

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Washington — Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, accused in early spring of blocking consideration of the Hatch Amendment on abortion, has agreed to schedule a Senate debate on the measure on or about Sept. 8 when Congress returns from its Labor Day recess. Baker's decision, communicated to pro-life groups at the end of July, also calls for Senate consideration in mid-August of two other abortion bills which Sens. Jesse Helms and Mark O. Hatfield have proposed.

Melkites Critical of Israel

Newton, Mass. — The General Assembly of Melkite Catholics in the United States has criticized the "mass killing of the Lebanese and other Arab people" by Israel and has asked the U.S. government to work for an end to the fighting. The assembly represents 60,000 U.S. members of the Melkite Catholic Church which originated in the Middle East and has a worldwide membership of a million.

Probe PP, Reagan Asked

Washington — President Reagan has been urged by a national pro-life group to investigate charges that Planned Parenthood does not qualify for inclusion in the annual charity fund-raising campaign among federal workers.

CDA Pushes Tax Credits

Chicago — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas last week committed itself to obtaining a million signatures on a petition to the president and Congress in support of tuition tax credits for children in nonpublic schools.

At its 39th biennial convention here, the CDA announced it is joining a coalition composed of the National Catholic Education Association, the Knights of Columbus, the National Council of Catholic Women, Citizens for Educational Freedom and the Daughters of Isabella to support President Reagan's Educational Opportunity and Equity Act. (From CDA news release.)

Vatican Announces Ties

Vatican City — The Holy See has established diplomatic relations with Denmark, Norway and Sweden, it was announced Aug. 2.

Prompted by a "desire to promote and develop mutual friendly relations," each of the Scandinavian nations will send an ambassador to the Holy See and Pope John Paul II will send a Vatican diplomat to each of the countries, the Vatican said.

El Salvador Aid OK'd

Washington — The Reagan administration certified July 27 that El Salvador is making human rights progress and deserves continued military aid. The certification frees the administration to complete its \$81 million military aid program to El Salvador for the remainder of the fiscal year. Church groups have leveled criticism at the certification. More details, Page 6.

End Martial Law, Pope Asks

Vatican City — Pope John Paul II called again for an end to martial law in his native Poland at the end of his weekly general audience. He repeated a call made last February by the Polish bishops for an end to martial law, release of prisoners and the rehiring of workers who had been fired because of union membership.

