

People Not in the News

MONSIGNOR IVAN ILLICH:

Left-wing Catholic priests wearing Black Power tee shirts were passing out copies of Ivan Illich's essay "The Vanishing Clergyman" last summer like they were holy cards.

Monsignor Illich, the tall and wiry president of Cuernavaca's controversial Center for Intercultural Documentation (CIDOC), had informed the ordained that their profession was on its way out and that the defections of increasing numbers of men from the priesthood should be received "in a spirit of deep joy" because it is an outward sign of the disappearance of "institutional bureaucracy" within the Church [RAMPARTS, November 1967].

Msgr. Illich has remained an unofficial topic of conversation at religious cocktail parties and conventions ever since he left his post seven years ago as vice president of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico to become a founder of the Center for Intercultural Formation (CIF) of which CIDOC is a branch.

Beads were rattling over his opinions as early as 1961, when he told the late Bishop Manuel Larrain, president of the Conference of Latin American Bishops, that he was for banishing missionaries from Latin America since "foreign gods [ideals, idols, ideologies, persuasion, values] are more offensive to the 'poor' than the military or economic power of the foreigner."

Only a year ago last February, Cardinal Cushing, head of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Latin America, pounded a Catholic podium and lambasted as a "colossal lie" an essay of Illich's, "The Seamy Side of Charity." The article accused United States missionaries of perpetuating "the status quo in a social and economic system that desperately needs changing."

In response Illich only shrugged: "I run a documentation center which has assembled about 45,000 items of information on church and social change in Latin America and I think I can come up with some proof to back it up."

His CIF, specializing in linguistics and Spanish courses, had become at one time something of an unofficial training center for Latin America missionaries. But attendance of clergymen has dropped off sharply in the last two to three years.

Illich, who describes his secular institute as a "thinkery," has accused the United States of nurturing violence around the globe from its own American ghettos to the borders of China and throughout Latin America. He bases his accusations upon years of research at CIDOC, whose academic theme next winter focuses on the humanistic meaning of the call for violence and the call for nonviolence in social change in Latin America.

In the monsignor's essay, "Violence: A Mirror for Americans," published in the Jesuit magazine *America*, he argued that world violence is a result of the rejection of American values by the underdeveloped, poor majorities of the world.

With an academic vehemence, Illich said the War on Poverty and the Alliance for Progress failed because "both programs were designed to have the poor join in the American dream. . . . The poor refused to dream on command."

The most recent inter-Catholic attack on Illich was the charge last month in the lay magazine *Gente* that Illich's Cuernavaca institute was a nerve center for guerrilla warfare. *Gente* is known as a publication of the secretive right-wing Catholic lay organization *Opus Dei*, which Illich says "commonly works on the basis of slander campaigns."

CIDOC is an independent organization backed by no foundation or government association with no official church affiliations. It has an enrollment during a regular semester of about 250.

The Center, says Msgr. Illich, is the "only successful free university."

LABOR LEADER HAL BANKS:

The Seafarers International Union has nearly 20,000 members in Canada; at one time 1000 of them were on the union's "Do Not Ship" list—meaning that they could not get a job in the union's hiring halls. Hal Banks, an American who was Canadian director of the union, was once asked about who was on that list. He replied: "There were commie agitators, epileptics, sleepwalkers, perverts, drunks and thieves."

There were notations on the master list. One blacklistee was described as "another superior Frenchman." Another "wrote the Minister of Labor about a beef." And alongside one name, in Bank's own simple terminology, was the remark: "I slung the bum out."

Banks arrived in Canada in 1949, imported by fleet owners and the Trades and Labor Congress (then the Canadian version of the AFL) to beef up the 700-member Canadian branch of the SIU, and thereby to break the power of the Canadian Seamen's Union in which communists were active. He did his job ruthlessly and well, with a lot of help from Canada's Liberal government. The country's Labor Relations Board consistently ruled that the CSU wasn't a labor union at all but a "communist conspiracy," thus removing legal restraints against raids.

Banks broke the CSU without difficulty and then proceeded to break two more unions which were still defined as unions and which had nothing to do with communism. But when he began to move in on the Canadian Merchant Service Guild—a union of deck officers—the Canadian Labor Congress expelled the SIU for raiding and set out to get rid of Banks. He's out of Canada now, but he's also out of jail—thanks to

Dean Rusk and the war in Vietnam.

In 1957, in a parking lot in Owen Sound, Ontario, Captain Henry Walsh was so severely beaten that he is crippled for life. Captain Walsh was an organizer for the CMSG, working to hold his membership against Banks' raiding. Banks denied any part in the affair, testifying before a Canadian Royal Commission (which operates something like a congressional committee except that no testimony can be used later in a criminal prosecution—a sort of automatic immunity).

