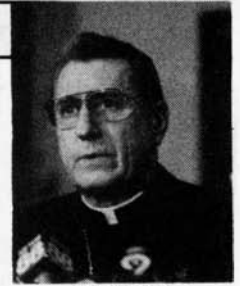


Interviews: Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop Hannan

Tide may shift among the American bishops



O'Connor

The interview below with John Cardinal O'Connor of New York, and the second with Archbishop Philip Hannan of New Orleans, were granted to Kathleen Klenetsky at the Nov. 10-14 Catholic bishops' conference:

EIR: The Catholic bishops in California came out with a statement attacking Proposition 64, the ballot initiative on AIDS. Are you familiar with it?

O'Connor: Yes.

EIR: Do you think the Vatican statement on homosexuality will encourage the American bishops to consider the need for public health measures to deal with AIDS?

O'Connor: Yes. I suspect that the bishops will examine much more carefully proposed legislation in various cities. I think that, in some instances, there has been such a strong—very understandable—emotional content in respect to legislation, that bishops could be tempted to say, 'Well, we must be compassionate to everyone'. . . . I think that so many bishops are becoming concerned about [AIDS], that they'll just act on their own. I don't know that the statement from the Holy See would affect that aspect of it.

EIR: If there were something similar to Proposition 64 up for a vote in New York, would you support it?

O'Connor: I'd have to look at that with meticulous care, because you always have to weigh between seeming to act prejudicially toward people afflicted, victimized by such an illness, and the good of the community at large. And I would think therefore that the wording of any such proposition would be exceedingly important.

EIR: Would you support it?

O'Connor: If it were worded in such fashion that clearly the thrust would be to protect people against malicious discrimination, and yet at the same time, very rationally provided guidelines or even statutes to protect the community.

Archbishop Philip Hannan

EIR: In your remarks on the floor about the pastoral letter, you seemed to be saying that the pastoral doesn't pay enough attention to the role of science and technology in producing new wealth. Is that what you meant?

Hannan: Oh, yes. Even now, in the European Economic

Community, they have very, very great surpluses. The only part of the world that does not have surpluses is the communist world, and the Third World, which has been wrenched so much by revolts and war that they're not able to apply the discoveries of agriculture to their particular economies. But worldwide, there's certainly enough food; it's just a matter now of distribution.

EIR: Would you have preferred that the pastoral give more emphasis and encouragement to the role of science in the economy?

Hannan: I certainly would have, because there's only one way to go, and that's to go with science and increased production. The only difficulty, of course, is that in our economy . . . we now need more people to consume the food. It's not that we don't have enough food. . . .

EIR: The pastoral seems to be biased in favor of limits-to-growth, and cutting population growth.

Hannan: It does. [The bishops] simply are not *au courant* with the agricultural developments.

EIR: How about technological developments in other spheres? For example, President Reagan has said that the Strategic Defense Initiative would cause a new industrial revolution in the civilian sphere. Do you agree?

Hannan: Yes, I would—not taking any sides about how much should be expended on it. I have a brother in science. He's said from the very beginning that if we could only have manufacturing in space, we could usher in a new era, because you don't have gravity, and everything could be made better in space than to be made here with gravity.

EIR: Do you think there's too great a bias against the military in the pastoral letter?

Hannan: Oh, sure. Because the bishops don't realize that 50% of all the defense expenditures are for salaries, and only 7% is for nuclear development.

EIR: As the Vatican takes a more interventionist role in the U.S. Church, will the American bishops abandon these anti-science, anti-military prejudices?

Hannan: I think they will. And I think there is a tide moving in that direction.