

People and Events Of the World and Nation

Religious Leaders Ask Defeat of Death Penalty Bill

Washington (RNS) — Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders have joined in an appeal to the U.S. Senate to defeat a bill reinstating the death penalty for specific federal crimes.

The bill, which has been endorsed by the Reagan administration, is designed to overcome legal obstacles to the use of capital punishment for such federal crimes as treason, espionage and presidential assassinations, as well as for such crimes as kidnapping, hijacking, and rape, which result in death.

The statement declared that passage of the bill would be an empty victory for the forces of law and order. It insisted that the taking of a human life was exclusively a divine right and should not be left to the discretion of "fallible human beings."

Signers included John M. Allin, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church; William P. Thompson, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church; Kenneth L. Teegarden, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Bishop James R. Crumley of the Lutheran Church in America; James E. Andrews, moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church; Bishop H. Ellis Finger Jr. of the United Methodist Church; Msgr. Francis J. Lally, secretary for social development and world peace of the U.S. Catholic Conference; Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

CRS Sends Emergency Food To Poland

New York — Catholic Relief Services recently shipped more than 2.7 million pounds of flour, butter, frozen turkeys and nonfat dry milk to Poland. The shipment which left New York City aboard the Polish ship Tadeusze Kosciuszko contained goods valued at \$1.6 million.

CRS had sent eight previous shipments but this was the largest, all part of its Tribute to Poland program.

Tribute to Poland is a short-term food aid program which began during the Spring to alleviate the severe food shortages in that country. Using private money contributed to the CRS Tribute to Poland Fund and food contributions from corporations around the U.S., CRS has shipped more than 7 million pounds of nonfat dry milk, flour, chicken chowder, cereal, meat and baby food valued at \$4.3 million since the beginning of the program. The food is distributed by the Polish Catholic Bishops Conference to the aged, ill and children.

The cargo in the latest shipment included flour donations from General Mills and frozen turkeys from Swift & Co.

Administration Reversed on Abortion Issue

Washington (RNS) — A U.S. judge has overruled the decision of a government personnel chief, which banned most abortion coverage from the 1982 federal health insurance plans.

Donald J. Devine, director of the Office of Personnel Management, announced in September that he would not approve any health plan providing abortion coverage, except to save the life of the mother.

He said the move was based on budget considerations, and followed the intent of Congress and the Reagan administration to stop federal payments for non life-threatening abortions.

Judge Gerhard A. Gersell disagreed, saying that Devine had no grounds to support his cost argument and that his action was "prompted primarily by ideological considerations."



A huge crowd, estimated by police at 150,000, demonstrated against nuclear arms and U.S. policies Oct. 24 in London. Similar protests took place in Brussels, Paris, Rome and Bonn, demanding an end to the spread of nuclear weapons and arms buildups. (RNS)

Lutherans, Catholics Told Their Views On Unity 'Similar'

Geneva, Switzerland (RNS) — Despite historic tensions, Roman Catholics and Lutherans today share "a remarkably similar vision" of the goal of the Christian unity movement.

This comment came in a preface to a joint statement of a Roman Catholic-Lutheran commission issued here by the Lutheran World Federation.

The 30-page statement added that there is "an astonishing number" of important practical steps that the two faiths can take to achieve this goal.

The statement, titled "Ways to Community," urged members of both communions to continue to search for unity by getting rid of "confessionally conditioned prejudices and misjudgments" and developing an ecumenical view of church history.

Among specific steps toward unity the document suggested was to adopt a common approach to the Bible, joint worship services and an end to efforts by both churches to convert one another.

Madalyn O'Hair Loses Doubleheader In High Court

Washington (RNS) — Atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair sustained two separate losses here as the U.S. Supreme Court refused to disturb lower court rulings upholding the legality of religious invocations at city council meetings and of Christian and Jewish holiday displays in the rotunda of the Texas state capitol.

Mrs. O'Hair had challenged the custom of opening meetings of the Austin, Tex., city council with prayer and the display of a nativity scene and a Jewish menorah in the Texas capitol, also in Austin.

Names Make News

Father Robert J. Rose, former rector of Michigan's provincial seminary, has been named bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord, Mich. Bishop James Armstrong, a Methodist who has been nominated as the next president of the National Council of Churches, says that Jerry Falwell and his Moral Majority movement is unbiblical, dehumanizing, and marks a return to the "tired and discredited America First ideology."

CDA Court Notes Anniversary

East Bloomfield — Court FitzSimons 1189, Catholic Daughters of America, heard Jean Tedesco of Birthright at its 49th anniversary luncheon recently at the Holloway House here.

Guests came from Penn Yan, Brockport and Rochester to join

members from the court in Lima. Father James Doyle, chaplain for the court, gave the invocation. Father Jerome Schifferli spoke and Msgr. Albert Schnacky gave the invocation.

Mrs. Ivan Habecker, toastmistress, was honored for 30 years on the court.

Chairman was Mrs. Howard Rapp, assisted by Mrs. Clarence Egan and Mrs. James Tubbs.

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Remember, Lord, those who have died and have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, especially those for whom we now pray. May these, and all who sleep in Christ, find in your presence, light, happiness and peace. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Words of Our Lady

"We must sanctify our daily lives by the total fulfillment of the spiritual and temporal duties of our state of life"

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THE ROSARY DEVOUTLY EVERY DAY

- LEARN • HEED
- PRACTICE and SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA
- GOD WILLS IT
- OUR LADY WISHES IT
- OUR HOLY FATHER ASKS IT
- HELP RETURN THE WORLD TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

To help spread Our Lady's message via this series of Her quotations, please send contributions to:

Mary Kelly
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