

Wash. Post
12 Aug. 1950

Merry-Go-Round

Catholics Fear Vatican Minister Plan

By Tom McNamara and
Fred Blumenthal

(While Drew Pearson is on a brief vacation, his column will be written by members of his staff.—*Editor's Note.*)

Story behind the President's announcement that he is considering sending a diplomatic minister to the Vatican is that it took him three weeks to make up his mind. Oddly enough, if he goes through with the plan, it will be against the advice of Catholic leaders close to him.



One top congressional leader, a devout Catholic, strongly urged that if the President wanted to reestablish relations with Rome it would be better to do so informally, by naming a successor to Myron Taylor, former White House representative at the Vatican.

This wouldn't require Senate confirmation, since Taylor was a personal representative of the President.

"If you ask for the reestablishment of permanent diplomatic relations with Rome, you may touch off a religious debate in the Senate that would do more harm than good," Truman was warned. "This is a time when all faiths should be working together for the war effort, instead of displaying disunity."

The President replied that he didn't contemplate a religious row in the Senate, but added that he wouldn't back away from one. However, he didn't say whether he would test his former colleagues on the ticklish question before or after the November elections.

Note—United States and British intelligence experts consider the Vatican the best "listening post" in Europe.

The Mighty Atom

Certain key atomic scientists are considered so valuable to United States security that they are classified as "atomic installations" and guarded 24 hours a day. . . . One reason Carroll Wilson resigned as the AEC's general manager was the fact that Wilson's assistant, Carleton Shugg, received \$18,000 per year to Wilson's \$15,000. . . . Through increased efficiency and scientific improvements, today's atomic dollar is worth approximately \$3 spent in 1945. . . . Recent discoveries in our atomic labs now make it possible to produce "Hiroshima" results with only a fraction of the fissionable material used in August, 1945. . . . Invisible atomic dust is being developed by both Washington and Moscow. One airplane load could saturate New York City. . . . No. 1 aim of the Atomic Commission still is the production of basic fissionable material. . . . Come war, it's the heart of the bomb; come peace, it's the heart of a power plant.

The energy contained in a teacup of fissionable material can either destroy a city or run a city power plant. . . . There is enough uranium in the United States to make us independent of foreign supplies, but it would be costly to mine. . . . Oak Ridge scientists have shipped more than 10,000 packages of radioactive isotopes weighing more than one million pounds. However, the actual isotopes in all these shipments weighed only two ounces. Protective lead coating made up the rest of the weight. . . . Atomic experts say the U. N.'s huge glass-sided building in New York is "the most vulnerable major structure in the world to an atomic bomb."

Out of Paper

Senator Joe McCarthy has been grinding out so many speeches and press releases about communism in the State Department that he has used up his Senate paper quota. Since he must now pay for paper out of his own pocket, he has appealed to Republican colleagues to lend him some from their supplies.

"When I started on this investigation, my office had an excess of paper of all kinds," McCarthy explained in a letter to Republican Senators. "However, due to the great volume of documents we have used to date, my supply of paper has been completely exhausted and it has been necessary for some time to buy all the paper we use. This has become a very expensive venture.

"The thought occurred," Mc-

Carthy hinted, "that you might have an extra supply of paper which you would let us have to use in this work."

McCarthy added significantly that he planned to use the paper "in a sizable number of speeches which I plan to make prior to the fall elections."

Passing the Blame

In several hush-hush appearances before congressional committees, Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has tried to pin the full blame for our foul-up in Korea on the State and Defense Departments.

For example, Hillenkoetter recently told the House Expenditures Committee that he had made a series of reports to both departments over a period of six months before the invasion, telling of North Korean troop movements that made war inevitable.

This may be true. However, it is a far cry from what Hillenkoetter told the House Foreign Affairs Committee behind closed doors on June 23—just one day before the North Koreans attacked.

At that time the intelligence

chief testified that there had been "evidences" of troop mobilization above the thirty-eighth parallel, but that it was "almost impossible" to get authentic information because of the "reluctance" of native informers.

Pinned down by Republican Representative James Fulton of Pennsylvania, Hillenkoetter told the committee: "In my opinion, there is nothing to indicate any action in Korea in the near future."

He added something to the effect that "accidents can happen, of course."

Capehart SOS

Fearful for his senatorial scalp in the November elections, Senator Homer Capehart of Indiana, the jukebox king, has sent out an SOS to all Republican Senators.

"I would consider it a personal favor and it will be of great value not only to myself but the entire Republican ticket in Indiana if you could make at least one speech, preferably more, in Indiana during the campaign," he pleaded in a confidential letter.

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