

Cushing Irate at Onassis Furor, Says He Will Retire This Year

By JOHN H. FENTON
Special to The New York Times

BOSTON, Oct. 25—Richard Cardinal Cushing, reacting angrily to criticism of his defense of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis's marriage, said today, "I've had it," and announced his intention to resign as Archbishop of Boston as of the end of this year.

And he termed a "colossal lie" reports that either Mrs. Onassis or her new husband, Aristotle Socrates Onassis, had telephoned him from Greece to thank him for his stand.

Recalling that he had announced his retirement for August, 1970, at the age of 75, the Cardinal went on, "I propose after the publicity I have received in recent days in my native city, which publicity has been going all over the world, to offer my resignation to His

Holiness Pope Paul VI at the end of this year."

This is not the first time Cardinal Cushing has talked of resigning. At least twice in the past he has asked the Vatican to permit him to give up his prelate and become a missionary priest in South America. Each time he was turned down.

The outspoken Roman Catholic prelate, in a talk to a group of Boston beverage-industry businessmen this week, pleaded for charity toward the widow of President Kennedy.

Asking, "Why can't she marry whoever she wants to marry whomever she wants to said it was "a lot of nonsense" to say she was excommunicated for having married a divorced man. There was sharp reaction

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from throughout the world.

The Cardinal's announcement of his intention to resign was made in a taped interview with Arthur W. Smith, news director of radio station WEEI, the Columbia Broadcasting System outlet in Boston.

A telephone call to the Cardinal's residence to confirm his decision brought a cryptic reply from the prelate, who answered personally.

"It's absolutely true," said Cardinal Cushing, "as of the end of the year, I've had it."

Then he added, "Be sure to get the whole statement from the radio station."

Earlier in the day, a messenger from the station was sent to the Cardinal's residence to show him the text of an editorial that is to be read tomorrow by Donald J. Rageser, regional vice president of C.B.C. and general manager of the radio station. The editorial supports the Cardinal.

The messenger on his return said the Cardinal seemed very much upset and had said he probably would resign. Mr. Smith called the Cardinal, who agreed to a taped interview.

Cardinal Cushing explained that President Kennedy had once asked him to take care of his wife and their children if anything should happen to him.

"I had a commitment to them," said the Cardinal, "I have fulfilled it even though my contacts with Jacqueline were for the most part in times of sorrow."

Her Mind Was Made Up

The former First Lady came to him "some months ago" and told of her wedding plans, he said. The Cardinal aid her mind was made up to marry the Greek shipping executive and "I could not nor would I presume to change her thinking."

Cardinal Cushing said he could now "salute him in memory and say, 'Jack, I have fulfilled my promise.'"

But, he went on, "it has showered on me so many mail deliveries, some of which are in the language of the gutter if I may so characterize them, that I have decided to change my own future plans."

The marriage of Mr. Onassis and the former Jacqueline Kennedy took place Sunday on the Greek island of Skorpios, which is owned by Mr. Onassis.

TEXT OF INTERVIEW

After John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, was married, he asked me to take care of Jacqueline and their children, if they had any. I have fulfilled that commitment.

After President Kennedy was assassinated, I was always at the service of Jacqueline and the youngsters. I had a commitment to them. I have fulfilled it even though my contacts with Jacqueline were for the most part in times of sorrow.

Time advanced. She wanted to get married. She selected her own partner in marriage some months ago. She came

to me after others advised against her marriage. Her mind and heart were settled upon Mr. Onassis. I could not nor would I presume to change her thinking.

My own sister had married a Jewish young lad. They lived together in perfect peace and harmony for over 30 years. In the beginning they were married outside of the Catholic Church. Eventually they were able to get their marriage validated within the Catholic Church.

Her husband went to the synagogue, my sister went to the Catholic Church. In any event, it turned out to be a perfect marriage.

Never did I say that Jacqueline Kennedy, either to her or to anybody else, could be married in the Catholic Church at the present time. Any more than I could say the same to my sister when she married a Jewish lad and a wonderful husband. I said she could marry anyone she wished and that's what the press picked up.

Not Within Church

I presume that whoever reported my remarks would know that I meant that she could marry anyone she wished but not within the Catholic Church. I also told her that if the marriage was invalid she could not receive the sacraments of the Catholic Church but that she could participate in the liturgy of

the church, namely, the mass, for example. And that she could continue all the private devotions she had as a Catholic.

What, I ask, is wrong with that advice? Thousands in this archdiocese of over two million Catholics have received similar advice, among them, my own sister.

"What the future status of Jacqueline's marriage in the Catholic Church is not for me to decide. But of one thing I am certain, when my dearest friend, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, asked me to take care of Jacqueline and the children—if anything happened to him—I can salute him today in memory and say, 'Jack, I have fulfilled my promise,' but it has showered upon me so many mail deliveries, some of which are in the language of the gutter,

if I may so characterize them, that I have decided to change my own plans.

"As of Aug. 24, 1970, I proposed to retire as Archbishop of Boston. At that time I shall be about 50 years a priest, about 30 years a bishop, of which about 25 years

have been spent as Archbishop of Boston.

"Now I propose after the publicity I have received in recent days in my own native city, which publicity has been going all over the world, to offer my resignation to His Holiness Pope Paul VI at the end of this year.

Many letters, I have received condemning me for asking charity for Jacqueline Kennedy have stated that I am only interested in money. Let me tell them all, please, that I entered the Catholic priesthood without a penny and I shall leave it without a

penny, for I made a solemn vow of poverty many years ago as a Franciscan that I would never take for myself one cent. Not even a mass stipend or offering from the Catholic priesthood.

One final thought, Arthur. Today and yesterday over TV, the radio and the press, it was stated that Jacqueline or Mr. Onassis called me on the telephone. That is a colossal lie.

Therefore I end as I began with the officers of the charity of Caritas Guild. Once again I appeal for Jacqueline, for her children whom President Kennedy committed to me, for a little more charity on the part of those who are condemning Jacqueline.

As for myself, I shall fulfill at any cost what President Kennedy has told me to do. If anything happened to me—and he seemed to foresee that something was go-

ing to happen to him—if anything happens to me, be good to Jacqueline and to the children. My dear friends, I have fulfilled my promise.

God bless you all.

Rejection Foreseen

VATICAN CITY, Oct. 25 (UPI)—A high Vatican source said tonight that Pope Paul would probably turn down the resignation of Cardinal Cushing if he went through with his plans to submit it at the end of this year.

"Of course, any decision on such matters is entirely up to the Pope and no one can speak for him," the Vatican informant said. "But the Holy Father holds Cardinal Cushing in high esteem and I think, at least as an initial reaction, he would turn down his resignation."

"If the Cardinal insisted strongly on retiring, I feel the Pope might eventually accept his resignation—but not right away."