

Swiss Theologian Compared to Martin Luther in Church Work

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

Fr. Hans Kung has been called "a modern Martin Luther who stayed in the Catholic church."

He may not relish this appellation. But there are striking resemblances between the brilliant young Swiss theologian, who recently toured the United States, and the 16th century German who sparked the Protestant Reformation.

The most obvious similarity is that both of them set out at a comparatively youthful age to achieve sweeping reforms in the church.

Luther was 34 years old, and a professor of theology at a German university (Wittenberg), when he nailed his famous "95 theses" to a church door.

Fr. Kung was 34 years old, and professor of theology at a German university (Tubingen), when he published a bold blueprint for modernizing the Catholic church.

Book Acclaimed

His book, entitled "The Council, Reform and Renewal" (Sheed & Ward, \$3.95), has been acclaimed widely by Catholics and Protestants as a manifesto of liberal hopes for the second Vatican Council.

It won Fr. Kung an influential post as a theological consultant to the council fathers. And it made him, in the words of Dr. Robert McAfee Brown, a Presbyterian observer at the council, "a kind of symbol of what Protestants would like to believe a temporary Roman Catholicism can become."

During the past month, Fr. Kung has been visiting the United States, speaking before capacity crowds at leading Catholic institutions from coast to coast. He returned to Europe last week.

At each of the public appearances in America, Fr. Kung received a thunderous ovation when he asserted that a new era of freedom is dawning in the Catholic church.

Differ in Emphasis

He said that, ever since the Reformation, Protestants have emphasized freedom of the individual conscience at the expense of order and authority in the church; whereas the Catholic church, in reaction, has stressed order at the expense of freedom.

In the present ecumenical age, he said, both branches of the Christian family are discovering that they have "much to learn from each other."

Catholics are hungering for greater freedom, for an end to "oppressive" types of church discipline which yield "fear-ridden subservience" rather than "willing Christian obedience."

Protestants meanwhile are searching for greater order, for an end to theological anarchy which confuses rather than frees the individual conscience.

Fr. Kung hopes and believes that the second Vatican Council, resuming in September, will create a new climate of "freedom in order" in the Catholic church. This new climate, he says, will be "an invitation and a challenge" to the separated brethren, and will open the way for eventual reunion of Christians.

The ordered freedom which Fr. Kung envisions in the coming Church Universal will apply not only to individuals, but also to local churches.

"Unity and not uniformity, a center without centralism is called for in the church today," says Fr. Kung.

"It is urgently necessary for the church to repudiate all of the methods of totalitarian states, to abandon forever any attempt at coercing conscience or compelling belief, and to restore the royal freedom which Christ brought to the children of God."

Protestants hearing Fr. Kung speak are apt to shake their heads in wonder. Can this curly-haired young man, who quotes Scripture as freely as Billy Graham, really be a Catholic priest?

He can be. And unlike the 16th century monk whom he otherwise resembles so strongly, he is determined to remain on the inside of the ancient church which he seeks to reform.

Civil Rights Bill Approval Expected

Washington—(UPI)—The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee predicted today the House would pass an administration sponsored civil rights bill but was less optimistic about chances for Senate approval.

Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) said the House bill providing all that President Kennedy proposed would contain a four year extension of the civil rights commission, a means to speed up voting suits, and some provision to keep states from using literacy tests to bar Negroes from the polls.

Celler said the omnibus civil rights legislation also included a bonus which the President had not requested. It would provide authority for the attorney general to file suits on behalf of citizens denied admission to segregated schools.

Sailors Detained For Theft of Tank

Oregon City—(UPI)—Two on-leave sailors were being held for the U. S. marshal today after a 28-ton Army tank was taken from the Lake Oswego armory and driven to the Marylhurst college campus.

The sheriff's office said it got a call from the girls' school Wednesday night. The tank had been left at a fountain in front of the school.

A deputy apprehended the sailors walking toward Lake Oswego. They were identified as Richard Charles Stevens, 23, Lake Oswego, and James Keith Wriglesworth, 22, Gladstone, both on leave from Long Beach, Calif.

'LIBERATION DAY'

Berlin—(UPI)—Soviet and East German officials commemorated V-E day Wednesday by laying wreaths at Russian war memorials in East Berlin and East Germany. In East Germany the anniversary date is known as "Liberation Day."

Equal Honor To All

Brave American Expedition Scales Old Rag Mountain in Virginia

By DICK WEST



West, the summit of Old Rag Mountain, Va.

Washington—(UPI)—Hard on the heels of the American expedition to Mt. Everest comes news of another expedition that also was hard on the heels. An intrepid group of which this correspondent was a member, has just returned from the summit of Old Rag Mountain, Va.

That craggy, forbidding pinnacle known as "The Roof of Madison County," had previously been conquered only by approximately 325,275 Americans, give or take a Brownie troop and the Young Republicans club.

Setting forth from Washington, which is the capital of the United States, we crossed the wide Potomac, a river, and drove through a region of thick, virgin suburbs.

To our delight, the roads were passable. We had been warned that they might be clogged with native vehicles.

Eventually we came to the foothills of the Blue Ridge chain and established a base camp where we took on extra supplies of ginger ale and cheese crackers.

By unanimous agreement, the post of group leader was assigned to Myron Glaser, a travel writer who was instrumental in organizing the expedition.

Glaser was chosen mainly because he has a pair of shoes with leather laces. Nothing inspires confidence like leather shoelaces.

Having assured ourselves everything was in order, we began our ascent, our eyes fixed on the distant summit.

After running into a couple of trees, we took our eyes off the summit and began to watch where we were going.

Among mountain climbers, there is a closeness and camaraderie that sort of brings a lump to your throat, particularly when you have been eating cheese crackers.

It would be a pity if the fraternal spirit that bound our group and made it possible for us to achieve our goal were shattered by rival claims over who beat whom to the summit.

It really doesn't matter which of us was approximately the 325,276th American to conquer Old Rag. The honor belongs equally to all of us.

Someone had to be content with being approximately the 325,277th, the 325,278th, etc. There wasn't room up there for everybody at the same time. Besides that, crowds make me nervous.

Rather than bicker over individual credit, I propose to end my account of the expedition on a philosophic note.

Why should a man of sedentary habits lame himself with blistered heels, stiff joints and sore muscles climbing a mountain?

My wife asked me that question and I responded with the traditional reply. "Because," I said, "I'm stupid."

FIRST HOSPITAL VISIT

Bath, Me.—(UPI)—John Crosby Preble was reported doing fine today during the first hospital visit of his life. Preble was admitted to Bath Memorial hospital Tuesday for treatment of a hand injury received in a fall. He is 103.

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