

Maryknolls Bar Aide, U.S. Envoy Walks Off

Cochabamba, Bolivia [RNS] — The U.S. ambassador to Bolivia canceled a talk before a group of American Catholic missionaries when the priests refused to allow another embassy official — suspected of CIA involvement — to be present during the program.

According to a spokesman for the members of the Maryknoll Foreign Mission Society of America, who were having their annual conference here, the priests felt that the presence of the "suspected" CIA collaborator "could jeopardize the work of Maryknoll" among the Bolivian people.

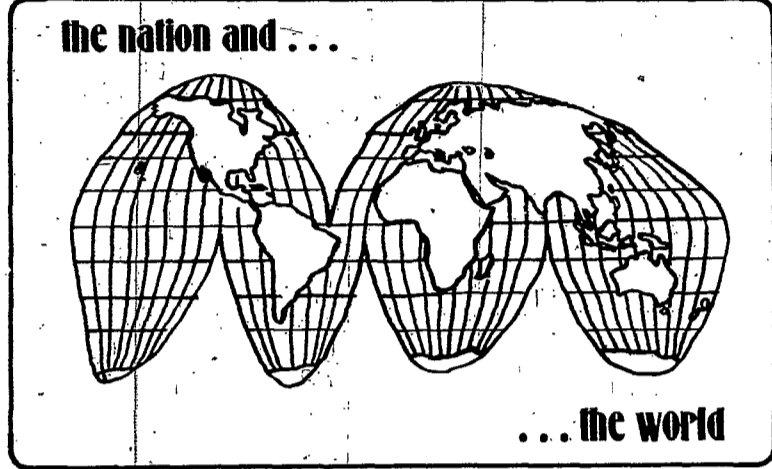
Ambassador William P. Stedman Jr., had been invited to address the Maryknoll conference on U.S. foreign policy in Bolivia.

When Ambassador Stedman arrived with John LaMazza, an embassy labor official who has been alleged to be implicated in CIA activity in Bolivia, a consultation among the priests and brothers at Maryknoll Center House was held. Father Leo Sommer, regional Maryknoll superior, informed the ambassador that the religious had voted against admitting LaMazza

— who was not invited — to the conference.

Ambassador Stedman told Father Sommer that he would not speak unless LaMazza was allowed to accompany him. The priests again refused and the ambassador left.

The Maryknoll spokesman said that LaMazza's connection with the CIA appeared in a document widely-circulated in Church circles in Bolivia last month. The document was alleged to have originated with the Bolivian government as a suggested plan of attack against progressive elements in the Catholic Church. The authenticity of the document has never been verified.



From Courier-Journal Services

A Catholic school closed by its parish will reopen next Fall as a non-parochial, interdenominational school under the Diocese of Tucson, Arizona, school system. Closing of the school was attributed to rising costs but parents raised \$240,000 and will reopen it as the Kino Learning Center, named after a pioneer priest who worked among the Indians in the 17th Century.

Auxiliary John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis has been named by Pope Paul to head that see, succeeding Archbishop Leo Binz who has retired at 74. Archbishop-designate Roach, 53, was ordained to the priesthood in 1946 and became a bishop in 1971.

According to Newsprint, an ecumenical newsletter, a number of Church spokesmen, Catholic and Protestant alike, testified before a Senate subcommittee which is looking into alleged practice of "red-lining" urban neighborhoods by banking institutions. They charged that some banks willingly receive deposits from clients in declining urban areas but refuse to put mortgages back into those same areas.

Catholic Church spokesmen in northern Spain have charged that government forces have used torture on some of the more than 2,000 persons arrested during a crackdown aimed at Basque separatists. Church officials have described conditions as the worst since the 1939 purge following the Spanish Civil War.

Two helicopter landing areas — one inside the Vatican gardens and the other on the lawn at the papal residence in Castelgandolfo — have been set up to enable the Pope to travel back and forth for Holy Year audiences and ceremonies at the Vatican this Summer.

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, primate of Poland, has just finished a two-week visit to the Vatican.



If you get through the gate to the inside of Finger Lakes Race Track at Farmington, N.Y., you are entitled to blow the rent and grocery money on some moose that can't maneuver three quarters of a mile in a minute and a quarter.

You can take money out of your mother's cookie jar and bring it to any Off Track Betting parlor in Western New York and you can blow it like a common thief. Your mother is unlikely to prosecute, and the State of New York will stand up and applaud.

Because both the race track and the OTB parlor are sanctioned gambling joints.

Meanwhile, the OTB people continue to crow that they are eliminating bookmaking and thus wiping out organized crime. That contention is more stupid than it is funny. Because horses are possibly less than 20 per cent of a bookie's action today. He fades the smart shooters who won't pay that killer of a surtax laid on OTB

players. Also: The other 80 per cent is action on four sports — no more, no less. The biggest is football, followed by baseball, basketball and hockey, in that order.

Where all this is leading to is this: The State of New York now is listening to various plans and proposals for legalizing other forms of gambling, and I mean above and beyond the lotteries and numbers propositions. Casino-type gambling.

The reason is that the legalization of gambling brings in tons of tax money, and no one questions the State's need for tax dollars. No one ever bothers either to wonder how much the horseplayer can stand, but they are finding out, as the racetracks suffer more and more because of OTB. Diminishing returns I think they will call it when the bottom line gets so sick it demands attention. I am not sympathizing with the tracks, which habitually remind the public of how much they are contributing to the state. My eye. The horseplayers are contributing this money to the state, not the tracks owned by rich individuals trying to sound like philanthropists.

Back to the point, legalization of casino gambling. History shows us that when casino gambling comes in, the area race tracks go broke. If the tracks go broke, the licensee, State of New York, loses those hundred of millions of dollars in racing taxes. Now, if someone will only tell somebody in Albany

Deaths

Louis Vasile, Priests' Father

Auburn — The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated last Wednesday at St. Francis of Assisi Church for Louis J. Vasile, 55, of Grove Avenue. Mr. Vasile, owner of a trucking company, was killed by the collapse of a truck he was repairing, on May 24, 1975.

His namesake son is a priest at St. Christopher's, North Chili.

The fatal accident occurred at a service station on Route 5. Camillus police reported that Mr. Vasile was working under the front end of a 10-wheel dump truck when the jack gave way.

Mr. Vasile, a native of Rochester, had lived in Auburn for the past 45 years.

Survivors besides his widow, Regina, and Father Louis Vasile are another son, Jerry, of Teaneck, N.J., and a daughter, Mrs. Paul Brennan of Auburn; two brothers, James Vasile of Auburn, and George, of Syracuse; four grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

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