

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE  
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Puerto Rican Bishops  
Interfere in Election

\*By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Political power as a means to religious ends has been denounced by C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here.

Although the pronouncement was made in August it has taken on added significance recently in the light of the pastoral letter by three Roman Catholic bishops in Puerto Rico who have forbidden Puerto Rican Catholics to vote for the re-election of Gov. Luis Munoz Marin, himself a Roman Catholic.

The action of the Puerto Rican bishops coming in the midst of the American presidential campaign has been the occasion of a storm of protest against interference by the clergy in political affairs. Roman Catholic laymen in Puerto Rico have demonstrated against their own hierarchy, while Protestant spokesmen throughout the United States have deplored the effort of the clergy to dictate to the people how to vote.

The formation of a Roman Catholic political action party in Puerto Rico and the pastoral letter of the three bishops there point up the position taken by Carlson during his interview with Sen. John F. Kennedy, Democratic presidential nominee, on August 24. In his statement following the interview Carlson said:

"A frank renunciation by all churches of political power as a means to religious ends would greatly improve the political climate and would seem to be a legitimate request by both political parties."

Senator Kennedy in commenting on the statement said, "I certainly do agree with that last sentence."

More recently in response to the effort of the Roman Catholic clergy in Puerto Rico to control Catholic voting there, the Senator said that it is "wholly improper for churchmen of any faith to tell members of their church how to vote."

When the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs met in semi-annual meeting early in October the formation of a Roman Catholic political party in Puerto Rico (Christian Action Party) was up for discussion. In view of this departure from American tradition and the formation of political party along religious lines the Committee expressed "concern" and instructed its staff "to make a study of this situation and bring further information to us at our March meeting."

The Catholic party in Puerto Rico has been formed with the blessings of the bishops there and was stimulated because the Popular Democratic Party, of which Gov. Marin is head, gave its consent to the enactment of legislation allowing birth control and sterilization, and curtailing religious instruction on a released time basis in the public schools. This action incensed the hierarchy and led to the formation of the new party, which, incidentally, also is advocating that Puerto Rico become the 51st state in the United States.

In Puerto Rico the American Methodist bishop Fred Pierce Corson of Philadelphia, whose jurisdiction includes Puerto Rico, has termed the Catholic prelates' letter an "alarming illustration of the pressure the Roman Catholic hierarchy can exert."

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Corson said further "that an attempt to exercise control by forbidding members of a church to make a personal choice in voting is a serious invasion of the principle of separation of church and state and a denial of the right guaranteed to every American to vote according to the dictates of his own conscience, which is guaranteed by the Constitution."

An editorial in the Washington Post, daily newspaper in the Nation's Capital, vigorously attacked the action of the Puerto Rican bishops. The editorial said, "The attempt of the Puerto Rican bishops to tell church members how to vote in an election contest is most unfortunate. The governing principle in this free country is, as Governor Munoz has noted, that citizens vote their own convictions and decline to accept any political orders, even from the clergy."

Glenn L. Archer, executive director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, declared, "It appears that the Catholic bishops have actually given voting orders to all Catholics and that they have used their churches to sign voters for membership in their church political party. This is clericalism at its worst. Such clerical interference in an American election will greatly deepen concern as to the intentions of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in this country."

In a communication with the Fair Campaign Practices Committee Archer said that it "has threatened some Baptist preachers with loss of tax exemption for discussing the religious issue in the United States election. Surely this group will want to take action in regard to this kind of church political campaigning on American soil."

Meanwhile, there seems to be a divided opinion among the Roman Catholic hierarchy itself as to the effect of the instructions from the Puerto Rican bishops. Some say that it is a sin for the Catholic lay people to defy the orders of their bishops, but others seem to think that the matter remains in the realm of individual conscience.

Two of the Puerto Rican bishops are American born, one from Boston and the other from Tucson, Ariz., and all three of them are members of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, official agency of the American hierarchy with headquarters in Washington, D. C. However, their ecclesiastical relations with the Vatican are conducted through the Apostolic Delegation in the Dominican Republic rather than that at Washington.

Catholic authorities in Washington offered no immediate comment on the Puerto Rican pastoral letter, beyond stating that like all other bishops of the Church, the three Puerto Rican prelates are autonomous in their dioceses and subject only to the Vatican.

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\*Mr. Garrett is Washington regional editor of Baptist Press.

Lodge Corrects Reports  
On View of Parochial Aid

(10-26-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Henry Cabot Lodge, Republican nominee for Vice President, denies that he said he was in favor of Federal aid for construction of parochial schools.

Lodge's correction to several press association reports of his remarks over the CBS television program, "Face the Nation," on Oct. 9, was made in a letter to the Washington Post. "At no time have I ever stated or implied that I favored using Federal funds for construction of private schools," he wrote.

What he did favor, Lodge explained, was bus transportation and textbooks for pupils in parochial schools.