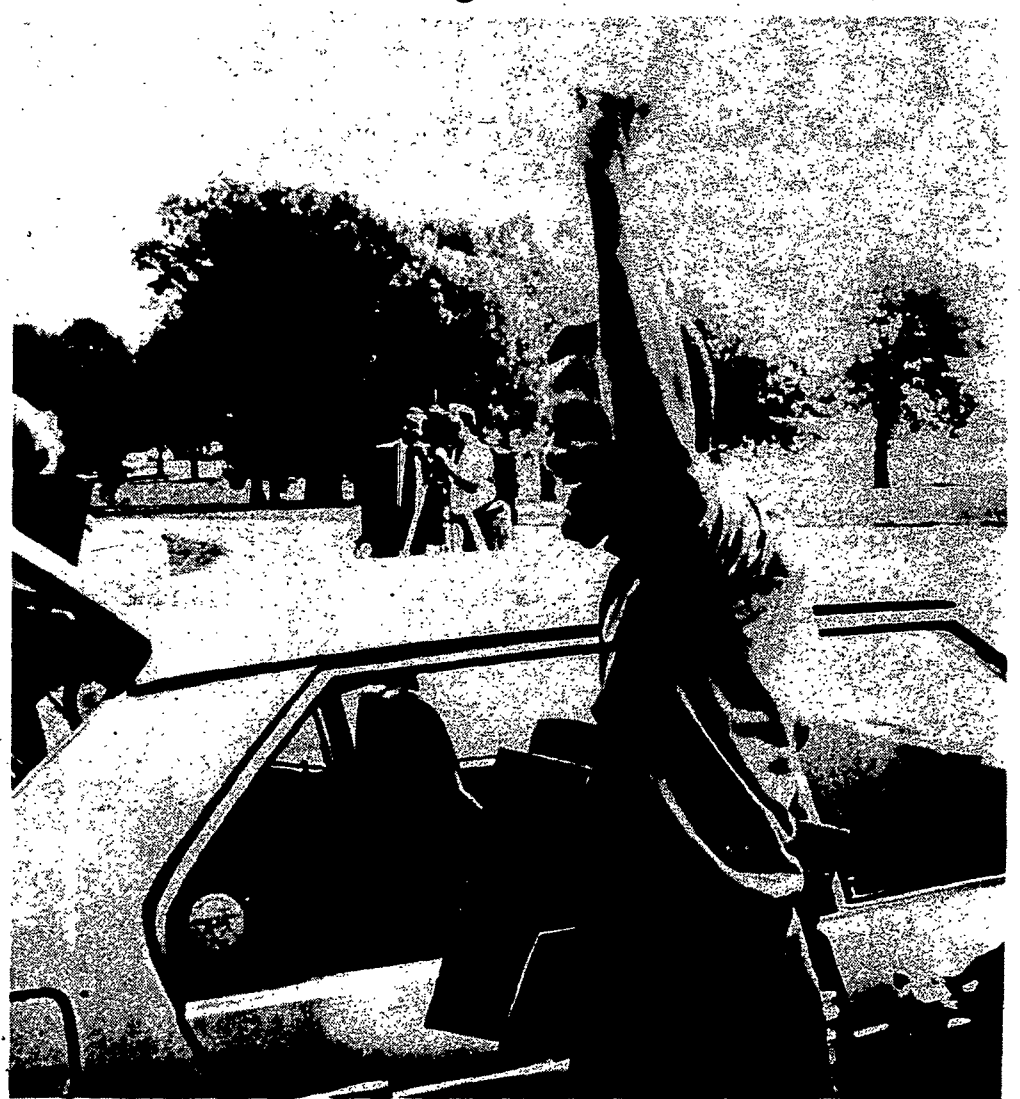
Church Service Irks MPs

London — Several members of the British Parliament have complained about the interfaith church service marking the end of the Falkland Islands war. Sir John Biggs-Davison, a Catholic and a Conservative MP, said, "It is right to pray for the dead and for one's enemies, but it is revolting for cringing clergy to misuse St. Paul's to throw doubts upon the sacrifices of our fighting men." Biggs-Davison refused to attend the service. As part of his sermon, Archbishop Robert Runcie of Canterbury said that "war is a sign of human failure."

Names Make News

Jacqueline Grennan Wexler, 55, a former nun, was elected president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews at its board meeting in New York. In 1967, Mrs. Wexler, then president of Webster College in Missouri severed its connection with the Catholic order which ran the school and to which she had once belonged — the Sisters of Loretto . . . **Retired Bishop Clarence G. Isenmann**, bishop of Cleveland from 1966 to 1974, died July 28, less than a month after celebrating his 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest. He was 75 . . . **Former Hong Kong NC News correspondent Germaine Swain** died in San Francisco . . . **Father Antanas Vaicius**, 56, was ordained a Catholic bishop in Soviet Lithuania, it was reported in Moscow by the Soviet News Agency Tass and by L'Osservatore Roman, Vatican City daily. He was named apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Telsiai.

Focus on Today's World



► **Raymond Lebrun bids farewell to the 203 Haitians who remain detained in the federal correctional facility near Lexington, Ky.** Lebrun and Daniel Dilavois, the first two Haitians to be released from the facility pending formal deportation hearings, will live in Lexington under the sponsorship of St. Peter Claver parish until their fate is decided. (NC photo)



▲ **Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali and Pope John Paul II exchange autographs for each other at the end of a recent private audience at the papal apartment.** (NC photo)



▲ **Travis DeArman, a fifth grader at Holy Name of Jesus School in Fort Worth, Tex., demonstrates his skateboard skill on a half-pipe apparatus built by his father in their backyard.** In less than three years, Travis has filled his bedroom with 28 trophies and four gold medals, including the 10-and-under freestyle division championship of the national tournament held in Oceanside, Calif. (NC photo)



▲ **Citing misconduct of alumni and players as a threat to the university, Father John LoSchiavo, SJ, president of San Francisco University, announces at a press conference that the school is discontinuing its basketball program.** The school's teams have frequently been highly ranked in the nation going back to 1955 and 1956 when they won national championships with superstars Bill Russell and K.C. Jones. (NC photo)



▲ **Eleven-year-olds Pat Donnelly, left, and Michelle Campbell, both from Belfast, Northern Ireland, share a laugh at a picnic sponsored by Project Children at the Salesian Seminary in Goshen, N.Y.** Project Children recently flew 301 Catholic and Protestant children from Northern Ireland for a six week summer vacation with American families. (NC photo)