

# REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL

This monthly newsletter is sent free to all editors, executives and institutions. In order to cover cost of production and mailing a charge of \$1.00 per year is made to all others.

JULY-AUGUST 1952

## THE CATHOLIC PATTERN ASSUMES ITSELF IN COLOMBIA

While repeated reports reach the United States of assaults by Catholics and government police on Protestant churches and Protestant believers in Colombia, the Associated Press reports from Bogota, Colombia's capitol city: "No immediate comment was available from Catholic or government sources on the latest charges. Answering previous accusations of the same sort, however, government officials have said they regretted actions against Protestants but could not guarantee them protection if they kept trying to win new converts in what is officially a Catholic country."

Thus the world learns again what can happen in any country when a politically-minded church gets the upperhand. Most recent acts of persecution, according to allegations reported by the AP, include attacks on two Protestant churches, one of which was dynamited and burned; the stoning of other churches; and the beating and jailing of worshippers in another Protestant service.

Roman Catholics shout loudly that they favor religious liberty -- in those countries where they are a minority. They cite proudly their evangelistic efforts which won them a reported 772,642 converts in the United States, Alaska and Hawaii last year. It is only fair therefore that we ask now on what ground dare they deny to Protestants the liberty of "trying to win new converts" in Colombia or anywhere else.

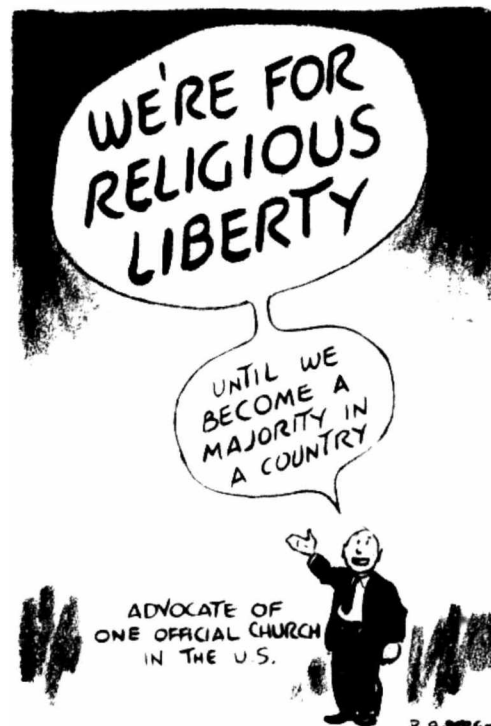
\*\*\*\*\*

AND IN SPAIN: Several members of Congress, led by Rep. O. K. Armstrong of Missouri, have announced plans to "lay the matter of the lack of religious liberty in Spain" before the

\*\*\*\*\*

The R. O. Berg cartoon on the right is reprinted from the July issue of Church and State Newsletter, by special permission of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

## THE SHOUT AND THE WHISPER



Secretary of State and the President. Their decision followed a luncheon session with Rev. Paul E. Freed of Greensboro, N. C., who described conditions he found on four trips to Spain, a Roman Catholic country.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### VACATION TIME OR NOT, DR. DAWSON CONTINUES TO WORK

Dr. Joseph M. Dawson, the executive director, tried to take a vacation during late June and July, but his time necessarily was given largely to continued diligent effort in expressing the Baptist position on religious liberty. He has been in consultation with the Macmillan Company, which has accepted for publication his newest book on church, state and society in America. The volume is believed to be an extremely significant contribution to the cause of liberty in this country and around the world. Dr. Dawson also has been engaged in the task of preparing a manuscript on religious liberty for presentation at the meeting of the Baptist World Alliance executive committee in Copenhagen in early August. During his absence from the office, duties have been administered by C. E. Bryant of Baylor University, who is devoting several weeks to research on church-state relations in the United States, with especial reference to the allocation of federal tax funds to religious institutions. This issue of Report From The Capitol was prepared by Mr. Bryant.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### THE VATICAN ISSUE, AGAIN

Just before its adjournment, Catholic leaders in Congress took action leaving the door ajar for President Truman to make a possible interim appointment setting up diplomatic ties with the Vatican. The move recalled the President's ill-advised attempted appointment of General Mark Clark as ambassador to the Vatican last Fall -- an appointment Clark declined in the face of heated American protests.

Here's the way the new issue arose in Congress. Last March, alert Congressmen denied a \$70,000 item in the State Department's proposed budget which amount was requested to pay for a "small mission" to the Vatican. Advocates of such diplomatic relations admitted chagrin over what they called the Administration's "blundering" in openly seeking the amount when it "could have been picked up" somewhere in the \$79,000,000 lump sum budget.

Members of the House of Representatives considered it wise therefore to seek an additional safeguard against repetition of the Clark incident, and adopted an amendment (by Rep. Prince E. Preston of Georgia) to the appropriation bill forbidding the expenditure of any funds for ambassadorial posts "prior to confirmation by the Senate of the appointment of the first chief of mission or other diplomatic representatives to that state or country." When the House-passed bill went to the Senate in late June, however, Senator Pat McCarran, a Roman Catholic from Nevada who is chairman of the subcommittee in charge of the bill, deleted the clause. He argued that the amendment injected a religious issue into the bill (though its intent was actually to prevent the injection of a religious issue into administration of the appropriation). McCarran's deletion was sustained in the committee, in the Senate, and in a conference committee which ironed out differences in the House and Senate versions.

