



Encyclical

20 Talk with Cardinal at C.U.; Fr. Curran Says Meet Affirmed Freedom of Dissent, Tradition

K of C Nat'l Convention Ends

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The best short description of modern society is that it is "greatly perturbed and horribly confused," the chief executive officer of the Knights of Columbus said here.

Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt said the age is "ultra-permissive . . . indulgently tolerant of sin . . . prefers vice to virtue . . . afflicted with an obsession for speaking out and an aversion to thinking through . . . rich in gadgets but poor in the joys of the spirit . . . rich in scientific know-how but poor in the wisdom of salvation."

McDevitt presented his pessimistic world view at the 86th annual meeting (Aug. 20-22) of Knights' Supreme Council, the top policy making body of the 1.2 million-member Catholic fraternal organization.

3 Appointments of U.S. Bishops

WASHINGTON — Pope Paul VI has made the following appointments in the hierarchy of the United States:

Most Rev. Stanislaus Brzana, who has been auxiliary of Buffalo, to be the Bishop of Ogdensburg.

Msgr. Michael J. Dudick, pastor of the Church of St. George, Newark, N.J., to be the Eparch of Passaic.

Msgr. Arthur J. O'Neill, pastor of the Church of St. Peter, Rockford, Ill., to be the Bishop of Rockford.

Negro Nuns Hold Meeting

PITTSBURGH — Dr. Nathan Wright, Jr., of the department of urban work in the Newark, N.J., archdiocese, established the mood for the first National Black Sisters Conference there by asking all non-blacks to leave the room when he began his opening address of the conference.

The conference brought 155 black nuns from 76 religious communities together for a week of lectures, workshops and panel discussions aimed "at deepening the awareness of the contemporary moods of black people, to be a support to one another and as black religious women, to move forward in the nation's attempt to create a positive living relationship between black and whites."

Recommended TV Program

NEW YORK — (NC) — The National Catholic Office for Radio and Television (NCORT) lists the following network presentation as a program of special interest. The times indicated are for the New York City area and may vary in other areas:

Friday, Aug. 30, 10 to 11 p.m.: "The New American Catholic" (NBC): An examination of some of the new movements and trends coursing through the Catholic Church in America.

Physicians Support Pope

PHILADELPHIA — (NC) — The executive committee of the St. Francis Catholic Physicians Guild meeting here pledged full support and obedience to Pope Paul's birth control encyclical Humanae Vitae, and urged all guild members to do the same.

The committee's statement was released by Dr. Gino Papola, vice president of the national federation of Catholic physicians guilds.

"The vicar of Christ has spoken," the statement said. "Pope Paul was guided by the same God who gave Moses the Ten Commandments, and it is mandatory on all Catholics whether laymen or Religious to use their energies in guiding their families, their neighbors, and their communities to follow the laws of God, rather than to engage in the hair splitting activities that have been going on since the encyclical was made public."

Pleads African Cease Fire

NEW YORK — A cease fire in the Nigerian-Biafran conflict "must be the immediate aim of all of us," Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom, executive director of Catholic Relief Services, said here.

Bishop Swannstrom preached (Aug. 18) at a special Mass for peace in Nigeria at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Archbishop Terence J. Cooke of New York was the celebrant.

"We must beg for it (a cease fire) in our prayers," Bishop Swannstrom said, "just as we pray for peace in Vietnam, and we must ask our President and the officers of our own government, we must ask the United Nations to use their good offices to bring this about."

'Right of Dissent'

Continued from page 1A
tance of these two paragraphs, I asked for written professional opinions on them from all the theologians who met with me at Catholic University yesterday. Three agreed to comply with this request within the time I suggested — ten days. Many, however, replied with all sorts of excuses. The majority claimed that it would take much longer than ten days to provide such an opinion.

"It seems odd to me," the cardinal continued, "that those who signed the dissenting statement in which these two paragraphs were included did not find themselves able to render a professional opinion upon them as I requested."

"I should have assumed that a competent theologian would not have subscribed to a statement carrying with it vast implications for the salvation of souls and the unity of the Church un-

less he had first taken the trouble to investigate the matter about which he was speaking. And if the dissenting theologians conducted such an investigation, and conducted it in a competent theological manner, why did they not have the results of this study ready at hand?"

Washington — (NC) — Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, chancellor of the Catholic University of America, met (Aug. 20) with faculty members of the university's school of theology and department of religious education. The cardinal said: "I have called this meeting to hear what you have to say about the situation following the publication of Humanae Vitae," referring to the recent encyclical of Pope Paul VI on birth control.

The cardinal said: "I have to fulfill my responsibilities as chancellor, and in doing so I want to make sure the rights of all concerned are properly protected," explaining his desire to get an accurate picture of the problem.

According to a statement released after the meeting, the cardinal passed out during the meeting copies of the theological statement of dissent and asked for comments from the faculty members present. The statement for the press said that the cardinal listened for more than an hour to the views of the theologians on the problem they thought the theological statement of dissent might raise for the Catholic University of America as a pontifical institution.

Cardinal O'Boyle said that a stenotype record was made of the meeting, and that this will be transcribed and given to the faculty members.

At the end of the meeting, the cardinal said he probably would refer the situation at the university to a special meeting of the university's board of trustees.

A statement released after the meeting said that advance reports had suggested the meeting would be a showdown between the cardinal and dissenting members of the theological faculties, but, the statement said, the cardinal "did not call the meeting to lay down any ultimatum." The cardinal emphasized that he had called the meeting to listen to the comments of faculty members.

The meeting was attended by 20 members of the university faculties, including Father John P. Whalen, acting rector; Charles E. Curran, Thomas Flannery and George Hamilton III, attorneys for the university; and two representatives of the Washington branch of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The AAUP representatives were invited to the meeting by Father Curran and other faculty members. Father Curran said the faculty had requested the presence of the AAUP representatives because they had not been presented with an agenda in advance.

"In discredit to myself," he said, "I tended to be rather suspicious of what might take place."

But he said his fears had been completely misplaced. He said Cardinal O'Boyle chaired the meeting and encouraged all faculty members to speak their minds freely. Father Curran said the cardinal did not enter into discussions and made no threats nor gave any hints of disciplinary action against the dissenting faculty members.

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