

Religion Today

Catholic Doctrine 'Compatible' With Democratic State

By GEORGE W. CORNELL
AP Religion Writer

Does Catholic doctrine square with democratic government? Some critics of the Roman Catholic Church have long contended the two were fundamentally incompatible. Lately some noted non-Catholic scholars have joined Catholic Church leaders in rebutting that idea.

"It's just not true," said Dr. Curran Shields, a professor of political theory of the University of California at Los Angeles. "It doesn't stand up in theory or practice either one."

Dr. Shields, a Protestant, has spent three years digging into Catholic doctrine and policies from ancient days to the present. In a new book out today, "Democracy and Catholicism in America," Shields details his findings. They correspond, in part, to those of a recent study by a Jewish scholar, Dr. Will Herberg, called "Protestant-Catholic-Jew."

Other non-Catholic scholars, both laymen and clergymen, have also gone into the subject recently, and protested the political prejudice about the church that crops up occasionally in America. In this country of affirmed equal opportunities for all religions, a Roman Catholic never has won the presidential or vice presidential office. A try for the presidency by Al Smith, in 1928, met defeat.

What a "terrible thing it would be," says the Rev. Dr. John C. Bennett, a Protestant professor at Union Theological Seminary, if Protestant distrust robs 25 million Catholic adult citizens of full rights—of any chance at highest office.

Shields said that "anti-Catholic sentiment has diminished in the last 25 years, but there still is enough of it to stain the picture." Its source, he said, is ignorance.

Strangely enough, Shields said, many anti-democratic views attributed to the Roman Catholic Church actually are of Protestant origin—and have always been strongly opposed by the Catholic Church.

For example, the idea of the "divine right of the elect of God" to rule a state or nation.

This theory, Shields noted, was originated by the Swiss Protestant John Calvin in the 15th century, and brought to America by the Puritans, who set up their theocracy (religious government) in New England.

The concept of the divine right

of kings also was Protestant-born in the time of England's King James I, Shields said, adding that to such systems in with Catholicism is "as far from the truth as anything can be."

"Both doctrines are contrary to Catholic teachings, and have been repudiated by the church," he said.

Reaction Against Calvin
In fact, he added, the whole drive that led to the separation of church and state in the United States was a reaction against the Calvinist Protestant arrangement for religious domination in civil affairs.

Catholicism, on the other hand, was upheld throughout its history the separate provinces of church and state—what it calls the "doctrine of the two swords," Shields said.

In other words, he said, the unswerving Catholic teaching has been that church and state are distinct powers—one religious, the other civil.

As the church sees it, he added, each society has the right to work out its own form of civil government, without interference from the church—so long as the government doesn't interfere in the religious domain.

Other "irresponsible misconceptions," he said, are that church teachings are binding in spheres other than faith and morals, and that statements by individual Catholics on other matters represent official church teachings.

Although the Pope and other Catholic leaders often speak out

Indonesia Has Show of Force For Rebel View

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Feb. 20 (AP)—President Sukarno and former Vice President Mohammed Hatta met today on the crisis dividing the nation. The government also put on a military show of force for the rebel regime on Sumatra.

The fact that talks had begun between Sukarno and Hatta, Indonesia's two most popular leaders who split last year, stirred hopes for peace among all political parties except the Communists. Sukarno went to Hatta's residence and they talked for two hours.

The government destroyer Gadjah Mada and some corvettes meanwhile appeared only about a mile off Padang, Sumatran rebel headquarters, and Paganharu, on the eastern coast.

Although there was a possibility of naval bombardment of the rebel centers, rebel leaders believed the warships were merely taking up blockade positions.

Rebel leaders also reported that the Indonesian air force had carried out reconnaissance of Lake Singkarak.

An Indonesian air force spokesman confirmed that several amphibian planes made trial landings on the lake but declined to elaborate.

The rebel regime headed by Sjafruddin Prawiranegara, set up last Saturday at Padang, has indicated it would disband if Hatta replaced Premier Djuanda.

