

"Star" Nov. 26, 1960.

# Church Statement Is Conciliatory

This is a translation of the statement on the church-state issue in Puerto Rico which was released yesterday by the Most Rev. James P. Davis, archbishop of the San Juan Roman Catholic Diocese:

"The secretary-chancellor of the archbishopric, Msgr. Rafael Grovas, has submitted to me a detailed report of the contents and the circumstances of the publication of the Chancery's Circular of Nov. 18, addressed to the reverend priests, and relating to the norms on public administration by the priests.

### Approves Report

"I have accepted and approved the report by Msgr. Grovas.

"From said report it appears that:

"1. The circular does not contradict the last two Pastoral Letters of the Bishops of Puerto Rico in respect to what is ordered in them regarding the vote in favor of the Popular Democratic Party."

"In the Pastoral Letters it was stated said voting was a sin, but no sanctions were imposed."

"The Nov. 18 circular coincides with the letters on this point."

"2. The Nov. 18 circular enters upon the matter, also, of the public sin of he who promotes under-cover aversion or hatred for the acts, decrees, decisions or sentences of the Roman Archbishop or of the local priest." (Canon 2344)

### Cities Conformity

"In this matter, the circular limits itself to informing what is ordered respecting the matter in said Canon 2344.

"There is, therefore, perfect conformity, between the quotation in the circular and the discipline of the church in those cases, in which the direct and immediate responsibility regarding the administration of the sacraments falls on the priest who administers them.

"On the other hand, to form a criteria of practical application, one should take into account the confusion on the part of many Catholics regarding the gravity of the sin involved in these cases, confusion produced by contradictory quotations of our ec-

clesiastic authorities of Puerto Rico, the confusion influenced the minds of many Catholics.

"Because of these circumstances, and for the greater tranquillity of the conscience of the Catholic people of Puerto Rico, we made our statements, which we now repeat, to the effect that the orders of the Canonical Law regarding public sinners shall not be applied in the specific cases of the Catholic vote in favor of the Popular Democratic Party.

### PDP Clause Mentioned

"Finally, we take this opportunity to repeat once more that the church is in the best disposition of conciliation regarding any statement or official explanation of the Popular Democratic Party which would definitely make it very clear that the official position of the Popular Democratic Party in this matter does not imply any intention to create any problem of conscience to the Catholics who are members of said party.

"Perhaps it would be preferable to eliminate totally that

clause. But, all this, naturally, is of the exclusive concern of the Popular Democratic Party.

"It is evident that such an attitude of the Popular Democratic Party would serve greatly

to pacify the consciences on this point.

"Given at our residence in San Juan, P. R., Nov. 23, 1960.

(signed) James P. Davis,  
Archbishop of San Juan, P. R.