

national

Bishops to teach evils of nuclear war

United Press International
DETROIT — The nation's Roman Catholic bishops are preparing to teach that stockpiling nuclear weapons for defense is as immoral as nuclear attacks on civilians, a Michigan priest says.

The Rev. Charles Irvin, pastor of Church of the Holy Spirit in Hamburg, Mich., said Sunday the final draft of a pastoral letter on war and peace also will say it is immoral to start nuclear war. Major segments of the final

draft have been reviewed by Irvin, one of six U.S. priests who advise the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on policy matters.

Irvin has said the pastoral letter retains its strong anti-nuclear deterrence stance despite attempts by the White House to water it down.

"The bishops are very skeptical about any nation's ability to contain nuclear warfare," he said. "The letter stops short of outright condemnation of a first

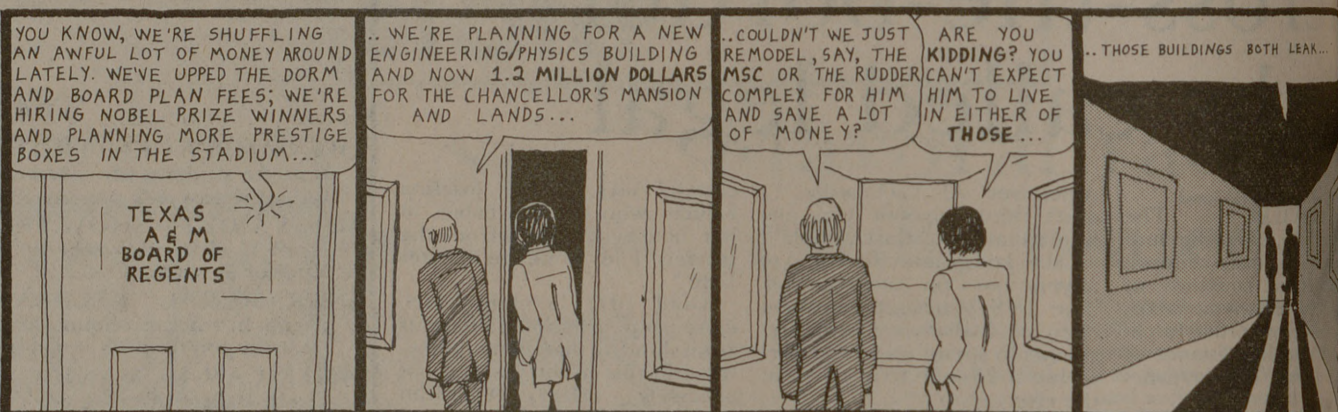
strike, but leaves the reader clearly knowing that the bishops, at least, see the possibility of containment of any nuclear use to be practically impossible."

The nation's 258 Roman Catholic bishops are expected after an early May meeting in Chicago to issue the letter, which calls for a nuclear freeze between the United States and the Soviet Union. President Reagan says the letter may damage arms negotiations.

"They see an uncontrolled arms race that has its own life, like a Frankenstein," he said. "It has such a devastating magnitude that has to be controlled."

He said the bishops will link their letter directly to the church's teaching against abortion.

Warped



by Scott McCullin

New Orleans officer talks

Cop brutality verdict 'bad'

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — One of four New Orleans officers found innocent in the Algiers Seven trial in Dallas predicts the jury's split verdict will hurt morale in the department and encourage criminals to make claims of police brutality.

Thomas Woodall, the first of the seven defendants to speak

publicly since the case began 2.5 years ago, predicted police department morale will be low because of the verdict.

"I think the message has been sent back to the criminals in the community who constantly violate the law — who constantly create victims — that if you're picked up and you give a confession, say you were beaten," Woodall said.

Woodall blamed federal prosecutors for being too zealous in pursuing the case.

"It was overzealousness on

their part," he said. "It was pushed on their part. A judge in our own community threw out all the charges at one point, but they refilled them."

Woodall, 32, and officers Ronald Brink, Stephen Reboul, and Richard LeBlanc, were cleared of charges that they beat black citizens during the investigation into the murder of a New Orleans policeman in 1980.

Three other officers were found guilty last Monday of felony civil rights charges by the jury in Dallas, where the trial was moved because of publicity. The convicted officers face up to 11 years in prison and maximum fines of \$11,000. They were fired from the force on Thursday.

Government witnesses testified during the three-week trial that they were beaten, held hours with bags over their heads and threatened with shotgun police questioned them about the slaying of officer George Neupert.

Four residents of the Algiers neighborhood were shot and killed by police during the investigation, but no charges were filed. Neupert's slaying remains unsolved.

Mary Howell, one of seven government attorneys involved in the trial, said that the verdict was only a partial victory for the police.

"I think we've got to realize that there were four people killed during the investigation," she said. "There were 15 others who were beaten, brutalized and terrorized by police force."

"The officers who did the acts are still on the police force today. I think that when the people are behind bars and the police force, that's the way we can say that there is justice."

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