

People & Events of World and Nation

Vatican Workers Fail to Agree On New Contract

Vatican City (RNS) — Representatives of Vatican lay workers and the city-state's administration met here for four hours but failed to agree on demands for higher salaries and shorter hours.

A day after the talks, Pope John Paul II met in special audience with a group of Christian trade unionists from Belgium and, while defending the right of workers to form, warned against excesses in what appeared to be a reference to recent disorders in his Polish homeland.

A spokesman for the Vatican workers said after the May 5 meeting that despite an "atmosphere of mutual understanding," the two sides found they held "distinctly contrasting views regarding the role of the association as the legitimate representative of the workers."

No date has been set for a subsequent meeting. He reminded that the association has threatened the first strike ever at the Vatican if an agreement is not reached before June.

Cody Inquiry To Continue, Newspaper Says

Chicago (RNS) — A federal grand jury investigation into alleged misuse of \$1.3 million in Church funds by the late Cardinal John P. Cody will continue, the Chicago Sun-Times said.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed source as saying that questions remain unresolved as to possible cooperation by other persons in the financial dealings that had been under review.

Cardinal Cody died April 25.

The Sun Times reported last September that the grand jury had subpoenaed financial records in an effort to determine if the cardinal had diverted tax-exempt Church funds to Mrs. Helen Dolan Wilson of St. Louis, his stepcousin.

Mrs. Wilson complied with subpoenas to her and so did various banks involved, but the cardinal and the archdiocese refused.

U.S. Atty. Dan K. Webb declined to comment about his decision to continue the investigation.

Religious Groups Hit Death Penalty At House Hearing

Washington (RNS) — If the United States reinstates the death penalty, it would be bucking a worldwide trend toward "more humane" criminal laws. Amnesty International told congressmen working on a new U.S. Criminal Code.

Law Prof. James D. Barber of Duke University, speaking for AI, said the popular notion that a "call for revenge" is growing in America ignores the upsurge in groups united to fight the death penalty.

Barber also challenged arguments used by many conservative religious groups that there is a biblical basis for capital punishment. "The Bible can be rung like chimes, a number of different ways, but don't let anybody sit here in this chair and tell you there is anything Christian about frying someone to death," he said.

So far, the religious witnesses called to testify on the subject before the House Judiciary Committee subcommittee on criminal justice have opposed a move to reinstate the death penalty on the federal level.

(A Rochesterian, Rabbi Judea Miller, testifying for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, said that "the angry call from the mob for blood revenge must be resisted, otherwise we all revert back toward savagery.")

Earlier, Msgr. Francis J. Lally, on behalf of the U.S. Catholic Conference, expressed a similar concern. Bishops are troubled, he said, by "the weakening of concern for the sanctity of human life in our society," observable by growing advocacy for the death penalty, among other signs.

Muskie Heads Unit To Monitor Nestle Practices

Washington (RNS) — In line with a pledge to observe internationally recognized standards in selling infant formula, the Nestle Company has named former senator Edwin Muskie head of a commission to review actual company practices.

Three health specialists including two physicians and three respected clergymen have agreed to serve on the commission with the former Maine lawmaker.

One minister, Dr. J. Philip Wogaman, dean and professor at the Wesley Theological Seminary here, currently chairs the United Methodist Infant Formula Task Force — one of the religious groups studying Nestle's Third World marketing practices which opted not to boycott the company's products.

Commissioners will have freedom "to review our marketing practices in the Third World objectively and thoroughly," said Rafael D. Pagan Jr., president of the Nestle Coordination Center for Nutrition. The commission, he said, can recommend changes where Nestle fails to measure up to its own guidelines, modeled after the

World Health Organization code for marketing infant formula.

Nestle announced the guidelines in March, some 10 months after WHO adopted recommendations on formula marketing. Nestle, the world's largest manufacturer of baby formula, is still the target of a worldwide products boycott by an alliance that includes several denominations.

Critics charge that Nestle induced mothers in poor countries to purchase its formula without stressing the superiority of breast milk.

Argentine Bishops Back Seizure of Falkland Islands

Buenos Aires (RNS) — Argentina's Roman Catholic bishops have given full support to the junta's seizure of the Falkland Islands.

"Argentina is once again in possession of its Malvinas (Falklands), a right that it has been demanding for 149 years," the Catholic Bishops Conference said in a statement.

The statement came shortly after the prelates elected a new conference president — Cardinal Juan Carlos Aramburu, archbishop of Buenos Aires.

The bishops said they shared "the pleasure which our citizens feel for the integrity for our land." But, they added, "We also share the fear of everyone: the concern about a war with unpredictable results. In order to avoid it, rulers and the ruled should work with decision and magnanimity, humility and common sense."

The statement was issued before the sinking of the Argentinian cruiser, General Belgamo, and the destruction of a British destroyer.

Deaths

Isabella Gardner

Auburn — A funeral Mass of Christian Burial, presided over by her son, was celebrated for Mrs. Isabella (Bonny) Gardner at St. Alphonsus Church May 7. Mrs. Gardner died at Mercy Health and Rehabilitation Center, Tuesday, May 4, 1982. She had been ill for several years.

A native and resident of Rochester for most of her years, Mrs. Gardner moved in 1973 to Auburn, where her son, Father Clarence Gardner, is pastor of St. Alphonsus.

While in Rochester, Mrs. Gardner was an active member and past president of the St. Ambrose Church Altar and Rosary Society. She also was a member of the St. Monica's Group of Mothers of Priests.

She is also survived by another son, Dr. James F. Gardner of Rochester; two daughters, Mrs. Herbert (Bonny) Hartman of Penfield and Mrs. Jack (Betty) LaTorre of South Carolina; a sister, Mrs. Elmer Schoepfl of Rochester; two brothers, Lloyd Lill and James M. Lill, both of Rochester; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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