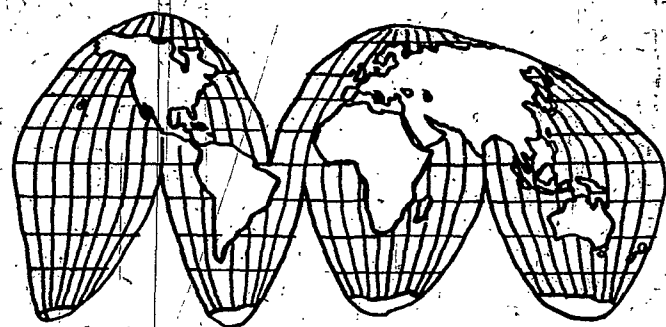


The nation and ...



... the world

[From Courier-Journal Services]

The role of the woman in the Church is increasingly in the fore as a topic. Sister Elizabeth Carroll, RSM, in addressing the U.S. Bishops' committee for the bicentennial, said that the ministry of the Catholic Church will be renewed "only through the formal acknowledgement of the equality of women with men in the ministry..."

Vatican Radio reports that "among the latest messages of support" for Pope Paul's World Peace Day (Jan. 1) was one from President Tito of Yugoslavia who expressed his "warm appreciation" of the Pope's "action for peace among all peoples..."

Sex education courses will be required of all Catholic grade schools and free-time religion classes in the St. Louis Archdiocese, according to Cardinal John J. Carberry. However, the cardinal prohibited the use of "Becoming a Person," a program produced under Catholic auspices and used in some other dioceses.

Food a Gift of God, Bicentennial Unit Told

Washington, D.C., [RNS] — A more profound awareness of food as a gift from God to mankind is needed if anything substantial will ever be done for the starving millions in the world, a Roman Catholic bicentennial panel here was advised.

Addressing the first in a series of six forums or hearings, to be held throughout the country during the remainder of 1975 as the American Catholic Church prepares for its commemoration of the nation's 200th "birthday" next year, Father John L. McRaith, executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, said:

"If it (food) is a commodity whose use is governed by profit, we can be sure starving people will continue to starve. If our basic attitude is that food is a gift of God, given for the good of everyone, we have hope."

"If it is a gift," he continued, "then we will insist that it be handled according to basic principles of justice. The producer will be assured of a just return. The consumer will be certain of having an adequate supply at a reasonable cost."

Father McRaith said this will mean "free food" for some starving consumers, but it will also mean that no one will be "deriving a profit while contributing nothing. The first group, which might fall into that area which would need thorough investigation would be speculators in commodity futures."

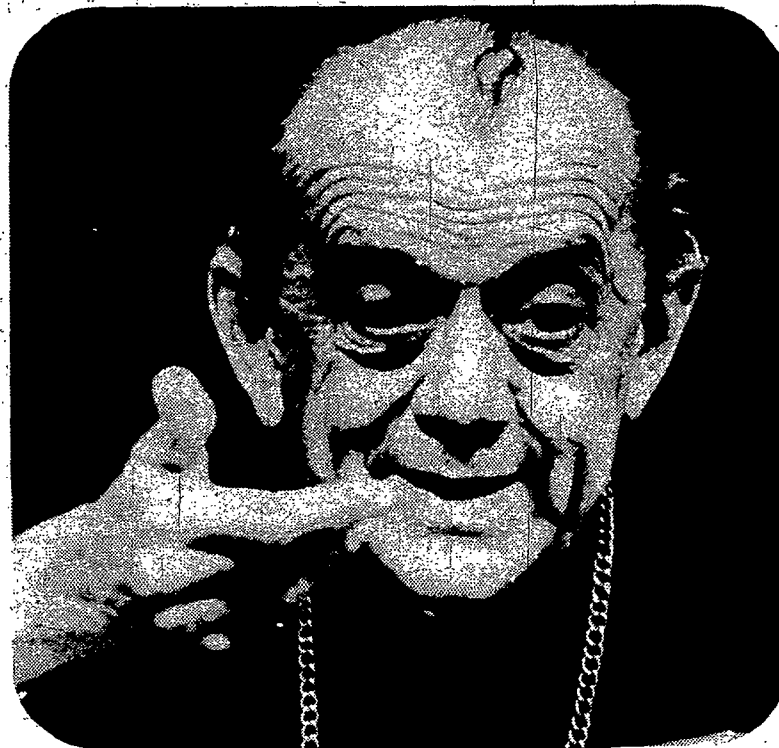
"This attitudinal change must be arrived at through prayer and education," he said. "It is only when we as people of God un-

derstand that food is a gift from God, that we can talk realistically about a change in our life style."

This country has the potential of helping feed "many starving people" in the world, Father McRaith said. "We need only have the will — today. Once, as a nation, we are convinced that this is our national obligation and that responsibility rests with each of us individually to respond, the means will follow quickly."

In the final analysis, the priest said, the decision of how soon and how much this country shares with starving people in other parts of the world will be made by the people and not by the elected officials.

"If we fail to respond to this world crisis, it will be because the average citizen in America preferred to relax in the light of life-sustaining need for others in the world community," he said.



Dom Helder: No Castro

Roman Catholic Archbishop Helder Pessoa Camara of Olinda-Recife, Brazil, defends himself against charges that he is "a Fidel Castro in a priest's robe" during a foreign aid forum conducted by the Toronto Star. "When a priest or a bishop goes about giving money, clothes or food to the poor, they say, 'He must be a saint,'" the archbishop said. "But if this same man demands justice, they call him a red bishop or a Communist."

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