Though the Congressional action itself did nothing positive to open up the Vatican issue, it indicated that advocates for the establishment of a U. S. embassy at the Vatican are still at work. This belief was given added strength which on June 26 Pope Pius received in private audience for thirty-five minutes Myron Taylor, who was personal representative to the Vatican of the late President Roosevelt and President Truman 1939-49. Only a few days earlier, Taylor had been in conference with President Truman at the White House.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Constitutional guarantees of absolute freedom of religious thought in America have been upheld again, this time in the May 26 decision of the United States Supreme Court overruling a New York State ban on the motion picture, "The Miracle". Cardinal Spellman, Roman Catholic leader in this country, had branded the Italian motion picture "sacreligious", and Catholics secured a ban against it. But, as the Watchman-Examiner of New York observed, "the issue transcended the film and its dramatic story. The real cause was whether clerical influence could control American culture."

The Supreme Court ruled unanimously. Justice Tom Clark asserted: "The basic principles of freedom of speech and press, like the First Amendment's command, do not vary." The decision held that the New York ban was "unbridled censorship" undertaken to prevent free discussion of religion.

Editor John Bradbury of the New York Baptist publication concluded his observation: "This is a satisfactory conclusion of a threatening situation in which the liberties of American people were subtly brought under ecclesiastical authority, with the cardinal having the final word in religious and social decisions. The Supreme Court's decisions should put an end to that sort of aspiration."

\* \* \* \* \*

### PUBLIC TAX MONEY, SCHOOLS AND RELIGION

The controversy of religion in the schools raised its head again at the recent annual meeting of the National Education Association. Fifteen hundred school authorities in session at Detroit heard Mrs. Agnes E. Meyer, a member of the President's Commission on Higher Education, urge that the door be closed forever upon the use of public tax money for support of private and parochial education. She charged that public tax support of parochial education would undermine the nation's public school system and substitute "a series of feeble, jealous, and antagonistic church-school systems, each largely intent on teaching its own church doctrines and struggling for an increasing share of public funds. . . . The public school system, all hope of religious amity, and community solidarity would be destroyed."

At the same meeting, Charles P. Taft, a candidate for governor in Ohio, urged that moral and spiritual values in public education be increased by picking teachers who have "personal religion", and encouraging the inclusion, in non-religious courses, of the maximum amount of religious material of non-controversial nature."

Meanwhile, in Washington, Congress revised the new Puerto Rican constitution to allow church-related and other non-public schools to function there. The amendment was attached to a compulsory school attendance provision, and it allows parents to send children to non-public schools if they so choose.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ENEMIES OF THE HOME

#### Liquor Advertising in Magazines

Figures on the money spent by liquor interests on advertising in some of America's biggest magazines have been published by The National Temperance and Prohibition Council. During 1951, Life magazine carried 421 liquor ads for a revenue of \$9,912,087, a figure more than ten per cent of its total advertising revenue for the year. Time, published by the same company, derived \$2,914,880 from 328 ads. Collier's, a popular weekly, ran 279 ads for a revenue from liquor of \$3,375,370. Incidentally, a full page,

full color advertisement in Life sells for \$30,935. Many good magazines refuse to carry whiskey, wine or beer advertising, including Reader's Digest, Ladies' Home Journal, and Saturday Evening Post. If you're interested in stopping liquor advertising in magazines or on radio and television, write to Dr. R. H. Martin, Committee Against Liquor Advertising, 209 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh 22, Pennsylvania.

#### Crime Programs on Television

If you're one of those thousands of American parents who have discovered you must be selective in television programs for your children, you'll be interested, though not surprised, in the findings of a survey conducted in Los Angeles. During a one-week period, monitored TV programs depicted 852 major crimes, plus innumerable saloon brawls, assaults, sluggings and other "minor" acts of violence. There were 167 murders, 112 "justifiable" killings, and 356 attempted murders. There were many robberies, jailbreaks, murder conspiracies, dynamitings, attempted lynchings and other felonies. Seventy-eight per cent of the crimes were portrayed on programs for children; 85 per cent of them before a child's normal bedtime of nine o'clock p.m. Congress has asked a committee to study the matter of TV programming, and another is at work studying the undesirable content of comic books for children. Rep. E. C. Gathings of Arkansas is leading this cleanup movement.

\*\*\*\*\*

Though one Southern Baptist religious lay worker -- a minister of music and education at Concord, N. C. -- has been granted the same 4-D Selective Service classification accorded to ordained ministers, Washington officials state that no blanket rule on such classifications can be applied. Full-time lay religious workers will be considered by local draft boards on the basis of their individual cases.

\*\*\*\*\*

The editor of "Our Sunday Visitor", national Catholic weekly newspaper, told the Catholic Press Association that Roman Catholics should make every effort to get their publications into the hands of non-Catholics. He urged pastors to remind their parishoners about once each month to hand their Catholic periodicals to a non-Catholic acquaintance.

\*\*\*\*\*

A plea for the elimination of racial and religious prejudice from the political campaigns this Summer and Fall has been sent to national headquarters of Democratic and Republican parties by six American religious leaders, representing the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths. The Lutheran Church's Board of Christian Social Action has urged that Christians engage in "earnest, informed and prayerful discussion" of major issues.

\*\*\*\*\*

A move was launched in Congress to give back to tax-exempt religious and charitable organizations which operate businesses for profit the taxes they paid on these businesses prior to 1951. Author of the two bills designed for that purpose is Rep. John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, who has led other fights to secure public funds for parochial schools and to block federal aid to education if such benefits are not extended to parochial education. His proposal to refund these taxes would favor Roman Catholicism's widespread financial interests in commercial concerns which pay their earnings into the church. Meanwhile, three Congressional committees are at work investigating the fairly wide-spread use of "non-profit organizations" as a front to evade taxes.

\*\*\*\*\*