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National Conference on "Culture and Crisis: The Social Thought of Michael Polanyi"

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DAYTON, Ohio, April 18, 1972 --- The Consortium for Higher Education Religion Studies is sponsoring a National Conference on "Culture and Crisis: The Social Thought of Michael Polanyi." The conference will be a discussion of the more recent writings of Michael Polanyi and their implications for rethinking the foundations of culture and will be held May 4-8 at St. Leonard College in Centerville, Ohio. The University of Dayton Department of Theological Studies is participating.

Participants in the conference will consist of thirty people representing various disciplines, all of whom have some familiarity with Dr. Polanyi's thought. They will actively discuss Polanyi's recent writings in the conference sessions, while Dr. Polanyi will open the conference with a paper summarizing the main directions of his recent writings. Meals and housing will be furnished at St. Leonard College, with a minimal fee for the honorary dinner on May 4, as the only cost. There will also be observers at the conference who will not take part in the discussions, but will have a chance to meet the participants informally. UD has conducted mini-courses of the subject during the current term.

Dr. Polanyi has a long and distinguished career in both the physical and social sciences. He has earned the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. He has taught and lectured at many Universities and has authored nine books on such diversified topics as science, economics, and philosophy.

Dr. Polanyi was elected a foreign member of the National Society of Science, Letters and Arts (Naples) in 1933, a Fellow of the Royal Society (England) in 1944, and a member of the Max Planck Society (West Germany) in 1949. He is a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (Philosophy section) and the International Academy of the philosophy of Science. In addition, he holds honorary D.Sc. degrees from Princeton, Leeds, Notre Dame and Manchester, as well as honorary LL.D. degrees from Aberdeen and Wesleyan Universities.

Originally from Budapest, Hungary, Dr. Polanyi is now at Oxford University.

Dr. Polanyi is opposed to reducing the explanation of life solely in terms of the physical sciences. He says "We should try to forget the word 'scientific' for ten years. The current ideas of science are false and misleading."

Bruno Manno, S.M., is in charge of the conference and those wishing to attend as observers should send in the registration forms plus a fee of five dollars to Bruno Manno, S.M., 605 Xenia Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45410.

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