

For release in PM's, Thursday, September 3rd:

University Park, Pa., Sept. 3 --- If interplanetary exploration becomes a reality, it may become necessary to establish satellite quarantine stations to prevent contamination of the earth and other planets, a University of Notre Dame scientist declared here today (Thursday).

Professor Philip Trexler, speaking at a Symposium on Space Age Microbiology at Pennsylvania State University, said that contamination of the earth by forms of life from another planet "could be as destructive to life as we know it as an all-out nuclear war."

While some bacteriologists minimize the danger from extraterrestrial organisms, Trexler contended that experience with intercontinental contamination by organisms of many levels of development indicate the danger is real.

"Three centuries of sickness and death on both sides of the Atlantic followed the discovery of the New World," the Notre Dame scientist said. He explained that it is "impossible to anticipate what suitable niche in our biosphere may be found by an organism with an entirely different origin and evolutionary history."

Trexler, who has been engaged in germfree animal research at Notre Dame's Lobund laboratories for twenty years, reminded his fellow-scientists how problems arise when "delicate ecological balances in our biosphere" are upset. "Conceivably, a single contaminant from earth could over-run and destroy many forms of life on another planet," he said.

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The symposium was sponsored by the Society for Industrial Microbiology at the annual meeting of the American Institute for Biological Sciences. Trexler's paper was entitled "Gnotobiotics in Relation to Space Biology." He described gnotobiotics as a relatively new discipline of biology dealing with "organisms grown by themselves or in association with known kinds of organisms." Gnotobiotes include pure cultures as well as germfree animals whose use in biological and medical research was pioneered at Notre Dame.

Gnotobiotics may make significant contributions to space biology in at least two aspects, Professor Trexler said. These would be "the prevention of biological contamination attending space travel and the use of gnotobiotes for satellite research or space voyages." Trexler, who recently developed a sterile, plastic room for germfree animal research, said that such "islands which are kept free of biological contamination can serve as test areas for space biologists."

The Notre Dame scientist said, however, that to suggest using gnotobiotes or germfree animals in current satellite experimentation would be premature. This is not due to technical difficulties with their use, he explained, but because there is "not enough information accumulated to interpret the results of such experiments." He pointed out though that the cost of satellite experimentation in terms of scientific effort as well as finances demands "the use of the best animal for the experiment. Eventually gnotobiotes seem destined to be the animal of choice for many purposes because they are a simpler biological system than the conventional animal," he said.

Trexler predicted that space exploration "will provide another stimulus to explore the foundations of biology and medicine."

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UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME  
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59/201

For release in AM's, Sunday, September 6th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Sept. 5 -- Rev. John A. O'Brien has just returned to the University of Notre Dame campus after a "vacation" of street-preaching in the deep South. Fresh from a series of curbstone sermons to Negroes and unchurched groups, the 66-year-old priest thinks he has found a way to spark southern interest in Catholicism.

"We need to show the remote mountain and valley areas of the South what a priest looks like," Father O'Brien believes. "Many of these people, who have never seen a priest, think Catholics have horns!"

Father O'Brien completed his most recent street-preaching project the latter part of August in Houma and Morgan City, La. On earlier trips he's been in the Appalachian mountain regions of North Carolina. He has talked in Waynesville, Jacksonville, Richlands, Bryson, N. C., and in Cherow, S. C., among other points.

He simply walks to a street corner and starts preaching. A crowd collects. In his priest's garb, he tells them a simple gospel sermon. Then he answers their questions. And there are many.

A schoolmate of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen and the author of twenty books on religion, Father O'Brien doesn't expect the down-from-the-pulpit idea to cause a Catholic revolution in the South.

"Catholicism in the South is going to be a slow, hard road. From 1850 to 1925, we concentrated on the masses of people in the cities and did not have sufficient priests to reach the rural areas. But now I think a more venturesome policy would start a steady march to a more normal representation in the Church."

Father O'Brien, who is a research professor at Notre Dame and an Oxford scholar, said he started his annual southern treks to bring religion to the grass-roots level. "I wanted to dramatize the need for priests in the South," he said. "Why in some southern areas, Catholics represent only one-half of one percent of the population."

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For release in PM's, Saturday, September 12th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Sept. 12 --- What America Stands For, a new book exploring various aspects of contemporary life in the United States, was published here today by the University of Notre Dame Press (\$4.75).

The problem of racial segregation, the relationship of government and science, and the impact of television are the subject of three of the essays appearing in the volume. Its editors are Stephen D. Kertesz, head of Notre Dame's Committee on International Relations, and M. A. Fitzsimons, editor of the University's quarterly REVIEW OF POLITICS. The book is the newest in the Committee's International Studies series.

