

Religion in America

Right-Wing Pressures Against Churches Waning in Most Areas

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

Right-wing pressures which threatened to disrupt American churches have waned during the past year.

But the radical right is still causing trouble for churches in some communities. And even in areas where its influence has declined sharply, church leaders are wary of a possible resurgence.

These observations are based on a nationwide survey conducted by the National Council of Churches.

It asked state and local church councils in all sections of the country whether they have detected any change in rightist pressures, such as the "Communists-in-the-clergy"

charges which sowed widespread confusion and discord among U.S. religious bodies in 1962.

Of the 96 state and local councils responding to the survey, 52 reported a decrease in such attacks. Fifteen others said they never had experienced any serious trouble.

Fifteen councils said things are about the same, and 14 felt there has been some increase in rightist pressure during the past year.

Among the areas reporting a notable improvement were several communities in South-

ern California and Arizona, where churches were perhaps more seriously demoralized by controversy than anywhere else in the nation.

In Phoenix, for example, several congregations which were split wide open a year ago are now reported to be reunited.

In Texas, another main center of rightist activity, a church leader said extremist groups "are not as blatant now, and are working with less fanfare." He cautioned, however, that "in a few sizeable communities, the ex-

treme right remains a powerful force."

Many of the respondents said that rightist groups are trying as hard as ever to stir up distrust of the clergy and the National Council of Churches, but church members are not listening to the attacks as uncritically as they once did.

A report from Denver spoke of "a more sane and balanced view by many church lay people" as the major factor in a generally calmer climate. A church official in Long Beach, Calif., said responsible church

members are "wiser now about right-wing tactics than they were a year ago."

"More of the people at the grass roots level are beginning to see through the fallacies of these attacks," said a report from Wichita Falls, Tex.

"People in our churches seem more willing to look at the overall picture for themselves rather than take someone's word as authority," said a church leader in Spokane, Wash.

Not all of the reports were optimistic, however. From

Miami, Fla., the word was: "Little change here... Miami still remains a dangerous place to mention 'National Council of Churches'."

In Atlanta a church leader said that "right-wing elements really strutted their stuff" when a delegation of Russian churchmen visited the city during March.

"The minute our council takes a stand on race relations or some other controversial social issue, the right-wing pressures are just as strong as ever against us," said a report from Oklahoma.

Sisters To Be Honored Sunday

The Sisters of the Holy Name of the St. Mary's schools in Medford will be honored at a benefit program sponsored by the Rogue River Council of the Knights of Columbus Sunday, April 28.

Bob Howard is chairman of the event, which will be held at the Knights of Columbus building on Black Oak dr., beginning at 2 p.m.

Honoring the Sisters in recognition of their work as teachers and administrators in the Medford parochial schools has become a tradition with the Knights. The annual program is presented on what has become known as "Day of Appreciation," Howard said.

Students of St. Mary's schools will be featured on the program this year, theme of which is to be "A Day at St. Mary's." The program will include musical numbers, poetry readings, an art exhibition and dramatizations concerning the problems of communication with emphasis on the "amusing aspects of daily life at the schools."

The program will be open to the public. Refreshments will be served during the program and there will be an admission charge.

All proceeds from the program will be presented the Sisters.

'Green Belt' Tax Bill Gets Approval

Salem - (UPI) - A measure expanding "green belt" tax reduction was approved Wednesday by the house tax committee.

At present, land near metropolitan areas can be taxed as farm land if it is so zoned.

The new bill would add land in farm use, even if it is not zoned as farm land.

The bill would make the owner liable for back taxes at the higher rate if the land is sold or the use is changed. The back-pickup feature is designed to discourage holding farm land for speculation purposes.

Medical School Staffer Gets Award For X-Ray Work

Portland - Mrs. Hilda E. Drum, assistant professor of radiological technique at the University of Oregon Medical school, has been named a fellow in the American Society of X-Ray Technicians. This is the highest honor that can be awarded to a member of her profession.

There are less than 30 fellows in the 10,000 member society, which honored Mrs. Drum for her outstanding contributions to the field of X-ray technology.

A member of the Medical staff for the past 22 years, Mrs. Drum supervises one of the largest X-ray technology schools in the country.

Invented Device
A positioning device she invented which makes it easier and safer to X-ray infants up to six months of age won her the 1962 National Electrical Manufacturers association award. The device is now used in other health centers throughout the United States.

Born in Cologne, Germany, she received the degree of instructor of economics from the University of Cologne. Her diploma bears the signature of Dr. Conrad Adenauer, who was then Lord Mayor of the city.

The national socialistic revolution abruptly put an end to her teaching career and, in 1938, she left Germany and came to the United States. She arrived in New York News Year's Day, 1939, with \$80 in her pocket. For several months she worked as a governess, then met and married Bernard B. Drum, a former judge from Danzig. They moved to Portland in 1940 where she enrolled in the Medical School's X-ray technology program. Following graduation, she joined the staff and was named chief technician in 1943, instructor in 1954 and assistant professor in 1961.

Coast Guardsmen Due Hero Honors

Tillamook - (UPI) - Two Coast Guardsmen will be honored for heroism here Friday for the rescue of four men whose fishing boat capsized while trying to cross the Tillamook Bay Bar last August.

Chief Boatswain Mate Floyd Sheldon, commander of the Tillamook Bay Coast Guard Station at Garibaldi, will receive the Coast Guard Commendation Medal.

Engineerman L.C. Donald McMillan will receive a letter of commendation.

They rode a 40-foot utility boat to the rescue when the 34-foot fishing boat Pisca II capsized with five men aboard while trying to cross the bar.

The two men plucked from the surf Dr. Ken Bourquin, Hillsboro; Dr. William Ewbank, Portland; Dr. Vernon Hall, Estada; Dr. Charles Rasmussen, Hillsboro; and 16-year-old Brad Davis, Green Bay, Wis. Dr. Bourquin died, but the others survived.

The small utility boat was forced to remain outside the bar for more than two hours until seas moderated enough to let it return.

Test Surgical Mask With Sneeze Machine

Salt Lake City - (UPI) - A University of Utah professor used a "sneeze machine" to test a surgical mask he developed which is said to filter out 99 per cent of infection-producing bacteria.

Dr. Paul Nicholas, associate professor of microbiology, used fiber glass strands 1/25,000 of an inch in diameter for the new mask. He said about 10 per cent of the bacteria are filtered out in the standard cotton gauze mask. The mask now is being produced commercially.

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