay my respects to him. In my youthful innocence I mentioned with admiration: "Father X hasn't been away from his parish on a Sunday in 30 years." Father Guy replied, dryly, "Wouldn't you think he would give his people a break?"

One can keep his nose so close to the grindstone that he loses perspective, and live under the illusion that he is more needed than he is. Often on my day off, rather than going to visit my kin in Auburn I visit many priests at their rectories. Priests are always a source of edification and inspiration to me. People should know what good priests and good people we have in the diocese. Of the variety of topics in this column, the travelogue seems to please readers most. Frequently people write: "Your mention of Fr. X (or Sr. Y) brought back wonderful memories." This is really the Communion of Saints in practice.

The Courier advertises you as tour director to Ireland again.

Yes. Tour Director is an impressive name for Baggage Master. What happens is this: The

Schools Seen In Comeback

Green Bay, Wis. [RNS] — Catholic schools appear to be making a comeback, according to a professor of education at St. Norbert College.

The reason, says Dr. Raymond Clouthier, is that Catholic education has become more the concern of all the people, rather than of just the pastor and a few teaching nuns.

Parish boards of education are now taking their place and giving leadership, he says, adding however that occasionally there

Courier advertises the tour eight or ten weeks ahead of the departure. The psychology of the less astute inclines them to conclude that I am gone eight or ten weeks. The total time is really only eight days.

Is the tour an apostolate?

[Indeed it is.] I remember my wrath when I first visited Rome, and had Italian guides spew out snide remarks about the Church, the Holy Father and the Catholic clergy to bus loads of visitors. On the bus to Assisi I met a nice Protestant girl collegian, about 20 years old. She told me she was met at the Roman railway station by some Dutch Nuns. They ran a hospice for female visitors, and acted as guides around Rome. She was greatly edified by the Sisters and by their guidance. At the time I thought, "Why doesn't the Church have guides to explain the history and goodness of the Church, instead of those Italian brigands who poison the minds of visitors by their twisted versions?" In 1954 I visited the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. It was thrilling. But a Mexican cab driver with a statuette of Our Lady of Guadalupe on his dashboard gave me a harangue against the Church even as he was driving me to Mass! I hope I did not give him a tip. The Church needs guides who love her.

Then you're at home away from home?

Yes. A priest should be at home everywhere in the world, like St. Francis. Christ sends His priests to go into the whole world, and make disciples of all nations.


I never did consider the priestly mission an 8 or 14 hours a day job, but as natural and as unceasing as breathing. When I stop breathing, it's time to die. Priestly mission is priestly living, in the whole world, which is his home.

are still problems caused by "domineering pastors."

Dr. Clouthier served for the past seven years on the Board of Education for the Green Bay diocese, and was board president from 1969 to 1972.

Though a few years ago Catholic schools were cutting back because of decreasing enrollment and shortage of teaching religious, he says, in some cases they are now increasing the number of grades offered.

Grand Opening




August 12-31, 1974
Very Simply, the Finest Jewelry from the World since 1974

EVANS & HARTUNG
Fine Jewelers Inc.

Seneca Bldg. Terrace Level Midtown Plaza.

Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10am—5:30pm
Thursday 10am—9pm
Closed Saturday in August



ALL TYPES OF HEARING AIDS
Phone for Free hearing test and demonstration in your home or our office.
Audiphone Co. of Rochester
1393 Temple Bldg. Rochester, N.Y. 454-3571
John T. St. John Since 1927

RD 3 NAPLES, N.Y. 14612
315-374-6318
THE SERGAVA-SZYNER PLAY LABORATORY
Plays by Williams, Strindberg, & Molnar
Monologues from works by Wilder, Thoreau, & Faulkner
Friday, August 16 and Saturday, August 17 at 8:15 PM
Admission \$1.50

In Concert
THE SWAMP ROOT STRING BAND
Sunday, August 18 at 5:00 PM
Admission \$2.50

Call Box Office at 315-374-6318 for Information and Reservations. Open 10 AM - 9 PM

