

THE CATHOLIC COMMISSION ON INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
620 Michigan Avenue  
Washington 17, D.C.

MEMORANDUM: National Meeting, Chicago, April 27 - 7 - 8

TITLE OF MEETING: "Environments of Respect for Learning"

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

In 1954-55 the Commission initiated a discussion of American Catholics and the Intellectual Life, emphasizing the necessity of competence. In 1955-56 Values in Contemporary Scholarship and Education were discussed. Here the emphasis was on motivation and zeal.

This year the Commission takes its lead from the paper Professor Marston Morse delivered at last year's annual meeting and proposes to make an inquiry into "environments" where respect for learning can and should be fostered. The child, we all recognize, develops its sense of values from its parents, its teachers, its priests; the family, the school, the parish are environments where respect for learning is either developed or not developed. And at one step removed are the novitiate, the seminary, the college where the teachers, the priests, and the parents are trained. Are our families, our schools, our houses of religious formation environments of respect for learning? Are they contemporary expressions of the Church's historical witness to a tradition of respect for the values involved in learning?

PROCEDURE OF THE MEETING:

The meeting will be a closed meeting, but in addition to those of its own members who will be present, the Commission is also inviting to participate in the discussions a group of non-members specially selected from the environments being studied. They will include outstanding members of the family apostolate and members of the Catholic educational system at all levels, who are thinking creatively about the problems involved. This will be our first face-to-face dialogue as a Commission with a group representing the American Catholic community generally, and it is important that as many members of the Commission as possible be there for the discussions. Those who are sitting down with us are interested, open-minded, and quite eager to carry into action whatever real proposals we may have to make.

Discussion will be divided between a) plenary sessions in which material, especially material of a theological nature, relevant to the problem of respect for learning will be presented and b) seminars in which the individual environments will be considered in specific detail. Working papers, now in preparation, will be supplied to all participants in advance of the meeting so that they may come prepared for the seminar work.

DETAILS OF THE MEETING:

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Friday, April 26  
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Saturday, April 27  
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Sunday, April 28

Place: The University of Chicago. The University has kindly placed at our disposal, facilities in its Social Science Building, University Avenue at 59th Street (1126 East 59th Street). The meeting will open in the auditorium on the first floor of the Social Science Building (Room 122).

Transportation: University and 59th can be most conveniently reached by the Illinois Central suburban train from the Loop or by the Elevated (Jackson Park train) from most points in Chicago.

The I. C. stops at 59th Street itself at the Eastern end of the University and can be boarded in downtown Chicago on Michigan Avenue at three places -- Randolph, Van Buren, or 12th Street.

The stop on the Elevated most convenient to the University is 63rd and University. Walk back to 59th and University.

Hotels: The names and addresses of two hotels closest to the University are:

1. Windemere East - 1642 E. 56th St., Fa-4-6000
2. Del Prado - 5307 S. Hyde Park - Hy-3-9600

The Windemere East has been recommended as the better of the two. If one prefers to stay in a downtown hotel, the Illinois Central is a quick and convenient means of transportation from downtown Chicago to 59th Street.

Program: Copies of the program together with working papers for the seminars will be circulated in a few weeks.

Enclosed find a postcard for reply.