



SUFFERING "brain spasm." Gen. George C. Marshall is in Fort Bragg, N. C. Army Hospital. He is 78 years old.

Church Unity Prayers Planned For Next Week

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International

Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Christians around the world will pray next week for reunion of the long-divided Christian family.

But in the very act of praying for unity, they will dramatize their disunity.

To Catholics, the period Jan. 18 through 25 marks the annual observance of the "Chair of Unity Octave." During this period, Catholics offer special prayers for the "return" of Protestant and Orthodox Christians to the "one true church." The name of the observance signifies Catholic insistence that unity can be achieved only if other churches acknowledge the authority of St. Peter's "chair"—the papal throne in Rome.

Simultaneously but separately, the 171 Protestant and Orthodox denominations in the World Council of Churches will observe their own annual "Universal Week of Prayer for Christian Unity." Implicitly rejecting Rome's terms, they will pray that the Catholic church may be led to a less "intransigent" stand. "Unfortunate Spectacle"

World Council leaders admitted in their formal call to prayer that it is an "unfortunate spectacle" for two great bodies of Christians to be praying for unity, at the same time but "with apparently contradictory purposes."

But they said that "realistic recognition of our tragic divisions" can be a good thing if it leads to sincere prayer for God's guidance and help in healing these divisions.

Catholic theologians doubtless would agree. And therein lies one hopeful aspect of the situation.

Next week's prayers for unity, even though offered on a seemingly competitive basis, reflect a mutual recognition that the fragmentation of the church is an affront to God and a scandal to man. While differences are still wide and deep, there is a growing conviction on both sides that they must somehow be bridged.

"Separated Brethren"

In his Christmas message a few weeks ago, Pope John XXIII referred to members of the Eastern Orthodox churches as "our dear separated brethren." He said he would "pursue humbly but fervently" a "loving invitation" for reunion of the Orthodox churches with Rome.

The Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople replied on New Year's day. He expressed "joy" at the Pope's overture and said "it would be the dawn of a really new year in Jesus Christ" if such a reunion could be accomplished.

What, if anything, will come of the exchange remains to be seen. But its friendly tone impressed church historians who recalled that in another exchange, 905 years ago, the Pope of Rome and the Patriarch of Constantinople excommunicated one another to formalize the first "great schism" of the Christian church.

Locomotive Winds Up on Wrong Side

Buffalo, N.Y.—The old steam locomotive donated to the city of Buffalo in 1934 by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad as an "educational exhibit" is winding up on the wrong side of the tracks.

The railroading veteran was given a shiny coat of black paint and its brass was gleaming when it was placed on permanent exhibition in La Salle Park. But, the city fathers didn't figure on the hoodlum element.

The locomotive has been dismantled piece by piece over the months—even a fence didn't protect it—until it's become an eyesore. Officials indicate it soon will be consigned to the scrap heap.

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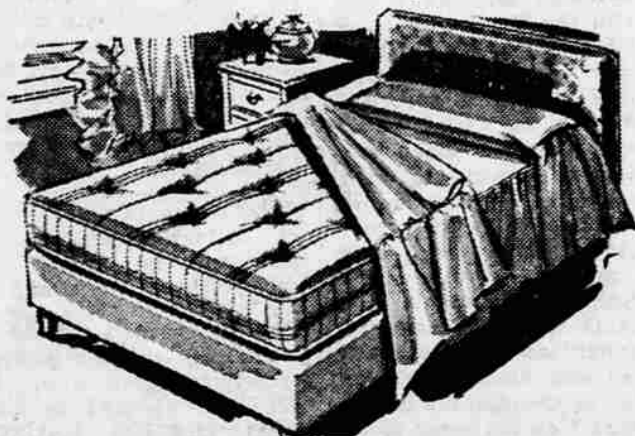
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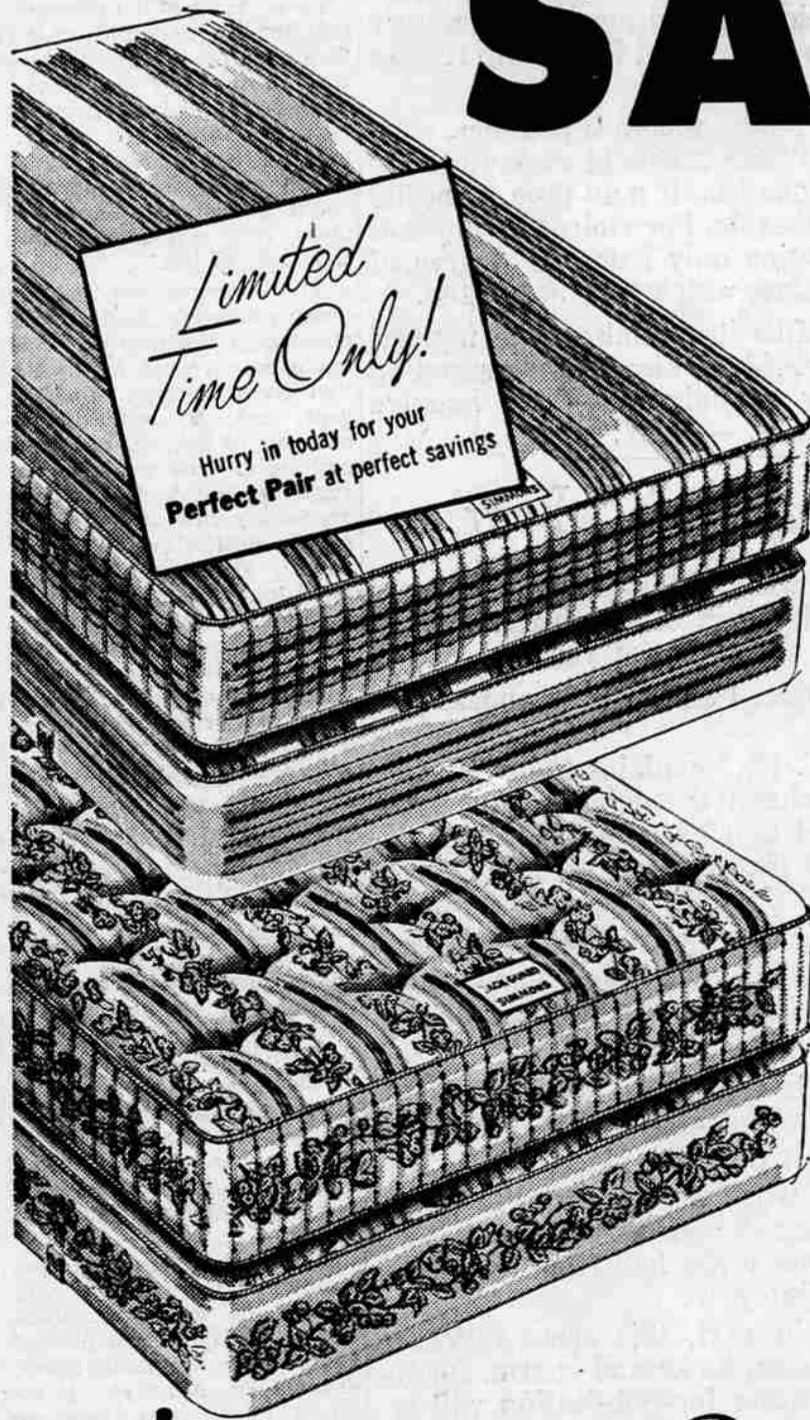
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