

# REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL

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MARCH, 1953

## CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS STIR DEBATE

Congressional investigations of the State Department, Voice of America and teachers have recently preempted the first page of the newspapers. The President thinks Congress should always maintain the right to investigate subversiveness, declares that as President of Columbia University he would not have retained a card-carrying Communist, but he warns investigating committees not to assess any guilty of subversive acts unless proved guilty. The House feels sure in pursuing such investigations, as evidenced by its voting, 315 to 2, the sum of \$300,000 for Chairman Velde's Committee. Secretary of State Dulles has shown marked acquiescence in both demands and suggestions of Messrs. McCarthy and Jenner who run the Senate's investigation machinery. Senator Taft has said that he would not favor firing a Communist professor unless it could be shown that the teacher was inducing students to become Communists. Representative Donald L. Jackson has said, "We're not interested in textbooks; ... we're after Communists."

Many feel that the Bill of Rights is being infringed. Mrs. Agnes Meyer, wife of the Editor of The Washington Post, vigorously attacked both the personnel and the methods of the Congressional Committees. When Chairman Velde charged her with writing a letter to Pravda in praise of the Communists, he was forced to retract his statement as an error. He contended that his aide erred and then he fired the man. Three eminent churchmen in Washington -- A. Powell Davies, Francis B. Sayre, Jr., and G. Bromley Oxnam -- strongly condemned the Congressional procedures as witch hunts, saying that certainly wherever there is a conspirator he should be ousted, but American liberties must be kept intact. Perhaps the most stalwart denunciation of probe of educators comes from James B. Carey, Secretary of the CIO, a Roman Catholic, who asserts: "It is a concerted campaign animated by ignorance, reaction and bigotry. Colleges and universities, which are the bulwarks of American democracy, are now smeared with suspicion of being a menace to democracy."

In the meeting of the American Association for the United Nations in Washington, A. Frederick Nolde gave it as his opinion that some efforts of the investigating committees have injured the standing of the United States among the nations of the world, in that they are interpreted as putting our country behind another iron curtain.

The head of the Voice of America program has been fired, and the entire staff questioned. Some teachers who have declined to answer queries of the investigating committees have been fired by their institutions. Editorial expressions generally have been hostile toward the Congressional committees. These have insisted that better protection against smearing shall be afforded the witnesses, that the investigations shall be more responsibly handled, with total absence of reckless charges and intimidation, and that the present deplorable way of keeping defense evidence private while blaring prosecutions to the public be abolished. There are frequent predictions that unless basic American principles and fair play shall come to be practiced, the public will eventually revolt against investigations that now would commonly be regarded as desirable for the security of the Nation.

Hope is entertained by not a few that the Ford Foundation's fifteen million dollar fund allotted for a study of the problem may afford help. It proposes to survey restrictions and assaults on academic freedom, due process, and equal protection under the laws; protection of minority rights; censorship, boycotting and blacklisting by private groups; guilt by association; and to recommend procedures.

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#### FUTILE EFFORTS TO DESTROY THE UNITED NATIONS

A meeting of representatives from some 100 national organizations, held in Washington this month, faced complaints currently offered and gave convincing answers.

President Eisenhower has made it crystal clear that his administration will stand by the UN. Clark M. Eichelberger, Executive Director of The American Association for the United Nations, in calling the Washington Conference asserted: "The United Nations has moved from the dream of 1945 to the reality of 1953. Such a transition involved trial and error. The strong-hearted see in the heat of the experience the hammering out of new institutions. The weak-hearted turn away because their vision will not outlast the critical period."

The opponents of the United Nations seem to be developing a philosophy of futilitarianism, whose chief aim appears to be lower taxes. Meantime the believing confront the following array of facts concerning the United Nations:

It is resisting aggression in Korea with a United Nations army.

It is helping the 600 million who have won political independence since the war to take their place in the society of nations; it gives hope for freedom to additional millions who do not have self-government.

It has materially improved the lives of a considerable part of the human race through its economic and social program of helping underprivileged people help themselves.

It has settled international disputes and reduced tensions which could have led to war.

It has raised the standard of a Declaration of Human Rights, to which all people can aspire.

As many statesmen here and abroad have testified, if the United Nations were not in existence today it would have to be created immediately or the world would plunge into a third world war.

The American people and their leaders, without partisanship, overwhelmingly support the United Nations and American leadership in it. The world organization is assailed by only a vociferous minority.

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#### PROTESTS AGAINST COMMUNIST RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

The Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs with 48 other churchmen signed a letter addressed to President Eisenhower calling for action in regard to religious and racial persecution by communist countries. In response to this appeal and others along the same line, Congress has acted in an impressive manner. The Senate Resolution, adopted 79 to 0, reads as follows:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate of the United States that the vicious and inhuman campaigns conducted by the Soviet Government and its puppet governments in satellite states in Europe and Asia against minority groups such as the persecution of Greek Orthodox congregations, the imprisonment of Roman Catholic prelates, the harassment of Protestant denominations, the suppression of Moslem communities, the persecution and scattering of ethnic groups in Poland, in the Ukraine, in the Baltic, and Balkan States and in many other areas under Soviet domination, and most recently the increasing persecution of the people of the Jewish faith, deserve the strongest condemnation by all peoples who believe that spiritual values are the bases of human progress and freedom.

