

## SECTION VI

Report of the Social Action Affairs Vice President, James T. Conneen, to the Second Session of the XVII National Council of the National Federation of Catholic College Students.

### I. NATIONAL FAMILY LIFE COMMISSION

Location - College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, New York

Chairman - Miss Gloria Lucia Canal

#### 1. General

A. Resources - A more efficient, intelligent, and perservering Chairman does not exist. Numerically, her staff is adequate, involving to some degree approximately fifteen students. Active support is given by the Moderator. A new office, with newly organized files and adequate secretarial services, belongs to the Commission. The financial support necessary to carry out the range of activity approved by the Moderator is generously supplied.

#### B. Activity:

(1) To Date - Regional activity has been excellent in eleven regions, fair in five. An effective reporting system has been devised by the Chairman. Many replies to requests for information have been made, both to regional commissions and to individual campuses. A study on the problem of overpopulation has been initiated. Provision has been made for participation by Commission personnel in some of the activities of the Christian Family Movement. The Chairman participated in a fall workshop of the Baltimore-Washington Region.

(2) Projected - The study will be completed. Attempts will be continued to bring more fruitful involvement by other Family Life Agencies connected with the NCWC.

#### 2. Family Life Notes

A. Purpose - A meeting at the beginning of the year between this officer and the Chairman and editors of the Notes resolved that the primary job of the Notes should be to provide technical insights into programming problems. Thus, the publication is directed to an audience composed of Commission personnel and delegates. Priority over news is given to articles in which the principles of success and failure in programming efforts are presented.

B. Technical Changes - An attempt to "defeminize" the art work has been made. A new printer has been engaged at a lower unit cost with little subsequent change in printing quality.

C. Two issues have been printed, with four more to come. The quality of these first two issues becomes immediately apparent to the reader.

#### Evaluation:

Superlatives are the only appropriate rating of the activity of the Family Life Commission. Each person who has come in contact with the Commission can provide his own.

## II. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Location -- Canisius College, Buffalo, New York

Chairman -- Fred Attea

1. Resources - The Chairman is capable, devoted, and particularly possessed of knowledge and interest in this field. Unfortunately, the Commission has been, to date, a largely one-man operation. However, the Chairman is gradually increasing the involvement of the other available personnel. The office of the Commission has been relocated this year; nevertheless, the original disorganization has been gradually overcome.

2. Activity - The Commission has handled over forty-five direct requests for information and publications. A general description of the services of the Commission has been sent to all the campuses. The first issue of the Journal has been mailed, complete with newly designed, semi-hard cover. In addition to the large number of agencies with which the Commission has cooperated in exchange of articles, the Catholic Council on Working Life and the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists have been so contacted.

Evaluation:

The policy of answering requests instead of attempting to solicit participation through an ongoing and outreaching program has been adopted by the Chairman. Judging from the enthusiasm expressed in answers to questions addressed to various individuals, this policy seems to be achieving qualitative results. The general description of services should increase the number of contacts. The articles offered, both in the Journal and in the form of reprints and pamphlets, are of a predominately high caliber.

## III. HUMAN RELATIONS FIELD

1. "Negroes and the Catholic College -- a Survey", Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana; Anne Bouise, Director - Questionnaires, along with covering letters from Anne and me, have reached all the campuses. Nearly a majority of those contacted have responded. The questionnaires will be evaluated with the help of Rev. Joseph Fichter, S.J., during the second semester.

2. Chicago Area

A. Recommendation #C, 1 (cf. MINUTES, Third Session, XVI National Council, page 7) has been implemented in the following manner:

(1) An official agreement has been concluded with Mr. Albert Nellum, Catholic Interracial Council Schools Consultant, providing for co-sponsorship of the Midwest Human Relations Conference.

(2) Mr. Nellum has been provided with:

(a) A list of contacts in the schools of seven Midwest regions, with a regional coordinator appointed for each region.

