

Religion in America

# Laymen in State of Confusion About Their Part in Church

By LOUIS CASSELS  
UPI Correspondent

Christian laymen have progressed — if that is the right word — from apathy to confusion about their role in the church. In recent years, they have been told time and again, by the highest ecclesiastical authorities, that they are supposed to be leaders rather than lackeys. They have been exhorted to bestir themselves and become full working partners of the clergy in the advancement of Christ's kingdom.

But when they try to respond to these appeals, they find that many clergymen are unwilling to move over and make room for them. Frustrated in their attempts to play an important role in the church, some laymen have concluded that what the clergy actually want is more active lackeys, not real lay leaders.

**Breeds Resentment**  
Frustration breeds resentment. A noted Roman Catholic scholar, Msgr. John Tracy Ellis, warned recently that the "virus of anti-clericalism" is beginning to appear in America. He said it is likely to spread unless the clergy can be "persuaded that present conditions call for relaxing some of the power and authority that they have been accustomed to exercise."

The Protestant magazine Christian Century reported last week that "Protestantism also shows tendencies toward anti-clericalism. It said "the patience of the Protestant laity is being strained" by "clerical manipulation" of the reins of power, which gives laymen the illusion but not the reality of leadership in church affairs.

The Christian Century suggested that much of the current criticism of the National Council of Churches comes from embittered laymen who make the council "The scapegoat for a generalized bias against the clergy."

**Another Side**  
Without detracting from the gravity of these warnings, it is only fair to point out that the strain in lay-clerical relations cannot be blamed entirely on the clergy. There is another side to the story.

Clergymen complain privately that some laymen are trying to take over their pastors' jobs, while ignoring the tremendous task which is the laity's rightful responsibility in the total mission of the church.

That task was clearly defined by a report from the New Delhi assembly of the World Council of Churches last fall:

"If the Christian witness is to penetrate into all those areas where the work of the world is carried on, it must be carried there by laymen. They alone can bring Christian judgment to bear upon all the issues of life in the spheres of industry and commerce, scientific research and social organization, and all the other activities which make up the workaday world."

**Unemployment Claims Decrease**  
Salem — State Employment Commissioner David H. Cameron said Wednesday unemployment insurance claims totaled 14,093 last week compared to 16,956 Oregon claims a year ago.

Last week's figure also was down from the 14,689 of a month ago.

The state rate of insured unemployment last week was 3.6 per cent, versus 4.2 per cent a year ago, and 3.7 last month.

Corvallis had the lowest rate of insured unemployment last week, 1.6 per cent. Highest was at Ontario, 7.7.

Other rates last week, compared to a year ago: Eugene 3.2 per cent, down 1.1; Klamath Falls 3.6, down 1; Medford 3.6, down 2.3; Portland 3, down 6 of a per cent; Pendleton and Milton-Freewater 2.7, even with last year, and Salem 3.5, down 6 of a per cent.

As of Monday, there was \$43.2 million in the Oregon employment insurance trust fund compared to \$35.8 million a year ago.

**MANUAL ON COMMUNISM**  
Washington — A joint committee of the American Legion and the National Education association has approved for publication a manual of guide-lines for teaching about communism in junior and senior high schools. Tentatively titled "Teaching About Communism," the manual is scheduled for distribution this summer. It is designed for use by teachers

in the world," says the Very Rev. Francis B. Sayre Jr., dean of Washington Cathedral. "If Christ's work is to be done, they'll have to do it. We clergy are their chaplains. It's our job to help them recognize Christ's work, and to see how their everyday jobs relate to it."

If that division of labor can be accepted by both clergy and laity, perhaps they can quit bickering and get on with Christ's work.

by Msgr. Ellis and the Christian Century might be eliminated if laymen understood that their primary calling is not to operate inside the institutional church — as leaders or lackeys — but to serve as Christ's representatives in "the workaday world."

"Through their daily associations, laymen can communicate the Christian message to millions of people who are beyond the reach of the clergy. It is true that many laymen feel unprepared for this kind of ministry. But churches are now opening up many opportunities for laymen to overcome their Biblical and theological illiteracy, and to become articulate ambassadors of the Christian faith. The layman who fails to take advantage of these training opportunities cannot be very serious about wanting to pull his full weight in the mission of the church.

**Love One Another**  
But personal evangelism, however important, is not the only dimension of the layman's responsibility. By the express teaching and example of Christ, the church is concerned with the physical as well as the spiritual welfare of human beings. The one test of discipleship that Jesus laid down was that "ye love one another." And He made clear that loving your neighbor involves such highly practical matters as caring whether he has enough food to eat, a decent home to live in, and adequate medical treatment. The Good Samaritan didn't preach a sermon to the man he found by the wayside. He bound up his wounds, took him to an inn, and fed him.

Christians are sometimes able to minister directly to human needs. But in the complex modern world, they more often find it necessary to promote their neighbors' welfare indirectly by exerting a Christian influence "in the spheres of industry and commerce, scientific research and social organization."

**Can Do More**  
It is no exaggeration to say that one competent layman, occupying a strategic position in the power structure of modern society, can do more to "bring Christian judgment to bear" on real-life problems than the institutional church can accomplish through a hundred well-meaning resolutions and pronouncements.

"The laity are the church,"

**Duncan Favors Medicare Plan**  
Albany — House Speaker Robert B. Duncan (D-Medford) said Wednesday that private insurance programs have failed to provide adequate medical care for older people, and therefore "it is entirely proper and necessary for the government to initiate a program that will do it."

