

## 'Electronics Evangelism' Plays Increasing Role in Religion

Washington — (U.P.) — Protestant and Catholic leaders agreed today that "electronic evangelism" is playing an important and steadily increasing role in modern religious life.

They said television and radio — instead of cutting down on church attendance as some clergymen had feared — have proved to be powerful adjuncts to traditional methods of preaching the gospel.

Both media, said Dr. S. Franklin Mack, director of the broadcasting and film division of the National Council of Churches, have given the churches "a potential audience of millions they couldn't expect to reach in any other way."

### The Greatest Boon

"Television and radio have given us an incomparable opportunity to reach people in intimate way, in the privacy of their own homes," he said. "This is

the greatest boon any medium of communications could possibly bestow."

Pope Pius XII, in a recent statement, described television as an "admirable medium" for taking the Christian message to "pagan masses." The Pope also praised the use of TV to enable Catholic shut-ins to participate in religious observances.

The National Council of Churches recently sponsored, in New Haven, Conn., the broadcast research study ever undertaken of the impact of religious broadcasting. Interviews with a 5 per cent sample of the New Haven population showed that:

**Rank Sixth in Popularity**  
1. That out of five households

one is regularly watching religious broadcast.

2. Religious programs, although they take up only one per cent of the total time on television, rank sixth in popularity with audiences.

3. Leading Catholic programs draw a larger audience than leading Protestant programs.

The most popular Catholic program is that of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. His weekly television audience is estimated at 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 persons, including many non-Catholics.

Unlike Bishop Sheen's program, which is commercially sponsored, most religious broadcasts are scheduled on free time donated by networks or local stations as part of their public service obligation.

## Background on Saar

By UNITED PRESS

Saar Background—The Saar became a political unit for the first time in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles, but its tangled background goes back as far as the ancient disputes between France and Germany.

It is a 900-square mile area—about three times the size of New York City—in the mountains between France and Germany. It is rich in coal and steel which both Germany and France need and want.

Linked by Ancient Cultures  
Saarländers are linked by ancient cultures and the German language to Germany, but economically they have long been tied to France. France needs its coal and steel worse than Germany.

In 1919 the Saar was made an autonomous territory administered by France under the League of Nations. A plebiscite in 1935 returned it to German control by a vote of more than 90 per cent. In 1940 Adolf Hitler annexed the territory.

With the end of World War II, France again sought the rich territory. It was taken from Germany and placed under French military occupation but retained

a government that was autonomous—in principle.

The big powers decided in 1947 the territory should be separated from Germany and tied in with French economy. Later, under a French proposal, it would become a "Europeanized" territory administered by a neutral official.

Sore Point  
The disposition of the Saar remained a sore point with both Germany and many Saarländers and after lengthy talks between French and German leaders the Saar endorsed the Europeanization formula by a large majority in election of 1952.

The French National Assembly rejected the European Defense Community under which the Saar was to operate and the crisis flared anew. This time France and Germany agreed on a Europeanized Saar within the Western European Union.

Another plebiscite was held last October and the Saar overwhelmingly rejected the Europeanization status. The government fell and Sunday's parliamentary elections became necessary. The results indicated the Saar is once more leaning toward Germany.

## Freight Derailed in Feather River Canyon

Blairsden, Calif. — (U.P.) — The Pacific Coaster, a 90-car Western Pacific freight train with a four-unit diesel locomotive, hit a rock 1000 feet east of Blairsden early today, derailing the locomotive and 18 cars.

The first two diesel units were derailed, but remained upright, while two others fell on their sides. All of the 18 cars remained upright but one, which contained stock.

The train crew released the stock into the countryside.

A Western Pacific spokesman said no one was injured in the accident, which took place in the Feather River Canyon about 4:30 a.m. (PST).

### UN SESSION POSTPONED

United Nations, N.Y. — (U.P.) — A United Nations General Assembly session on the deadlocked Security Council election was postponed from today until 10:30 a.m. (EST) tomorrow.

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