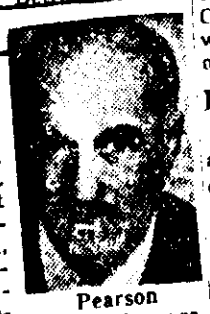
Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

For Whom Did Spellman Speak?

By Drew Pearson

What may have been a significant conference was scheduled in New York this week between Cardinal Mooney of Detroit and Cardinal Stritch of Chicago, who called on Cardinal Spellman.



Pearson

What they planned to talk about is not known. But it is known that on the preceding evening, when the distinguished prelates from Chicago and Detroit attended a preview of the motion picture, "Come to the Stable," they did not appear happy over Cardinal Spellman's attack on Mrs. Roosevelt.

This brings up a highly important point now widely asked in both political and denominational circles, namely — did Cardinal Spellman speak for the Catholic Church or only for himself when he wrote his letter to Mrs. Roosevelt?

The answer may lie in the fact that Cardinal Spellman is not popular with various of the Catholic hierarchy. Catholic leaders interviewed this week pointed out that Spellman has jurisdiction only over the New York metropolitan area, excluding Brooklyn which is under the jurisdiction of Bishop Molloy.

They also pointed out that, despite this, the New York Cardinal has shown great dexterity in placing his own friends in certain key spots where they can influence church policy. Recently, he appointed one of his proteges, Father Thomas J. McCarthy, to be chief of the National Catholic Welfare Conference information bureau which distributes news to all Catholic papers.

First American Pope

Some years ago, Spellman wrote a speech for Jimmy Roosevelt to deliver at Springfield, Mass., in favor of the child labor law—a law opposed by Cardinal O'Connell of Boston. Spellman had served under O'Connell as his auxiliary bishop, and when Spellman was promoted to be Archbishop of New York, a Catholic newspaperman congratulated Cardinal O'Connell. The much-loved prelate did not reply immediately. Finally, with a note of sadness, he said:

"Francis epitomizes what happens to a bookkeeper when you teach him how to write."

Many of the Catholic hierarchy have felt that Cardinal Spellman's frequent visits at the White House, his widely publicized magazine articles, and his various trips to Europe were part of a campaign to make him Papal Secretary and later the first American Pope.

It is recalled that when the American cardinals-designate went to the Vatican to receive their red hats, Spellman alone was kissed by the Pope. At that time, the late Cardinal Glennon of St. Louis remarked to Congressman Joseph Casey of Massachusetts, who accompanied him to Rome:

"I hear Spellman wants to be Papal Secretary. He'll have us all in hot water."

That, many Catholics fear, is now what has happened. They point to the constantly growing Ku Klux Klan and to the zooming sales of Paul Blanshard's book, "American Freedom and Catholic Power."

Tale of Two Cities

In two widely separated American cities, two attempts are being staged at encouraging people-to-people friendship—the only sure way to prevent war.

In Philadelphia—is located the oldest international house in the country, established to house and encourage foreign students in the United States.

In Jacksonville, Ala.—Is located the youngest international house in the country, established for the same purpose and objective.

Jacksonville is a small town—about 10,000. It has no great local industries, no wealthy taxpaying population, but a population which, living inland, doesn't worry too much about enemy attacks. Yet it raised the money to build its own international house for foreign students.

Philadelphia, third largest city in the United States of America, is called "The City of Brotherly Love." Philadelphia lived up to its traditions by founding the first international house in the entire country. But now, slow, sleepy Philadelphia feels less brotherly. It's international house has already cut its budget, begun to fire personnel, while down in Alabama, the Jacksonville foreign students project is going strong.

Copyright, 1949, The Bell Syndicate Inc.

INDEXED 194-8-350-A
NOT RECORDED
SEP 13 1949

67 Sep 20 1949 49

WASHINGTON POST
Page 11 B JUL 1949