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Archbishop Stresses Fair Housing Duties

WASHINGTON — (NC) — Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle in a pastoral letter reminded Catholics of their duty to respect the civil rights of others in regard to jobs, education and — particularly — housing.

"These who deny a neighbor, solely on the basis of race, the opportunity to buy a house, enjoy equal educational and job opportunities are in effect denying that right to Christ Himself," Archbishop O'Boyle said.

In a covering letter to 343 priests of the Washington archdiocese, he scored "block busting, panic selling and similar tactics" that violate the right to equality in housing.

"The heart of the fair housing issue is that every man, whatever his race, religion or national origin, has the moral right to acquire and occupy any house his means will allow, subject only to the obligation all members of society have to live as good neighbors in Christian charity," he said.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S pastoral, read at all Masses in the archdiocese (May 22), coincided with the observance of "Fair Housing Sunday" in nearby Prince Georges County, Md., which is part of the archdiocese.

The observance was supported by the Greater Washington Council of Churches and the Greater Washington Jewish Community Council as well as the Catholic archdiocese. Pledge cards were

distributed to members of the congregation in churches and synagogues throughout the county.

The cards read: "I believe that any person, regardless of race, religion, or national origin, has the moral right to purchase or rent a home anywhere. I urge financial institutions, home builders and owners, apartment owners and real estate brokers to do business without racial or religious discrimination."

ARCHBISHOP O'Boyle declared in his pastoral that "the will of God . . . in relation to our neighbor" means "treating him as a fellow son of God, recognizing him as an equal image of the infinite God who is our Creator, our Redeemer and our Judge."

He expressed joy at the "great advances" made in recent years in developing "a Christian attitude in the field of civil rights" in relation to equality in education, housing, jobs and social life.

But, he said, "further progress is assured only if we continue to condemn individually the denial of equal housing, education and job opportunities as morally wrong, just as we condemn other sinful actions which are part of the crime wave afflicting so many of our great cities."

The archbishop noted that Christians "cannot select which part of the moral law we are to obey. . . We cannot be part-time Christians or partially loyal Christians."

Pope Paul Warns Workers On Dangers of Marxism

VATICAN CITY — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has reminded Christian workers that the Church has not and cannot adhere to "the false conception of man, history and the world which is typical of radical Marxism."

"The atheism it professes and promotes," he said (May 22), "is . . . a blindness which man and society will have to pay for in the end with the gravest consequences. The materialism which derives from it . . . extinguishes man's true spirituality and his transcendent hope."

"The class struggle raised to a system harms and impedes social peace and inevitably ends in violence and oppression, leading to the abolition of liberty and the establishment of a ponderously authoritarian system naturally inclined toward totalitarianism."

NEVERTHELESS, he told 15,000 representatives of Christian labor, the lay apostolate and social action movements in 35 nations, "the church does not bypass any of the claims for justice and progress of laborers. Let it be once more affirmed that the Church by rectifying these errors and deviations does not exclude from its love any man — any worker."

The Pope's address followed a concelebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica commemorating the 75th anniversary of the publication of Pope Leo XIII's famous encyclical on the condition of the workingman, Rerum Novarum, which has served as a blue-print for the Church's subsequent social teaching. Among the concelebrants from six continents was bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh, representing North America.

Following his talk, the Pope received 70 representatives of 45 organizations throughout the world, including William Toomey of Albany, N. Y., executive board member of the National Catholic Social Action Conference. Toomey is the U.S. delegate to the constitutional assembly of the world movement of Christian Workers, which began May 23 in Rome.

Canada is represented by Jacques Champagne of the Canadian Christian Worker movement and its chaplain, Father Laurent Denis, both of whom were also received by the Pope. On his own behalf and on that of Msgr. George G. Higgins, director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Father Denis participated in the assembly as North American Chaplain.

POPE PAUL reduced the mes-

sage of Rerum Novarum to seven "elementary propositions," which he called fundamental axioms.

"First, the Church has been thoroughly interested in the social question. Nobody can reproach it for its absences from the problem, for its timidity, superficiality or inconsistency. The Church has heard the 'cry of anguish' of the worker proletariat and even made it its own, not as a tinder of hatred and revenge, but as a demand for love and justice. Even before concerning itself with the needs and rights of others, it frankly recognized its own new

duty which the history of human vicissitudes placed before it — to concern itself with the working world, to place itself at the side of the defenseless and to seek with them and for them better living conditions."

The second axiom founded on Leo's encyclical, Pope Paul said, is that "the Church has proclaimed the dignity of labor of whatever kind so long as it is honest, and supported it with wonderful argumentation. There has even been talk of a 'theology of labor' since in the thought of the Church hu-

See Pope Warns, page 8A



C.P.A. AWARD — Bishop Clarence G. Isissenmann congratulates Joseph Breig, winner of the St. Francis de Sales award of the Catholic Press Association for the outstanding contribution to Catholic journalism in 1965. They were in San Francisco (May 13) for the annual C.P.A. convention. Bishop Isissenmann, Coadjutor of Cleveland and Episcopal Chairman of the N.C.W.C. Press Department, is honorary president of the C.P.A. Breig is associate editor of the Cleveland Catholic Universe Bulletin. (NC Photos)

Red Court Convicts Yugoslavian Atheist

MUNICH, Germany — (NC) — In an unprecedented decision a people's court in communist-ruled Yugoslavia has convicted an atheist poet for offending the religious beliefs of his Catholic fellow citizens.