On other things, such as the running debate over tax aid to parochial schools, Shields said, "no religious requirement is involved"—it's up to individual judgment.

As a practical matter, he said, requirements set by Catholic teachings for exercising authority are met more satisfactorily in a democracy than in any other form of rule.

Cuban Pay Boost 'Buys Votes' for Batista Candidate

By LARRY ALLEN
HAVANA, Cuba, Feb. 20 (AP)—It seems most of Cuba's workers are going to be in the mood to vote for the government's candidate in the presidential elections set for June 1.

The Labor Ministry has just decreed a big pay boost, effective March 1. It is expected to go a long way toward smoothing out complaints and grumblings among workers about the increasing cost

of living. Political quarters say the pay rise is one of the smartest moves the government of President Fulgencio Batista could have made; it should assure an avalanche of votes from the nation's workers for Prime Minister Andres Rivero Aguiar. He is the presidential nominee of four pro-government political parties and has the personal backing of Batista. Virtually all of Cuba's workers

are members of the powerful Cuban Confederation of Labor. Its secretary-general, Eusebio Mujal, is certain most of its 1,200,000 members will vote for Rivero Aguiar. Mujal called the pay boost a triumph and accomplishment for the working class. Industrial, commercial and agricultural workers in the Havana area have been receiving a minimum pay of \$60 per month. Starting March 1, the lowest they can

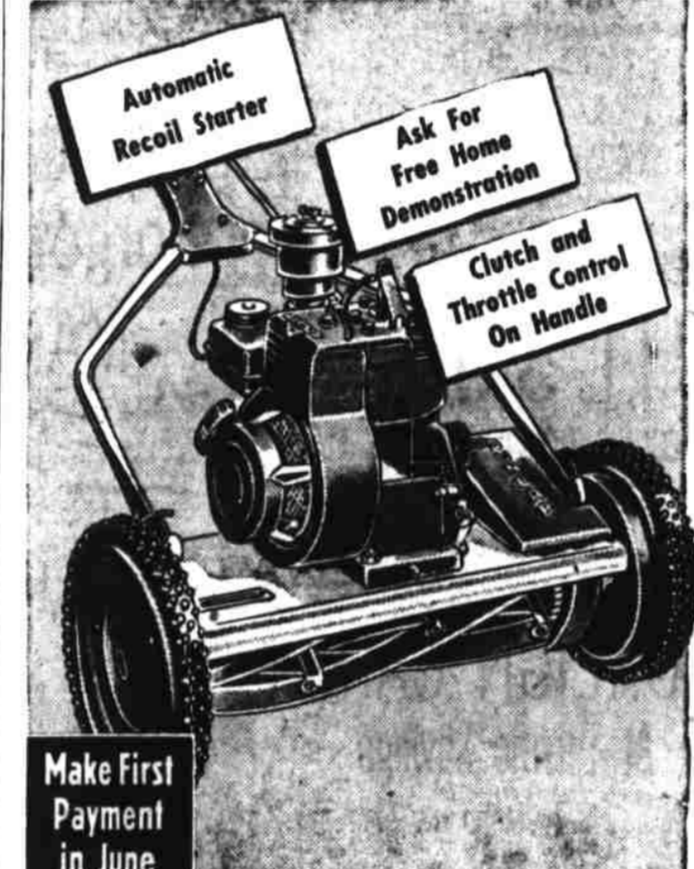
be paid will be \$85 monthly. Outside the Havana area the minimum pay will be \$80 per month in urban areas and \$75 in rural communities. Most Cubans feel Rivero Aguiar will have an easy time winning the presidency.

There are three opposition groups and one so-called independent political organization qualified to enter presidential candidacies. Thus far, announcements of candidacy have come from former President Ramon Grau San Martin of the Cuban Revolutionary party; Carlos Marquez Sterling of the Free People's organization; and Alberto Salas Amaro, of the Independent Cuban Union party. Cubans say failure of opposition parties to agree on a single candidate to oppose Rivero Aguiar also has increased his chances of victory.

