

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Department of Public Information
James E. Murphy, Director

57/154

For release in AM's, Thursday, February 14th.

Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. -- "What America Stands For" will be the subject of a symposium to be held at the University of Notre Dame March 29-30, according to an announcement today by Dr. Stephen Kertesz, head of the university's Committee on International Relations.

Seven specialists in various aspects of American life will speak at the symposium whose object is "a clear presentation of American ideas, institutions, goals and practices," Prof. Kertesz said. Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C. S. C., Notre Dame president, will serve as chairman of the sessions which will be held in the Law Auditorium on the campus.

Visiting speakers and their subjects include Prof. Jerome G. Kerwin, University of Chicago, "The Living Constitution"; Prof. Louis Brownlow, Washington University of St. Louis, "The American City"; Don K. Price, vice president of The Ford Foundation, New York, N. Y., "Government and Science"; and George W. Shuster, president of Hunter College, New York, New York, "The Meaning of Higher Education in the United States."

Three Notre Dame faculty members, in addition to Dr. Kertesz, also will speak at the symposium. They are John T. Frederick, "The Meaning of Literature in America Today"; Aaron I. Abell, "The Religious Factor"; and Matthew A. Fitzsimons, "American Culture: Universal Elements and Specific Features."

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According to Professor Kertesz, the symposium "will unfold the picture of how the dynamic American system of government has made possible a profound revolution without upheavals and how traditional American concepts and values have been applied to the rapidly changing conditions of modern life." The various speakers, he said, will endeavor to make a "critical appraisal and sincere evaluation" of our country whose "intellectual strength, determination and courage" greatly influence the direction of world events today.

Notre Dame's Committee on International Relations was established in 1948 under the leadership of the late Dr. Waldemar Gurian. Since then it has published twelve books and sponsored a number of campus symposia. These symposia, which have drawn together noted foreign affairs specialists from western Europe as well as this country, have dealt with problems arising from the "cold war" and the ethical and religious as well as political aspects of our relations with foreign powers. The research of The Committee on International Relations is supported in part by a \$100,000 grant received from the Rockefeller Foundation in 1955.

Prof. Kertesz, former Hungarian minister to Italy, was named head of the Committee on International Relations in 1955. Other Committee members are M. A. Fitzsimons, editor of Notre Dame's REVIEW OF POLITICS and professor of history at the university; F. A. Hermens, professor of political science; John J. Kennedy, associate professor of political science; and W. O. Shanahan, professor of history.

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57/155

For release in PM's, Friday, March 15:

Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. --Twenty-four of the nation's top collegiate debating teams will compete in the fifth annual Notre Dame National Invitational Debate Tournament here April 12-13.

They will vie for the Rev. William A. Bolger Memorial Trophy which will be awarded to the winner of the tourney. The collegians will argue the pros and cons of this year's national debating topic, "whether the United States should discontinue direct economic aid to foreign countries." The two-day competition will be held in the LaFortune Student Center on the campus.

Notre Dame's own debate squad won the 1956 tournament. Winners in earlier years were Dartmouth College, the U. S. Military Academy, and Wilkes College.

Among the schools already entered in this year's competition are the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill.; Bradley University, Peoria, Ill.; Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind.; Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland, Ohio; Kansas State University, Manhattan; Loyola University, Chicago, Ill.; University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; and Pepperdine College, Los Angeles, California.

Also the University of South Carolina, Columbia; University of Southern California, Los Angeles; U. S. Air Force Academy, Denver, Colo.; U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N. Y.; U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y.; U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.; University of Utah, Salt Lake City; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.; Wake Forest College, Winston Salem, N. C.; Western Michigan College, Kalamazoo; and Wisconsin State Teachers College, Eau Claire.

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57/157

For release in AM's, Sunday, March 17th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. 16--- Ambitious college students no longer need spend the summer months in work unrelated to their future professional careers, according to Rev. Louis J. Thornton, C.S.C., placement director at the University of Notre Dame.

Instead of working as lifeguards, playground supervisors or construction laborers, collegians now have a good chance of finding summer employment within their own major field of interest and at salaries often large enough to pay their tuition for the following school year, Father Thornton said.

As a result of a recent survey, one hundred thirty-six business and industrial firms have listed summer job opportunities at Notre Dame's placement bureau. About five-sixths of the companies are primarily interested in engineering and science majors, Father Thornton said, but commerce and liberal arts students are in demand, too. One nationally known manufacturer is offering 700 summer jobs to college students, he said.

"A carefully selected summer job can be a valuable supplement to formal academic training in one's chosen field," Father Thornton stressed. "It enables the student to see textbook theory put in practice," he said, "and it orients the collegian as to what he can expect in the world of business and industry after graduation."

