

Statement On Birth Control Upholds Contraceptives Ban

By BENNET M. BOLTON
VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican Ecumenical Council's statement on birth control was described here as simultaneously upholding Roman Catholicism's ban on contraception and setting a foundation for a possible relaxation.

Such a change, if it comes, might not be limited to the contraceptive pills that have been at the centre of much of the birth control discussion in the church.

An expert serving on Pope Paul's birth control commission said the council document had been revised to make clear the entire contraception issue was

theoretically open to examination. In restating the ban on contraception the text met conservative prelates' request for a clear statement. But the wording also pleased progressive prelates.

A council source said the document more than left the question open — that it presented church birth control teaching as an evolving process, with gradual shifts not necessarily meaning rejection of past instruction.

UPHOLDS TEACHING
The text on birth control, part of the council's scheme (draft document) on modern world

problems, makes clear that current Roman Catholic teaching against contraceptive devices still is valid and being upheld. The commission in charge of the schema compiled in its job of revising the text for final council voting next Saturday, with directives from Pope Paul to put into the text specific mention of statements on birth control by Popes Pius XI and Pius XII.

Sources said the commission, in meeting the pope's desire, went further and phrased the references to past teachings in such a way as to indicate that a continuous evolving of church doctrine on birth control was going on. The commission added, on its own, Pope Paul's statement of June, 1964, setting up his special commission to examine all aspects of birth control.

One expert on the matter — John Noonan, Notre Dame University professor — told correspondents at the American bishops' press panel the new wording makes clear that "on the theoretical level the whole question of contraception is open to examination." Noonan is on the Pope's birth control commission.

WANT OPEN PATH
Sources said the revision caused delight among council progressives who want the path kept open as broadly as possible for further studies into sexuality and the morality of contraception. The revising work was done by a commission headed by Archbishop John Dearden of Detroit.

Pope Pius XI, in an earlier encyclical on Christian marriage examined all contraception. Pope Pius XII, in an address to midwives in 1951, supported the earlier condemnation of his predecessor but said the rhythm system could be used by Catholics.

TEACHER KILLED
HONOLULU (AP) — Laurie M. Vrooman, 26, a Canadian school teacher, was killed Wednesday when a sports car driven by William R. Spanne, 21, of the U.S.S. Tang hit a curb and overturned. Miss Vrooman lived at Port Arthur, Ont. Miss Vrooman had been in the Hawaiian Islands, since August visiting her sister, Frances, who is a nurse in Honolulu.

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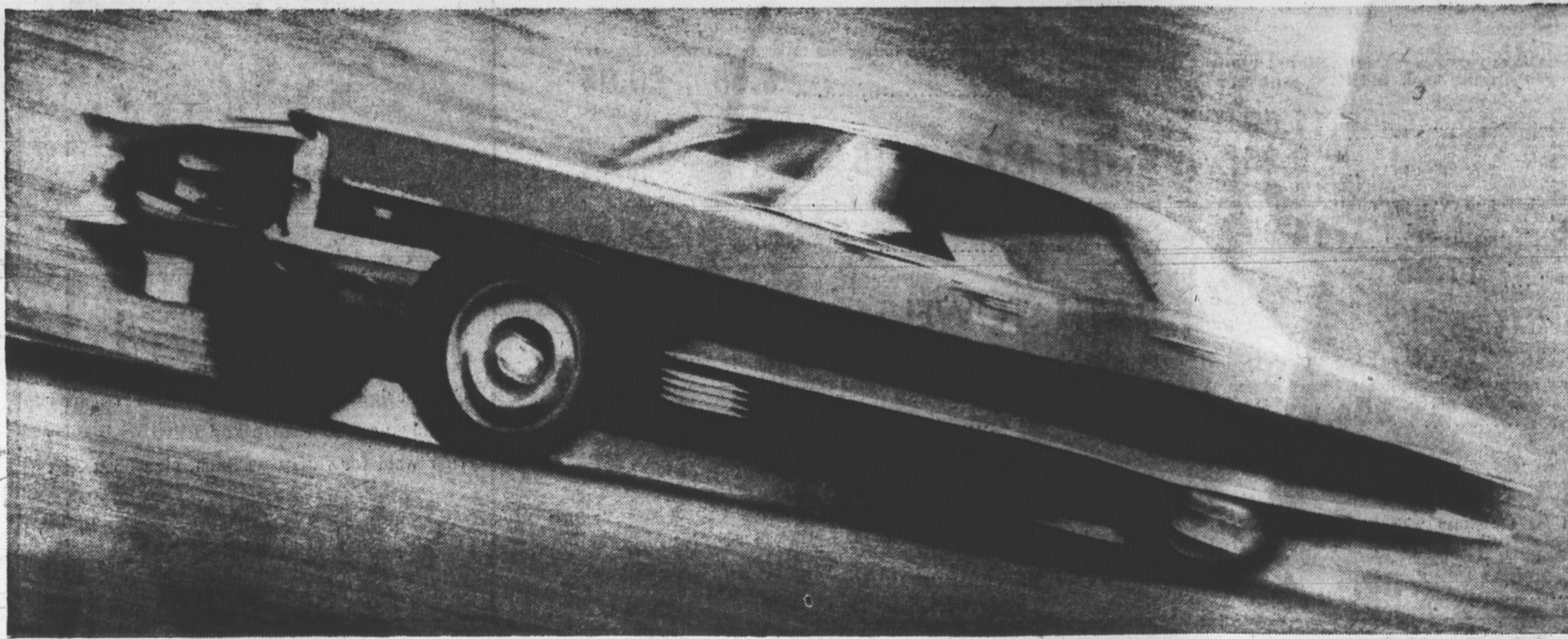
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