(b) Notification that we think the main problem to be met is the obliviousness of Catholic college students to the problem of interracial justice, especially as it applies to themselves as Catholics; and that, although Conferences are a beginning, responsible groups such as the CIC must do much more by way of intimate contact with the collegiate scene.



(c) The services of Pat Hellgeth and Sandra Novak, graciously volunteered and consistently rendered, to maintain contact with the Federation.

(3) From the CIC, the following have been secured:

(a) Re-extension of the offer of "consultative services" to Mid-west area member colleges

(b) Lists of the various Catholic groups concerned with inter-racial justice in this country

(c) Information that a soon-to-be-formed National Federation of Catholic Interracial Councils has an interest in activity in Catholic colleges

(4) A great need for scholarships to be made available to minority group members in the Chicago area was pointed out to this officer by Mr. Nellum at our meeting in mid-November. A positive recommendation regarding NFCCS activity in this regard will be available for the Second Session of the XVII National Council.

### 3. New York Area

A. The program negotiated by my predecessor with Mr. George Hunton, calling for, among other requirements, an expenditure of \$7,500, has not received the expected foundation support and hence has been canceled.

B. The following plan has been implemented:

(1) Four metropolitan schools will participate directly as centers of a program.

(2) Student-faculty groups have chosen areas of interest which they wish to explore.

(3) Starting in February, these centers will be visited, over a three-month period, by speakers provided by the CIC.

(4) The plan is designed to produce a nucleus of people who, having been informed by the program, will undertake education of their campus. In addition, information regarding the role of the graduate in alleviation of the problem, both directly and indirectly, will be disseminated.

(5) An extensive bibliography has been prepared by Frank Demers, of the CIC, and will be available to all participants of the program.

C. Necessary note of explanation -- Ignorance is an extensive problem here. Not only is the average student ignorant, but we are ignorant of the exact nature of his ignorance. So it is that the method of operation which should be adopted is not at all clear. The New York area program is an experiment, one of a long line begun in the year 1957. This year, through this program and the study which this officer is undertaking, we may find out the exact nature of student ignorance in this matter and the appropriate steps to be taken in amelioration. The internal weakness of Catholic Interracial Councils (the only professional agency type with which we can actually cooperate at present), in all areas except the two already mentioned, enhances our problem.

### 4. Cooperation with Other Organizations

A. National Student Association - A study outline on Brotherhood Week will be sent to non-NSA members of the Federation by agreement reached last week. The NSA has received a stipend of \$62,500 to conduct programs in the South. NFCCS has

provided some contacts in that area. More cooperation of a similar nature will come in the future. They will definitely be involved in the Midwest Conference and will probably involve us, on a consultative basis, in their own major conferences this year.

B. National Newman Club Federation - Cooperation in the Race Relations Program may be effected in the second semester, although it will probably not be through the External Affairs Vice President.

C. Young Adult Council - The Human Rights Commission of YAC is conducting research on several topics of significance, the results of which we will receive. Most useful will be the compilation of existing programs carried on by YAC member organizations. Charles Hayes, a junior sociology major at St. Peter's College, has been acting as NFCCS representative to the Commission.

#### IV. SOCIAL SERVICE COMMISSION

The preliminary reports by members of the Sociology Department at St. Peter's College indicate that a national commission in this area sponsored by the NFCCS would be overlapping the work done by other organizations and would be ineffective due to the variety of problems occurring over the nation. Additionally, I feel that such activity is not germane to the prevailing method of self-education through study to which the NFCCS has traditionally, and I believe properly, ascribed.

Special interest has, however, been displayed by Betty Wilton, Chairman of the Social Service Commission of the Ohio - Kentucky Region. Betty has an excellent regional program, which this year continues the fine past record of this commission. I shall offer at this meeting a motion to seat the National Social Service Commission at Our Lady of Cincinnati College, under the Chairmanship of Betty Wilton.