"My voting record in the Senate," he wrote, "shows that in 1948 I opposed discrimination against private school students as regards Federal assistance for textbooks and bus transportation. It seems incontrovertible to me that the United States Army, for example, wants a boy in a guided missile battery to be able to count and that it is immaterial to the Army whether he learned to count in a public or a private school.

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"It would thus be contrary to United States interest to discriminate against the private school boy. But there is the further fact that I rightly considered as a Senator from Massachusetts that about one fifth of Massachusetts' children are in non-public schools and that it would have been unfair to Massachusetts to have discriminated against them."

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Text of Lodge Interview  
On Parochial School Aid

(10-26-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Following is a transcription of that portion of the interview on the CBS television network's show, "Face the Nation," which includes Henry Cabot Lodge's remarks on aid to education (MacNeil is Neil MacNeil of Time-Life Publications; Lee is Robert E. Lee of Ridder Publications; Novins is Stuart Novins of CBS News):

"Mr. MacNeil: On a point, another problem before the electorate is the question of school construction. On this you and Senator Kennedy disagreed in your votes. You voted for a 300-million dollar program and for the use of that fund for the purchase of textbooks and bus service in parochial and private schools. Do you still support that?"

"Mr. Lodge: Yes. I--If you are taking a private school boy into the Army and a public school boy into the Army to operate a guided missile, you want the private school boy to be just as good at mathematics as the public school boy; you want him to be just as healthy, if the public school boy gets glasses, he ought to get glasses; if the public school boy gets a hot lunch, so should the private school boy. As far as the United States is concerned, in this national defense, in this moment of crisis, the-- it draws no line between the private school boy and the public school boy.

"Mr. MacNeil: On this point, sir, objection has been made to use of Federal funds on two points: One, for the payment of teachers' salaries, and, two, on the use of any funds for any religious denomination.

"Mr. Lodge: Well, I would believe, in the first instance, certainly to limit your Federal financial help to school construction, realizing that that would liberate local funds for teachers' salaries.

"Mr. Lee: When you say 'first instance,' do you mean that it might be necessary to--pay teachers' salaries later?"

"Mr. Lodge: Well I'm not going to foreclose myself, I will take a, as I say, two years, then I'd take another look at it. I am not going to foreclose myself for all eternity.

"Mr. Lee: You are not disturbed, then, about the moral aspects of it as an invasion--

"Mr. Lodge: 'Well, I--I think it's better--yes, I do think, I am somewhat concerned about that, I do think it's better to keep the control of how teaching shall be done, and all that, local.

"Mr. Novins: Mr. Lodge, I am a little curious. As Mr. MacNeil pointed out, that one of your votes while you were a Senator was in favor of Federal--the use of Federal money for the purchase of textbooks to be used in schools. I can't understand why that is moral and paying teachers' salaries somehow is immoral. How do you draw the line?"

"Mr. Lodge: I didn't--I've never--you've used the word 'moral.' I haven't. You are trying to put a word in my mouth.

"Mr. Novins: I don't want to do that. Let's just--

"Mr. Lodge: I never brought the word 'moral' into it at all.

"Mr. Novins: All right.

"Mr. Lodge: But what I say is that when a motion is before me, as a United States Senator, on a program that involves the distribution of textbooks, to exclude the children in private schools, I say, no, I say that the United States of America has the same interest in a private school child, knowing his arithmetic, as it has in a public school child.

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"Mr. Novins: I wasn't raising the question--

"Mr. Lodge: There wasn't any question of morality.

"Mr. Novins: I am not raising the question between private schools and public schools, I am raising the question of the use of Federal funds for the purchase of textbooks. As opposed to funds for teachers.

"Mr. Lodge: The textbooks would be decided on locally.

"Mr. Novins: I beg your pardon, sir.

"Mr. Lodge: Under that legislation, the textbooks were, wouldn't, were not to be decided on Federally.

"Mr. Novins: Well, wouldn't teachers be decided the same way?

"Mr. Lodge: Well, doesn't--

"Mr. Novins: Isn't the selection of teachers local, and the guidance of teachers local?

"Mr. Lodge: That's right; that's right. And the decision on textbooks is local and the construction of schools is local and the child is local, but the Federal money goes to the buildings and doesn't go to the teachers.

"Mr. Lee: Is it your point, then, that it really doesn't matter much where the money comes from, so long as the facilities are made?

"Mr. Lodge: No; I think it's better, as I said, and I am not going to be twisted out of this--

"Mr. Lee: I am not trying to twist it, sir; I am not quite sure--

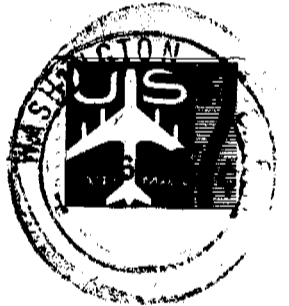
"Mr. Lodge: --It's better in the first instance to use Federal funds for buildings and to liberate the Federal--liberate the local money for teachers' salaries."

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