"Resolved further, That the President of the United States is hereby urged to take appropriate action to protest, particularly in the General Assembly of the United Nations, against these outrages, in order that the United Nations shall take such action in opposition to them as may be suitable under its charter."

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#### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION FROM THE VATICAN

Paul Blanshard charged in Dublin that, according to provisions in the McCarran Act, Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara is risking his citizenship by serving as the papal nuncio to Ireland. Senator McCarran denied that this is true, declaring that O'Hara represents only the Pope.

Doubtless the Senator speaks authentically about the relationship of an official representation between his church and a state. But last year he was reported as saying that an ambassador from the United States would be to the Vatican State. Now he says the diplomat to a state which furnishes an ambassador to the Vatican is from the Pope. Does he not recognize the principle of international law that diplomatic representation must always be equal? If so, in the exchange of diplomatic representation between Ireland and the Pope, Ireland's ambassador is clearly to the Holy See. Thus it would appear Senator McCarran's statement constitutes an important contribution toward clearing up a continued and long-standing confusion as to what the Vatican is. Whenever a proposal is made that a state send an ambassador to the Vatican, it should be understood that the representation will be to a church. Failure to admit this disturbs politics, destroys harmony between Protestants and Catholics, and seriously affects national unity; even tends to disrupt the peace of the world. Under Senator McCarran's interpretation of the relationship in Ireland, the Vatican should not longer assume to play hide-and-seek between being a state and a church. Manifestly, it cannot be both; nor in its diplomatic relations can it assume the status of a church or a state, according to which may be the more advantageous to its interests.

Meantime Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce has been unanimously confirmed as ambassador to Italy, but after emphatic assurances that she will officially have nothing to do with the Vatican.

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#### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN SPAIN AGAIN

In company with Dr. Sadler of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee called on the Spanish Embassy in Washington to request a conference with the Madrid Government concerning the continued religious persecution in Spain. Dr. Sadler's mission will be a delicate and difficult one.

Last year the police suddenly closed the Baptist chapel in Madrid. Our Spanish pastor had sought the required permission from the police and been given oral assurance

that it was all right to start services. While waiting for the written permission to arrive he went ahead and held meetings, even announcing a dedication service for a certain day three months later. The day of dedication came -- and so did the local police. They promptly closed the place.

When both the American and British ambassadors protested to the foreign office, their appeals availed nothing. They were told that the pastor had violated the law requiring permission in writing and had distributed literature -- something expressly forbidden non-Roman Catholic faiths.

The ambassadors replied that the pastor had obtained oral approval and that the transgression, if it could be called that, had been minor. Again the authorities referred to the law. Next the ambassadors tried to point out that the law was making a mountain out of a molehill. "It is you who were making a molehill into a mountain," said the Spaniards.

All this caused former President Truman to say some unpleasant things about conditions in Spain. The Spanish Government replied to Mr. Truman in an official statement claiming that Protestants in Spain enjoyed all "reasonable" facilities for practicing their faith, a representation emphasized by Roman Catholic leaders in the United States. Suddenly members of the pro-Franco lobby in Washington assured the President that everything was sweetness and light in Spain.

But Cardinal Segura, Archbishop of Seville, remarked that Protestantism in Spain "was increasing in an extraordinarily grave manner." Both the American and British ambassadors sought evidence of this increase to include in their cables home, but at length concluded that it was impossible for non-Catholics to grow in a country that permits only private worship of such, that forbids publication of their literature, and often by violence obstructs their work and worship.

When the American ambassador tried to convince Franco that he might have a better chance of getting American economic aid if there was a little more regard for religious liberty in Spain, Cardinal Segura announced that "Catholic loyalty is worth more than rivers of North American gold." Almost immediately the Baptist chapel in Seville was attacked by ruffians.

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#### IS SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MINISTERS COMING?

Among other bills introduced into Congress for the inclusion of ministers are two--one by Representative Cole of New York and one by Representative Carl Elliott of Alabama.

"The provisions of the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance law should promptly be extended to cover millions of citizens who have been left out of the social security system," the President declared in his Message. "No less important is the encouragement of privately sponsored pension plans."

Five Protestant denominations are on record as favoring amendment of the Social Security Act so as to permit inclusion of services performed in the exercise of the ministry under Old Age and Survivors' Insurance. These denominations are: The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.; Congregational Christian Churches; the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church; the Evangelical Lutheran Church; and the Evangelical Free Church of America.

Several serious inquiries have reached this office as to what Baptists will have to say concerning this proposed legislation. It is possible that the Joint Committee on Public Affairs in its March 24 session will make some pronouncement on it.

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