

Catholic Student Leaders Respond to Vital Issues

In response to the urgent call for future Catholic leadership in American society, the delegates to the 17th National Congress of NFCCS undertook the responsibility of passing six resolutions of national and international concern. The most controversial topics at the plenary sessions and regional caucuses concerned civil rights.

Despite the emotional protests of two Texan delegates, agitated discussions, and extensive traveling and telegraphing to procure accurate information, the NFCCS declared itself in accord with the basic aims of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and congratulated the Association on its successes in the fields of racial relations and human rights.

The NAACP is an organization seriously dedicated to the improvement of racial relations by all legal means. Many people misconceive the Association as a communist subversive group, but it has withstood questioning from the U. S. Supreme Court several times.

NF Sits In

The next resolution of particular concern to students is the sit-in demonstrations. During the past few months students have engaged in non-violent action throughout the South in protesting the denial of the moral rights of Negroes. As a result of their principled and courageous action, conducted with respect to public order, some have been suspended or expelled from their schools. The NFCCS wholeheartedly endorsed the non-violent action employed by students in sit-in demonstrations.

The Congress further commended the constructive results of the non-violent demonstrations: e.g. the integration of lunchcounters, the increased national awareness concerning the rights of all men, and the introduction of a new technique of alleviating the problem of race relations.

Communist Threat

There is no doubt in any of our minds that the Communist Party constitutes the most serious threat to our democratic way of life. It is only through a deeper knowledge of this party, and a greater understanding of its ideology and tactics that the rapid advance of Communism can be halted. The NFCCS reiterated its opposition to Communism and further recommended that it be combated by the establishment, on our campuses, of study groups in Communist ideology and tactics.

Prayers for Hungary

In 1956, the NFCCS wholeheartedly supported the Hungarian student freedom fighters by days of prayer, collection of funds to aid Hungarian refugees, student government resolutions, and a message carried over Radio Free Europe. In the same year the U.N. General Assembly enacted a resolution condemning Russian aggression in Hungary and calling for the immediate removal of the Russian military, economic, and political apparatus from Hungarian soil.

The Soviet Union has refused to abide by this decision. The policy resolution of the 17th National Congress urged the President of the U. S. to request the American Ambassador to the U.N. to take immediate action causing the Soviet Union to abide by the full provisions of the standing resolution on Hungary.

Latin America

His Holiness Pope John XXIII has emphasized the shortage of native clergy and lack of education among the Latin American people. As members of the Mystical Body, Catholic college students are in a responsible position to extend education to fellow students in Latin America. The NFCCS recommended an extensive program to generate interest among its members to serve as apostolic missionaries to Latin America, and to support the papal volunteers by prayers, and financial sacrifices.

These resolutions have been sent to the press, the United Nations, the President of the U. S., the two Presidential Candidates, and the particular organizations and men concerned with the policies of each resolution. Now it is the responsibility of every Catholic student as a member of NFCCS to make the resolutions effective, by reflective thinking, and vocal and physical support.

As future Catholic leaders, the students must become informed and articulate about present and future issues of local, national, and international concern, especially in this year of significant decisions.

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