Duncan, Democratic nominee for Congress in the Fourth district, said such a program is President Kennedy's Medicare plan.

The King-Anderson bill, which provides a pre-paid program of hospital insurance, through Social Security, for those over 65 does provide a solution," Duncan said.

Duncan said the American Medical Association's argument is that "we ought to do nothing because we can't do everything" and this falls far short of meeting needs of the aged.

"Of course the King-Anderson bill does not solve the entire problem of medical care," Duncan said. "However, it is something that can be done now."

## Estes Trial Site Moved To Tyler; Motions Slated

Pecos, Tex. — Dist. Judge J. H. Starley has ordered the postponed felony theft trial of Billie Sol Estes moved 600 miles away to Tyler and the next move will be up to the defense on July 23.

That is the date Judge Starley will hear any motions by either side on why the change of venue should not be made definite. John Cofer, Estes' No. 1 defense attorney may oppose the move.

**Motion Approved**  
Starley approved a defense motion for a continuance Wednesday, then recessed court to study where to move the case. Dist. Judge Otis T.

Dunagan of Tyler said he would hear the eight cases involved in the Pecos action.

Estes was on trial on charges he stole \$162,144 from farmer Thomas Bell through a fraudulent fertilizer storage tank-mortgage deal. He is under indictment on seven more similar state charges totalling \$827,577.

Attorneys for both sides argued 35 minutes Wednesday on where to move the case. Neither suggested Tyler, which was chosen upon suggestion of Judge Starley.

**Area Eliminated**  
Judge Starley said he eliminated all of west Texas and

the Texas Panhandle as territory in which to move the trial. Most of the farm tycoon's operation were in the west Texas-Panhandle area.

He said he thought it would be better to try the case in a large metropolitan area where potential jurors might not have subconscious feelings in the case.

Estes is also under a federal indictment for fraud and conspiracy in connection with similar mortgage deals. No trial date has been set for the federal charges.

New York — UPI — The Tax foundation notes that the income tax, which produced \$28 million in 1913, is counted upon to produce about \$50 billion for the government this year.

**DON'T Miss Page 3-A Save \$**



COLLEGE QUEEN—Ceclia M. Harrison, 19, of Centerville, Utah, smiles broadly after she was named 1962 National College Queen in New York. She is a sophomore at Utah State University, Logan, Utah. (UPI)

## Castro Shadow To Cloud Meeting of Kennedy, Mateos

Mexico City — UPI — The shadow of Cuba's Fidel Castro will be hanging over the meeting between the Presidents of the United States and Mexico here Friday.

Observers of all persuasions agree that Cuba will be one of the topics of the 48-hour talks between Presidents John F. Kennedy and Adolfo Lopez Mateos.

The Castro revolution's shift to the Soviet bloc has caused more misunderstanding between Mexico and the U.S. than the two governments have had in the past 100 years.

But there is divergence of opinion about the importance of Cuba as a topic.

Some rank it as No. 1, the indispensable question which must be settled in order to permit agreement on other matters within a framework of exceptionally good U.S.-Mexico official relations at this time.

**No Formal Agenda**  
However, since the program makers have repeatedly stressed that there will be no agenda in the two or three private talks between the Chief Executives, it is felt by some that Lopez Mateos will give preference to a range of other matters including government participation in industry, imports and exports, foreign investments, common defense, tourism, business climate, land tenure, Alliance for Progress, etc.

Not an improbable topic, either, in view of recent Washington discussion of a new inter-oceanic canal route, the often-mentioned Tehuantepec Isthmus project to link the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific along a relatively easily protected route. This country has made a detailed study in recent years of such

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canal, and a recent liberal attitude abroad on development loans has led to conjecture that the U.S. might help Mexico finance such a waterway, if this country so desires.

**May Take Initiative**  
The initiative on the Cuban question is expected to be taken by Kennedy in the talks, with an effort to move the Mexican "hands-off position" on Cuba closer to the U. S. point of view, shared by a majority of American republicans.

Mexico took a long stride along the Washington approach to Castro at Punta Del Este when Foreign Minister Manuel Tello expressed "incompatibility" of the Marxist-Leninist doctrine with the inter-American system.

Since then, without any formal change in relations, observers have noted a "cooling" of feeling between Havana and Mexico City. Stalwart Castroites have assailed the Lopez Mateos government for the "incompatibility" stand, and for a clamp-down on entry and distribution of Castro publications.

Nevertheless, Mexico clings firmly to the doctrine of "non-intervention," and "self-determination," (economic as well as political) in the face of all the subtle arguments called up to present these as outmoded by a Communist threat to the hemisphere.

**Vandenberg Fires Secret Satellite**  
Vandenberg AFB, Calif. — The third secret satellite launched at this Pacific missile base in the past 11 days was fired toward polar orbit Wednesday by the Air Force.

The booster combination was the same as that used in the Discoverer program, but the Air Force declined to identify the satellite or confirm that it attained orbit.

As in all recent launchings maximum security was enforced and the brief Air Force announcement said only that a satellite "employing a Thor-Agena B" booster combination was fired at this base north of Los Angeles.

Two similar shots, employing identical boosters, were reported June 17 and June 22.

**STEEPLEJACK KILLED**  
Tuckerton, N.J. — A 55-year-old steeplejack was fatally injured in a plunge from a church roof Wednesday when a discarded cigarette burned through a rope holding his boson's chair. Police said Joseph Seifert of Brooklyn, N.Y., died of a fractured skull received in the fall from the First Methodist church in Tuckerton.

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