

## BILBO TO BLAME WHITE PRIEST TESTIFIES

**Jackson, Miss. — Special —** Four years ago two-fisted Father George T. Strype, S. S. J., white priest of Pass Christian, Miss., solemnly vowed that he would devote his life to helping Negroes achieve their human rights; and he has been fighting ever since.

Now pastor of St. Philomena's Catholic Church in Pass Christian, Father Strype told the Senate Investigating Committee here that although he had counseled his parishioners it was their duty to be good citizens and vote, they were barred from the polls in Pass Christian on July 2 in the primary which renominated Theodore Bilbo for the United States Senate.

Noting that some of the Negro veterans in his Catholic congregation had voted without incident in the municipal election of June 4, the priest quoted from an Associated Press dispatch in which Bilbo was quoted as having said that the participation of Negro voters in the Pass Christian municipal election was "the most damnable demonstration of demagoguery in the history of our South land".

Between that election and the primary the temperature altered in Pass Christian, Father Strype said. The Negroes who had been on the rolls as Democrats were suddenly switched over and listed as Republicans.

Election officials had told him, he said, that they had met and decided that No Negroes were going to vote in the white Democratic primary.

In answer to questions supplied by Bilbo's attorney, the priest freely admitted that he had encouraged his people to vote.

"I have taught them to fear God and be good citizens," he said. "And I have told them to vote to see that they are governed by right-thinking, straight-living officials."

The priest noted that the Pass Christian voting officials and the mayor are close personal friends of Bilbo.

Born in Brooklyn, N. Y., Fr. Strype attended Epiphany Apostolic College, Newburg, N. Y., and St. Joseph's Seminary, Washington, D. C. Since his ordination to the priesthood in 1942 he has been stationed in Pass Christian. He is also in charge of St. Stephen's Church, De Lisle, Miss., and Our Lady of Chartres Church in Delmas Dedeaux.

The only Christian clergyman to testify at the proceedings, Fr. Strype is a member of the Josephite Fathers, Catholic priests who minister, with a special vow, only to Negroes.

## INSIDE RUSSIA

**Washington, D. C. —** Russia has "a class distinction unequalled in any capitalistic country and disparities in income and rations that must shock any equalitarian-minded person."

This is the indictment made against the Soviet Rulers, who staged the Bolshevik revolt in 1917 professedly for the ideal of a classless society, by Hugh Chevins, industrial correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph. He recently completed a six-week study of conditions inside Russia, and gave his impression in three articles in the American Federationist, the official monthly magazine of the American Federation of Labor published here.

The author states that, apparently, Russia's "extremely complicated rationing system is crisscrossed with disparities, but by and large those whom the Kremlin favors do best."

Over and above the basic ration card, the author says, "various other devices have been evolved for insuring bigger and better rations for the new ruling class." He adds: "If you have contrived to find your way into the higher ranks of the army, the theatrical world, journalism, or other so-called intellectual branches, you may become possessed of supplementary ration cards" and also of "concessions under two cut-rate food purchase systems."

Chevins found "many grades of shops in the Soviet Union. Each person is assigned to a different shop, according to his or her employment," he writes, and "the type of shop to which a railway porter is assigned has, in all likelihood, a smaller and inferior range of foodstuffs for sale than the shop chosen for an architect."

Another aspect of Russian life that "throws class distinction into relief," is housing. Chevin writes: "I doubt that anyone in Moscow outside the walls of the Kremlin has comfortable apartments and is able to live a life of privacy as judged by Western standards." The common people "live in basements, kitchens, bedrooms, anywhere in dilapidated buildings in the suburbs often at the rate of four families per room—one family per corner."

Chevins found in Russia "an emphasis on materialism that even Marx eschewed" and "that most hateful of all forms of government—a dictatorship, not by the proletariat, but by a remote group of men whose power derives from the police

More than 200 of these priests are caring for almost 100,000 parishioners in the United States. Some 125 churches in the South are under their care, and more than 20,000 Negro children are being educated in their schools.

state which they have created." He adds: "The Union of Socialist Soviet Republics is a police state, and life in a police state is restricted and uneasy, bereft of human dignity and freedom."

The Article declares that "censorship is no less harsh now than in wartime." Though travel is unrestricted, "it is a risky business for anyone, particularly a foreigner."

This suspicion of foreigners is evident in other phases of Russian life, Mr. Chevins discovered. "To secure a seat in the theater a foreigner must make formal application on a document which must bear a rubber stamp," he stated, and "inside the theater foreigners are segregated from the rest of the audience under the eyes of the police."

## DINING CAR WAITERS WIN LONG STRUGGLE

**Chicago—**The U. S. District Court brought to a close recently the long, arduous struggle of the Dining Car waiters on the Santa Fe Railroad against the company.

For nine months the employees organization has been struggling to get the company to make certain advances. The U. S. District Court solved all of this by granting \$400,000 to the Dining Car Union, which means that some 1557 employees will receive approximately \$225 in cash payment, providing he has been with the service as a regular for at least five years. In the same award the company agrees to pay an increase of two and one half cents per hour to be retroactive to May 22, 1946.

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