

Group Seeks To Bridge Gap In Religions

By CARROLL ARIMOND
CHICAGO, Sept. 27 (AP)—Churchmen and scholars are gathering in a quiet Benedictine abbey near Chicago to revive a religious congress blacked out by the Iron Curtain.

It is the Unionistic Congress that from 1907 until World War II met in Velehrad, Czechoslovakia. Its aim is to return eventually some 200 million Catholics of the Eastern Orthodox churches to the Roman Catholic Church, from which they became separated centuries ago.

Velehrad was selected for the original congress because it was there that the saints Cyril and Methodius, apostles of the Slavs, began Christianizing the Slavonic peoples, 1,100 years ago.

First in U.S.
St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, a suburb of Chicago, was chosen for the first such congress in the United States because since 1927 it has held a papal commission to work for reunion of those Roman Catholics who were lost in the great Eastern schism that extended from 1054 to 1472.

Political and doctrinal differences between the East, represented by Constantinople, and the West, represented by Rome, produced the schism.

In calling for the congress, the Rt. Rev. Ambrose Ondrak, Abbot of St. Procopius, declared:

"It is necessary to create a fraternal oneness among those who still cling to the ancient and authentic faith of the Holy Apostles, particularly with those who live separated from the Holy See of Rome."

Division Noted
"It is necessary to bridge the gulf that has separated these dissident Eastern brethren for some 900 years, tragically dividing the Apostolic Church into two estranged camps."

"In our present day, in the midst of a titanic struggle between the forces of the Christian world against the might of a godless materialism, the desire for this reunion of the Christian churches is greater than ever."

Two cardinals, clergymen and Byzantine scholars from the United States and abroad will participate in the three-day program Sept. 28-30. On Sunday the sacred liturgy according to the Byzantine rite will be celebrated. In the Western, or Latin, church, this ceremony is called the Mass.

A popular misconception among Roman Catholics as well as others, churchmen say, is that the Roman rite is the only one in union with the Pope.

Actually there are more than eight million non-Latin Roman Catholics, a million of whom are in North America and about 100,000 in South America.

Later Reunited
These people are descendants of Eastern Christians who either did not break from Rome in the schism or later reunited, as the Unionistic Congress sponsors hope the Orthodox members someday may do.

Largest of these Eastern, or Oriental, rites is the Byzantine, with eight sub-rites drawn along lingual or ethnical lines. Subrites include the Greek, Russian, Bulgarian, Hungarian and others.

Campaign Film Released for Use By Republicans

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27 (AP)—The Republican National Committee Wednesday told of national distribution of a 30-minute campaign film entitled "Peace, Progress and Prosperity—A Report to the People."

The picture opens with a statement by Vice President Nixon and ends with remarks by President Eisenhower. It includes brief statements by each member of the Cabinet and Republican congressional leaders.

The narrator is Howard Pyle, deputy assistant to the president. The film is being sent to all state and county party organizations for use at rallies and on local television stations, the GOP committee said.

Newsman had a preview today. Some compared it with the 27-minute documentary film showing at the Democratic convention. Eisenhower issued a call for all citizens to vote in November.

SYMPHONY SLATED

BERLIN, Sept. 27 (AP)—Composer Igor Stravinsky will conduct the Berlin Radio Symphony next week in a program of his own works as a feature of West Berlin's annual cultural festival.