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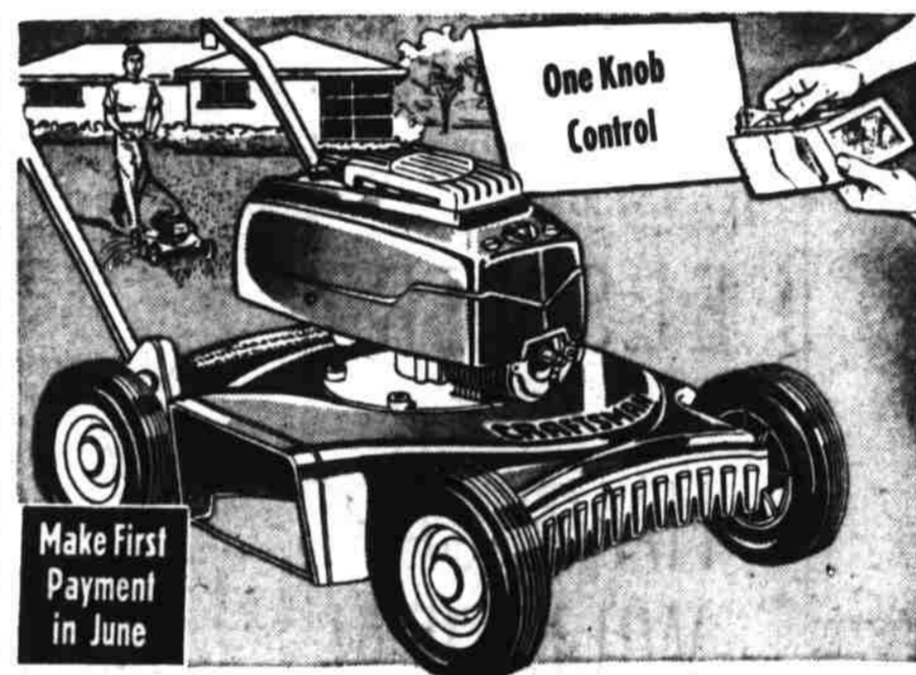
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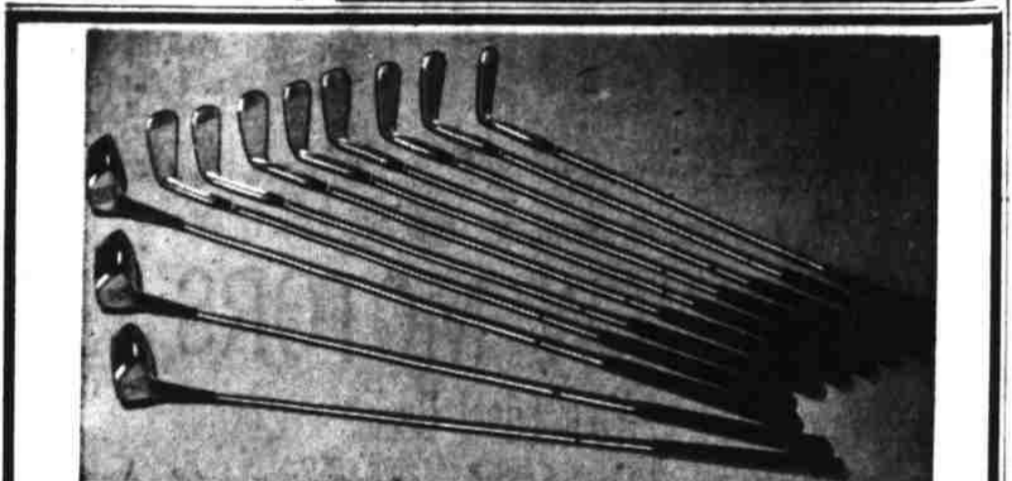
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