The Canadian government, in 1952, had granted Banks the status of a landed immigrant. A criminal record was, at the time, an absolute bar to the granting of such status, and Banks had done time in San Quentin on a bad check charge. But it seems that when Banks filled out Form 1000, there was no Question 17 on it. Question 17 reads: "Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense?" It was later explained that the question was dropped from a few forms because of an error in the government printing bureau.

Five years later, though, the government had had enough of Banks. Still, the SIU made large contributions to the Liberal Party. When it became evident that Banks would be charged with involvement in the assault on Captain Walsh, the charge somehow turned out to be *conspiracy* to commit assault—an important difference. Banks was convicted, posted \$25,000 bail in order to appeal and drove across the border in his white Cadillac convertible. He spends his time now around SIU headquarters in New York and on the union's yacht moored off Flatbush.

There is an extradition treaty between Canada and the United States, and it covers extradition for assault. It does not, however, cover the conspiracy charge. Conservative politicians in Canada began to claim that Banks had been charged with conspiracy for just that reason—and the government of the province of Ontario came up with another idea. It charged Banks with perjury before the Royal Commission and demanded his extradition from the United States to face trial.

In August 1967, Banks was arrested in Brooklyn. U.S. Commissioner Salvatore Abruzzo ordered him extradited to Canada, over the arguments of Abram Chayes, an attorney who was once

deputy undersecretary of State. Chayes appealed the case directly to the secretary of State.

"Because the charge of perjury in this case arises directly out of a denial of guilt of a non-extraditable offense," Rusk decided, "I have concluded that it would not be compatible with the overall design and purpose of the extradition treaty. . . ." Banks was released from custody on March 15, 1968.

Banks, decidedly a Man Not in the News in the United States, is a very well-known figure in Canada, and there are some angry Canadians who still want him back. In the United States, however, the SIU is the most hawkish of unions (President Paul Hall once proposed a boycott of all ships from nations which do business with North Vietnam) and eagerly goes out of its way to provide loyal support in the supplying of American troops in Vietnam.

Beyond that, Commissioner Abruzzo allowed himself to say, when he ordered Banks released as a result of Rusk's decision, that he doubted whether, in the near future, the United States would extradite anybody to Canada for anything. After all, there are all those draft dodgers up there, and Canada won't send them back.

PRIVATE ANDY STAPP:

Andy Stapp is a twenty-four-year-old New Yorker (originally from Philadelphia) who just did two years in the Army. Or, rather, he would have done two years, except that three weeks before his hitch was up they booted him out for violating AR604-10, which deals with "subversion and disloyalty."

They took Stapp into the Army despite the fact that he burned his draft card at Penn State in 1965 and was busted in Washington during a peace demonstration the same year. Probably they didn't expect that once ensconced at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he could do much. With the help of a few radical New Yorkers who went to Oklahoma to join him, Andy organized the American

Servicemen's Union. He says the union "has an unofficial membership of about two million, because that's how many guys are being pushed around in the Army." More officially, the union now has organizers on 10 or 15 Army bases in addition to Fort Sill.

The union's demands are for a minimum wage, enlistees' control of courts-martial, election of officers, an end to racism in job training and job assignment, and the release of political prisoners now in stockades (there are at least 100 Army personnel being held for anti-war activities). They also demand recognition of the right to disobey an order unlawful under Nuremberg decisions—specifically, the right to refuse orders to go to Vietnam.

As if that weren't enough, Stapp went around telling his fellow soldiers that he's a communist (he says he doesn't join the Communist Party because "it's a liberal organization"), and—even worse—convincing them that they ought to be radicals too. "They had to move 15 guys out of one artillery unit because of political activity in June of 1967," he reports.

It took them a full field hearing and two courts-martial to nail him, mostly because his buddies wouldn't testify against him. At his last trial, a wild and open affair in which the Army even brought in HUAC standby Helen Gittings to provide testimony on the Red Menace, a parade of Stapp's fellow enlistees testified that they were Marxists and communists too and couldn't see anything wrong with what he was doing.

But they got him (one item of evidence was a photograph of the contents of his footlocker, which they broke into; it included copies of publications by Marx and Lenin, radical periodicals like PL, Challenge, Partisan and Workers World and a couple of copies of RAMPARTS), and Stapp is now editing The Bond, a radical publication for servicemen, in New York City.

What Andy Stapp remembers best about his Army career is his wedding (Dierdre Stapp is, and was before her marriage, editor of Partisan). The officer in charge of military intelligence at Fort Sill was on hand, and after the wedding was asked questions about why it took place. "This is obviously," the officer said, "a political merger—like a marriage between a DuPont and a Ford."



A Letter from

Cleaver