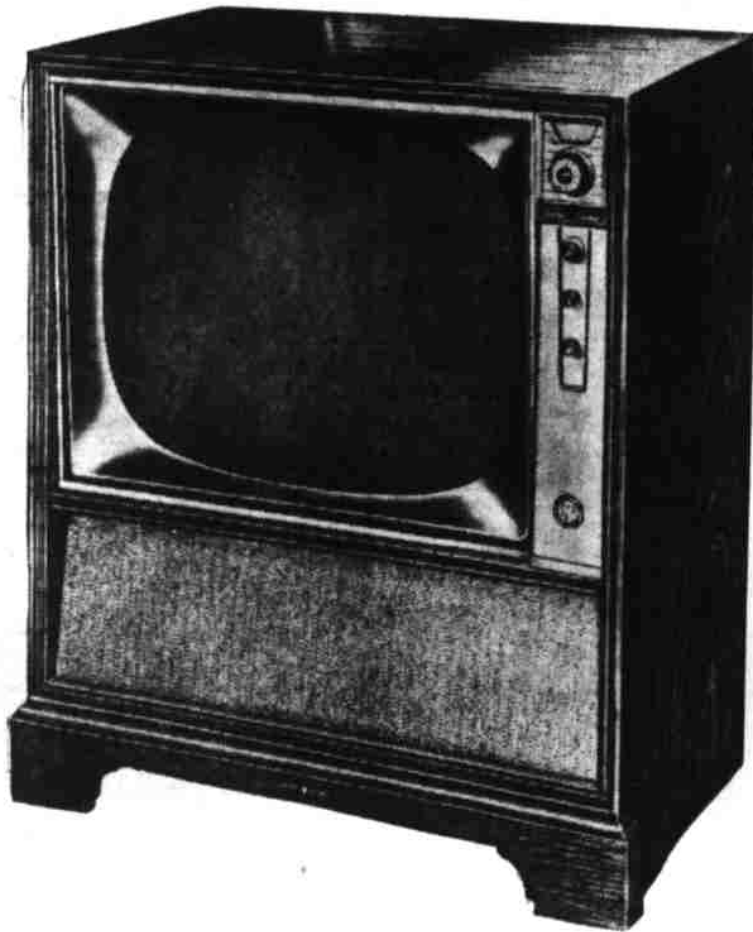


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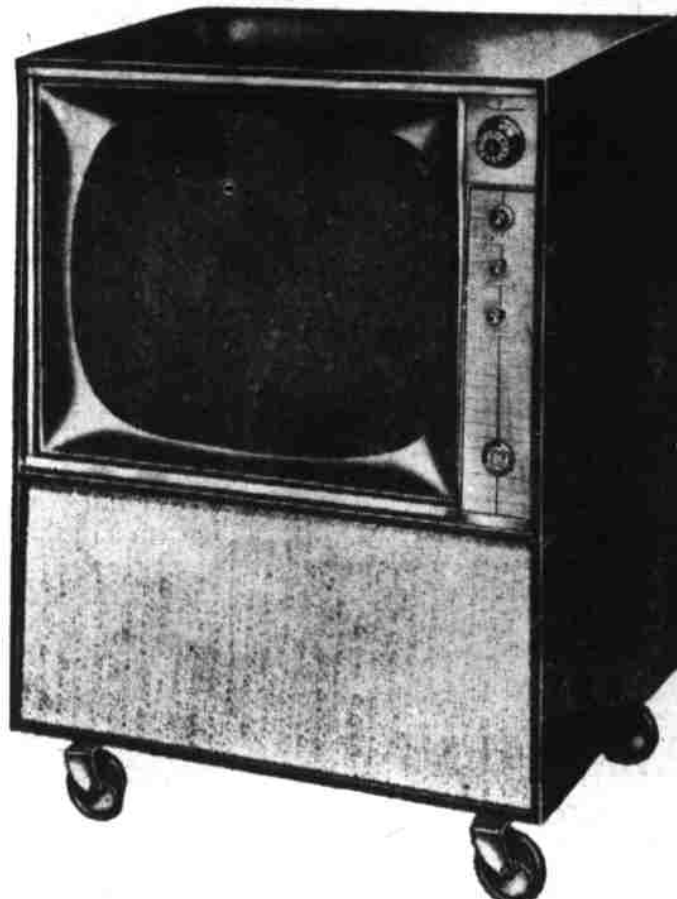
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