Vladimir Gajsek, a young philosophy student, was sentenced to a two-week suspended jail term and placed on a year's probation after a Ljubljana district court found him guilty of charges brought by three Yugoslav bishops.

Gajsek's conviction in January was reported here by Radio Free Europe, which did not identify the three bishops.

THE FORMAL charge was made following protests by Ljubljana theology students against Gajsek's poem, "The Holy Family," which contains a parody of Christ's crucifixion. The poem was published in a Ljubljana newspaper in May, 1965.

The Yugoslav court's judges — all Communist party members — based their decision on the Yugoslav constitution's guarantee of religious freedom and its specific ban against incitement to religious hatred or intolerance.

The court declared in its ruling: "The accused, Gajsek . . . was, in the opinion of the court, fully aware that he would provoke religious intolerance by his manner of expression. That is why his defense that he did not commit the deed intentionally is not convincing."

"FROM THE judicial point of view there exists in the behavior of the accused all evidence of a criminal deed."

The court added that Gajsek had "undoubtedly ridiculed and put to shame" certain terms and ex-

pressions used by the Catholic Church.

The decision was greeted with a wave of protests by militant communist atheists.

The noted Slovenian communist novelist, Ivan Potrc, charged that "the people's court did its best to enable the clerics to celebrate their silent victory."

A Belgrade critic, Dr. Rakocevic, said the decision was evidence of the "strengthening of the power of the Church."

Czech Police Search Homes Of 2 Bishops

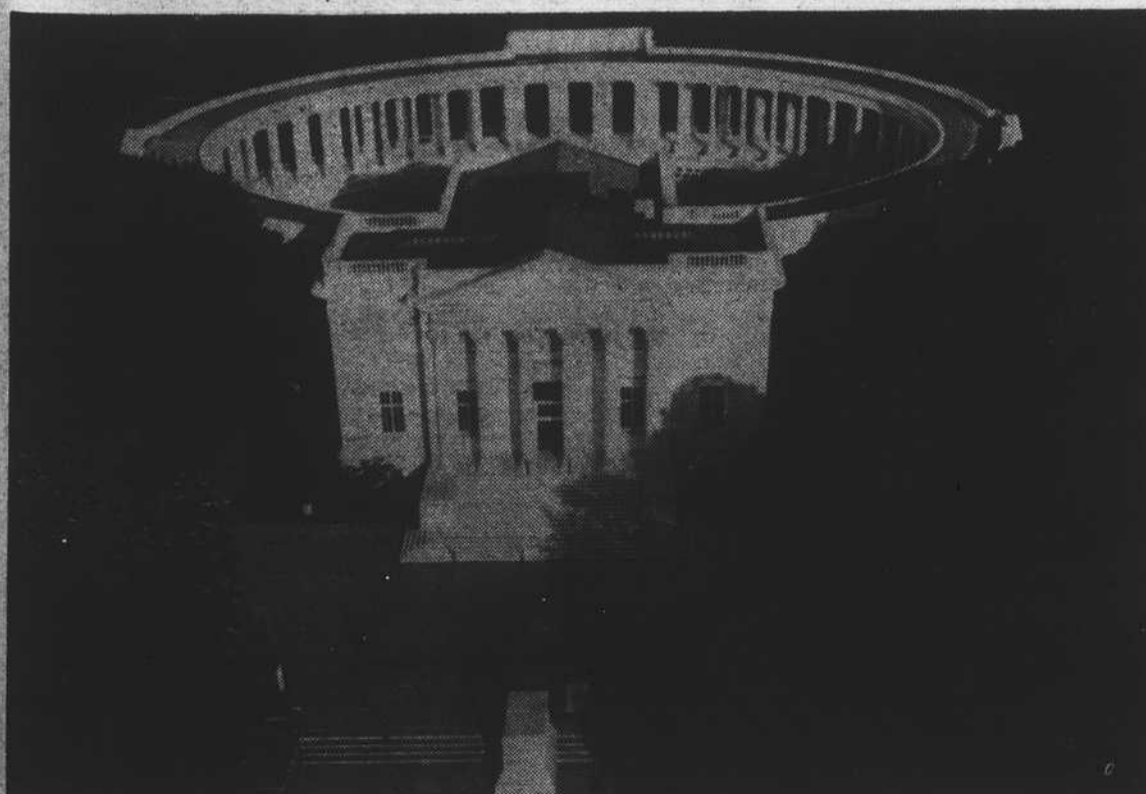
BONN, Germany — (NC) — Police searched the residences of two bishops in Czechoslovakia after they had been visited by tourists from the West, but found no "subversive material," according to KNA, German Catholic news agency.

The prelates are Auxiliary Bishop Kajetan Matousek of Prague and Bishop Karel Otčenasek, apostolic administrator of Hradec Kralove, who had been released from confinement in 1963.

KNA reported that all bishops who have been confined are under surveillance after their release.

The news agency reported also that there are still 16 priests imprisoned in Czechoslovakia and that an unknown number of laymen are still in jail there because of their faith and religious activities.

It was reported that 25 priests were imprisoned about six months ago.



EARLY MORNING SUN rises over Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac from the Nation's Capital. The World War I Unknown Soldier is the only body in the sarcophagus. But the Unknown Soldier of World War II and the Unknown Soldier of the Korean Conflict lie beneath the white marble oblongs in the plaza near the sarcophagus. The amphitheater is the scene each year of a Memorial Requiem Mass on the Sunday nearest Memorial Day. (NC Photos)