Noting the attractive salaries being offered to college students, including freshmen, Father Thornton pointed out that in many instances it is possible for a student to develop in his field and at the same time earn enough during the summer months to pay his tuition at a private college or university during the following year.

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57/158

For release in AM's, Tuesday, March 19th:

San Francisco, Calif., Mar. 18 -- Two out of every three Catholic children of elementary school age probably will be enrolled in public schools ten years from now, Rev. Joseph H. Fichter, S. J., visiting professor of sociology at the University of Notre Dame, declared here today (Monday).

"The present desperate expansion of the parochial school building program cannot possibly keep pace" with the growing numbers of Catholic children trying to get into Church-operated schools, Father Fichter asserted. "The imminent invasion of the public school by large numbers of Catholic children," he said, "has compelled a re-examination of the position of the parochial school in the larger community."

Father Fichter, an authority on parish sociology, expressed his views in an address on "The Parochial School and the Community" at the National Planning Conference of the American Society of Planning Officials here. The Jesuit sociologist is head of the department of sociology at Loyola University of the South, New Orleans, La.

Contending that the climate of public opinion is changing in many places to one of "admiration, gratitude and even support of the parochial school," Father Fichter cited figures to show how the Catholic schools save the taxpayers' money. The sixteen parochial schools which are educating 6,611 children in one typical midwestern city, he said, "are contributing annually to the city \$1,871,838.54 which would have to be raised through taxes if these children attended city schools." The 150 classrooms in the parochial schools of this unidentified city would cost the taxpayers more than \$4,500,000 to replace, he said.

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This financial saving "is the least important of the contributions made by the parochial school system," in Father Fichter's opinion. Nevertheless, he said that more and more Catholic parents are becoming interested in the continuing controversy over public aid to parochial schools. They are in favor of asking "for some practical return on the school tax money which they pay as citizens," he said. They feel, Father Fichter continued, "that some kind of rebate should be given on school taxes, that some sort of assistance should be forthcoming, not as a privilege but as a right, from the larger community."

Research conducted by Father Fichter shows that the children in public and parochial schools "are much more similar to one another than they are to children in private schools." These similarities do not mean, the Jesuit sociologist stressed, "that the parochial school as an educational agency is the same as the public school. The most obvious difference, and the basic reason for the existence of the parochial school, is the teaching of religion," he said.

Father Fichter cited several other characteristics which distinguish the parochial school from both the public school and the private school.

"The parochial school system," he said, "resists and largely escapes the increasing bureaucratization which is so much in evidence in the public school system...The parochial school is relatively autonomous from the overbearing hierarchy of superintendents and city, county and state school boards."

Teachers in the parochial schools, Father Fichter maintained, "are trained mainly in the liberal arts tradition. They escape the narrow, formalized and over-specialized training characteristic of many of the teachers' colleges and of the educational departments of our larger state universities," he contended.

While having its share of "roughnecks" and "problem children," the parochial school is able to maintain a relatively high level of moral and social conduct on the part of its pupils," Father Fichter said.

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Mailed March 14, 1957

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57/159

For release in PM's, Friday, March 15th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. 15---The University of Notre Dame today (Friday) announced a tuition increase of \$75 per semester or \$150 per year effective with the school-year beginning next September. The increase raises the school's tuition from \$750 to \$900 per year. Board and room rates for students living on the campus will remain the same.

According to Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C., executive vice president and treasurer of the university, the higher tuition was dictated "by rising costs in all areas of the university." He cited particularly the area of faculty salaries where steady increases have been made during the past few years and must continue for some time "if we are to attract and retain the most qualified people in the teaching profession."

In order to help boys of limited means obtain a Notre Dame education, the university has decided upon an increase in stipends for student employment, Father Joyce disclosed. For example, students now earning \$300 per year in campus jobs will earn \$360 next year. He said that certain scholarship grants also will be increased proportionately.

Father Joyce also announced that the university is establishing a special revolving loan fund to help upperclassmen finance their education. Loans up to \$100 per year will be made to qualified sophomores, juniors and seniors, he explained, in the hope that no boy presently at Notre Dame will be forced to interrupt his education because of the increase in tuition rates. Incoming freshmen will not be eligible for this particular form of assistance, he said.

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For release in PM's, Friday, March 29th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. 29 --- The genius of the U. S. Constitution is its "flexibility," Dr. Jerome G. Kerwin, professor of political science at the University of Chicago, declared here today (Friday).

"The problems raised by mass education, urbanism, science, automation and world-wide stability seem staggering," Professor Kerwin observed. "As the Constitution has stood the rapid changes of the past, I feel sure that it will be wisely adapted to fit the changes of the future," he said.