Contributors to What America Stand For include George N. Shuster, president of Hunter College, who discusses "Higher Education in the United States;" Dr. Jerome G. Kerwin, of the University of Chicago, who analyzes "The Living Constitution;" and president Clark Kerr, of the University of California, whose chapter is entitled "Managing the Managers --- the Distribution of Power in American Industrial Society." Other chapters deal with the influence of religion in America as well as the agriculture, literature, and architecture peculiar to our country.

The book is based on a two-part symposium held on the Notre Dame campus in November, 1957, and March, 1958. In citing the objectives of the symposium and the book which evolved from it, Professor Kertesz stressed the importance of humility and a critical attitude in discussing American ideas, traditions and resources.

"Optimism for the final outcome of human issues, faith in the success of the American struggle for a better world, and a realistic self-criticism, are all necessary for the preservation of the intrinsic values of the American political system and way of life," he said.

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59/203

For release in AM's, Tuesday, September 8th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Sept. 7 --- The resignation of Prof. Walter M. Langford as head of the University of Notre Dame's department of modern languages and the appointment of Prof. William J. Grupp as his successor was announced today by Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., University president.

Langford, who will continue to teach at Notre Dame, joined the faculty in 1931 and became head of the department in 1946. He received the University's Lay Faculty Award at commencement exercises last June.

Grupp, a specialist in contemporary Spanish literature, began teaching at Notre Dame in 1949 after receiving a doctorate from Cornell University. During the summer of 1957 he engaged in study and research in Spain on a fellowship awarded by the Madrid government. A native of Rochester, N. Y., and a World War II Air Force veteran, Grupp has written a number of articles for professional journals. He is a member of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese and the Association of College Teachers of Education.

Professor Langford, a 1930 Notre Dame graduate, has specialized in Mexican literature and the Spanish-American novel. He received the degree of master of modern languages from the National University of Mexico in 1937. He was president of the Catholic Association of Foreign Language Teachers during 1957-58. His other professional affiliations include the Modern Language Association, the Central States Modern Language Teachers Association, and the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

In addition to his teaching Langford served as Notre Dame's tennis coach from 1940 to 1953 and for eighteen years he has coached the University's fencing teams.

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59/204

For release in PM's, Wednesday, September 30th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Sept. 30 -- Rev. John J. Cavanaugh, C.S.C., has been granted an indefinite leave of absence from his post as director of The Notre Dame Foundation and head of the University's \$66,600,000 development program, it was announced here today by the office of Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Notre Dame president. Father Cavanaugh has been suffering from a chronic vascular ailment.

Rev. John H. Wilson, C.S.C., administrative assistant to Father Hesburgh, has been named acting director of the Foundation, Notre Dame's fund-raising organization. He will coordinate all the University's public relations and development activities.

The University also announced the appointment of Rev. Thomas J. O'Donnell, C.S.C., to a newly created alumni liaison post. Father O'Donnell, who has been associate director of the Foundation, will travel widely in his new assignment, meeting at regular intervals with Notre Dame's 175 local alumni clubs in this country and abroad.

Father Cavanaugh served as Notre Dame's president from 1946 to 1952, and he has been the University's principal public relations and development officer since 1953. The Notre Dame Foundation, which he established during his presidency in 1947 and which he has actively led during the past six years, has received more than \$30,000,000 in gifts and grants. Fifteen major buildings have been erected on the campus since the Foundation was inaugurated twelve years ago.

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Father Wilson, a native of Chicago, Ill., was appointed administrative assistant to the president of Notre Dame in 1958. Previously, he had served for two years as assistant director of the Holy Cross Fathers' Office of Province Development. In earlier years he was vocation director for the Holy Cross Fathers and promotion and advertising director of THE CATHOLIC BOY. Father Wilson was graduated as a layman from Notre Dame in 1932 and received a law degree from the Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1934. He entered the Congregation of Holy Cross that year and was ordained to the priesthood in 1941.

Father O'Donnell, also born in Chicago, was graduated from Notre Dame in 1941 and was awarded a master's degree by the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C. He was named assistant to the director of the Notre Dame Foundation in 1953 and subsequently became associate director of the organization. Father O'Donnell entered the Holy Cross Fathers' novitiate in 1936 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1945. He is a former faculty member at Holy Cross College, Washington, D. C., and also served as associate editor of THE CATHOLIC BOY.

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59/203	9/7/59	Resignation of Prof. Walter M. Langford
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