

Theologian Sees Trend in Quebec

MONTREAL (CP)—A Roman Catholic theologian says new and more liberal church policy may have an adverse effect on Quebec's economy.

Rev. Lionel Stanford of the theology department at Loyola College told an industrial management club meeting that the Catholic church has always been a force for stability, but some people are not so sure of it today.

"The fact is that some business people are afraid that the church may no longer be a force for stability," he said. "They are not as sure as they used to be that it will. They are uncertain, and that uncertainty may manifest itself in a reluctance to make investments."

This could lead to definite economic consequences in Quebec.

Father Stanford said the church in the past has been such a force for stability that it has often been accused unjustly of siding with those who oppose all progress.

LOST WORKERS

"We lost the working classes in the 19th century because the Catholic church was a staunch defender of private property," he said.

But in Quebec today, a different attitude toward private property was evident. Not one Catholic bishop had spoken out against the expropriation of the province's privately owned power companies, said Father Stanford and some would have done a few years earlier.

"With the greater respect for individual liberty and the right of a person's conscience that the second Vatican council is showing, and of a more pronounced separation of church and state, the future in Catholic areas (for investors) is less certain."

Until very recently, there had been a strong though unofficial link between church and state in Quebec, but the gap between the two was widening.

LEGISLATORS WARY

Legislators have been very sensitive to the views of Catholic bishops," Father Stanford said. "Even today, the government did not propose its education bill without consulting ecclesiastical authorities and incorporating most of the amendments suggested."

There may have been a time when a country cure could have persuaded some of his parishioners to make up their minds as to how they would cast their vote. These days are not if they are not already gone.

"As this the effect of Vatican II," he wouldn't say it is. "It is rather due to the raised level of general education and the spirit of the age, and it would occur even without the council."

Four Policemen Fired in Escape

QUEBEC (CP)—Rene Hamel, Quebec attorney general, said Wednesday four Quebec Provincial Police officers have been fired for negligence in the recent escape of six suspected members of a rob-and-rape gang from Montreal court house cells. Antonio Farchio, 26, and Jean-Claude Messier, 26, are still at large following the Feb. 26 breakout. The other four, including suspected gang leader "Boss" (Pretty Boy) Levesque, 26, were recaptured within hours of the escape following a chase. A subsequent investigation by GSP found the four officers guilty of negligence, saying the release would not have taken place if regular procedures had been followed.

Mortgage Sale Said Success

OTTAWA (CP)—A whopping success was reported Wednesday by the government housing agency, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, after its latest auction of mortgages. The sale—the ninth by CMHC in about three years—brought the largest number of bids so far and the corporation's sales list of \$25,000,000 was completely taken up by investors including the banks, trust and life insurance companies, and investment dealers.

Queen Mother Plans Voyage

LONDON (AP)—Queen Mother Elizabeth will convene from her apartment operation aboard the royal yacht Britannia in the Caribbean next month, her household announced Wednesday. She will fly to Jamaica via New York by scheduled airplane, arriving March 12, and return to England April 1. The yacht now is steaming from Fiji to the Caribbean via the Panama Canal. It had been heading for Australia earlier this month to meet the Queen Mother here for an official tour, but the tour was cancelled after her operation Feb. 4.



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