Professor Kerwin expressed his views in an address on "The Living Constitution" at the University of Notre Dame. He is one of eight speakers participating in a two-day (Friday and Saturday) symposium on "What America Stands For." The symposium is sponsored by Notre Dame's Committee on International Relations and is being held in the Law Auditorium on the campus.

"If the ability to apply wisely the written word to changing circumstances is lacking in a state, no written constitution can last through the storms that periodically break in the affairs of men and nations," Professor Kerwin asserted. After 168 years, he pointed out, the Constitution of the United States "stands as the oldest of written documents governing the destiny of a free people. From a hodge-podge of ill-asserted resolutions, cleverly but not logically pieced together, it has become a living symbol of a free government," he said.

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The trend toward greater central governmental control "has been a world-wide phenomenon for the past seventy-five years in all countries," Professor Kerwin noted. Nevertheless, he pointed out, "in this country more local self-government remains --- dynamic and effective --- than in any other civilized power on the face of the globe." Some might marvel, he said, "not at the extent of federal power but at the restrictions still imposed, respected and observed."

Despite contrary views, members of Congress represent states or districts "and are in no hurry to hand over their constituencies 'lock, stock and barrel' to the federal government," Professor Kerwin said. As a result, he said, we do not have national political parties in the United States. Rather, he contended, "we have a loose federation of regional and local political groups under two different national labels."

The office of president has grown steadily in strength and stature since our Constitution was framed, the University of Chicago political scientist said. "In the United States," he stated, "the military, diplomatic and the economic problems which confront us now and in the future call for a most effective executive. The power he may exercise by personality alone far exceeds anything written in the law," Professor Kerwin declared. This "influence of personality", particularly through the media of television and radio, threatens to become a substitute for policy in the presidency, he said.

"It is utterly impossible," Prof. Kerwin said, "for the president to call for congressional consent in every decision he makes." Congress, he said, "is bound to watch and to criticize, but the final responsibility is the president's. In every case of public policy, foreign and domestic, the last word is with the president," he emphasized. "This whole idea," he pointed out, "was succinctly and aptly expressed by the sign on former President Truman's desk: 'The buck stops here.'"

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EDITORS: The following story may be incorporated with earlier story sent to you and marked for release in PM's, Friday, March 29th.

For release in AM's, Saturday, March 30th:

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Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. 29 --- The one thing about Americans which other nations seem to like least of all is our culture, according to Dr. George N. Shuster, president of Hunter College.

"To a large share of Oriental intellectuals, we are crassly materialistic in action and utterance," Shuster observed. The average well-bred European, he said, "fears the abdication of power to the United States less than he does the assumed, often real, contagiousness of our mores and our imagination." The New York educator cited "the flare-up of youthful eroticism" following the introduction of rock-and-roll as a "specially terrifying illustration."

Dr. Shuster spoke here tonight (Friday) on "The Meaning of Higher Education in the United States" at a University of Notre Dame symposium on "What America Stands For." The two-day (Friday and Saturday) symposium is sponsored by the University's Committee on International Relations.

Americans today, in the opinion of many foreigners, are embroiled in "a cultural mob scene," the Hunter College president said. "Millions of human beings, emancipated from toil save for a relatively few hours a week, are reaching out for the advantages of what they term culture, demanding more and more of education as well as of the great mass forms of entertainment and instruction." Yesterday's dirty joke, Dr. Shuster said, "has now become the dirty book. Ethics has turned into advice to the love-lorn, and theology a business of castigating movies or restraining Susan from dieting to excess."

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However merited such strictures may be in some respects, they fail to take into consideration "either the highly important part which higher education is taking in the development of American life, or the fact that the service to culture rendered by that education is of a high order," Dr. Shuster declared. "Anyone who looks at all carefully at the American institution of higher learning will, I am sure, come away with the feeling that its real impact is in many ways equal, if not indeed superior to, that of its European counterpart," he said.

In an earlier talk on "The Meaning of Literature in America Today," Prof. John T. Frederick of Notre Dame said that "the most distinguished literary production in the United States today is that of Southern writers." He attributed this, in part, to the fact that "the South is more consciously a region of the United States than any other, because of both historical and social circumstances. Being a Southerner today is a serious business," he said.

Prof. Frederick cited William Faulkner and Robert Penn Warren as "our greatest American novelists today." They and other Southern writers, he said, "illustrate most clearly and adequately the characteristics which have marked nearly all of American literature and have made it peculiarly valuable as index to and expression of what is essential in American life. They are intensely regional," he said, "and they are profoundly concerned with moral and ethical values as these find expression or negation in American life today."

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