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Rectory of
Immaculate Conception Church
467 Delaware Avenue
Kingston, N. Y.

Feb. 18th, 1944

To the Editor -

My dear sir -

May I offer a suggestion? I am sure you can do much through your paper.

Why is it that as often as Polish names appear in articles written in English, they appear in Polish? Is it not an inconsistency? How can we expect to acquaint non-Poles with Polish names - seemingly unpronounceable to them - unless we use the English form? For instance, how often have you seen Mikołajczak's first name in English - in articles written in English? How many non-Poles can give his first name? Stanislaw is - as a matter of fact - neither Polish nor English.

Let's take the POLISH REVIEW as a sample since I have it before me, vol. IV, no. 6 Feb. 15th, 1944, page 4 & 5. Everything on the two pages is in English, evidently for those unacquainted with the Polish language. And yet, the very important NAMES are not in English, for those presumably unable to understand or read or pronounce Polish v.g. Wincenty Wites instead of Vincent Wites; Maciej instead of Matthew; Władysław instead of Ladislaus; Stanisław instead of Stanislaus, - and not Stanley for there is no St. Stanley.

Take page 14 for instance. Everything in the "box" is in English, except the christian name of the very editor. What a good example for

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imitation! Why should it be Stanislaw which is neither Polish nor English, instead of Stanislaus? How can non-Poles remember and use in conversation these important names as in the case of the Prime Minister of Poland, if they can't pronounce them?

How can we expect to have our own boys and girls use their correct names in English and be proud of them, when we find Polish editors failing to teach and educate them? Is it any wonder that they are ashamed to use them, when as a matter of fact, they often don't know the real translation of their names in English? And whose fault is it?

For instance, here in my own parish, what did I find in 1937 when I arrived? Not one Stanisław used Stanislaus until I insisted on it. They were known as and they themselves used Steve or Stanley or Sam. Zachowaj nas, Panie. Władysław were known as and they themselves used Walter instead of the proud Ladislaus. Wacław, Walter instead of Wenceslaus. Bolesław, Bernard instead of Boleslaus. And now I find it most difficult to teach them to use their proper names. One very serious obstacle is the fact that their elders refuse to set the good example.

But whose fault is it? It just occurs to me. How many non-Poles knew the first name of God rest his soul - Sikorski. What did we find in the English newspapers? Everything and anything but Ladislaus.

Why is it that dispatches in English

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fail in this regard? Why do our boys and girls use such forms as Stanley? Walter? Bernard? and what not? NAWET WIELCY PATRIOCI! Is it ignorance? Is it shame? Can the youngsters be blamed?

Incidentally I don't claim to be perfect in Polish. As a matter of fact, that is one of the reasons I have written this letter in English. As a matter of fact, I received no Polish education, never "saw the inside of a Parochial School." Not my fault either, for there was none in our home town, Newburgh, N.Y. The truth is that I am very imperfect in Polish. What little I know, I "picked up" myself.

Please use your influence - and you have plenty - in this matter for the sake of us Americans who are intensely proud of our Polish ancestry and who want others to recognize our Polish lineage by such names as Stanislaus and not Stanley; Ladislaus and not Walter; Boleslaus and not Bernard; Wenceslaus and not Walter etc. especially when the Polish family name is lost through "mieszane małżeństwa".

As a matter of fact, whenever the Polish name is lost through "mieszane małżeństwa", I insert the Polish name, as for instance, Mrs. Daniel Madajewski Styles or Mrs. Dennis Falatyn Murphy. These two ladies are actually members of my parish. Of the 145 Polish families that comprise my parish, I have over a hundred "mieszane małżeństwa". So you see why I am interested in this matter.

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This I do not only in my Sunday announcements in church but in my broadcasts over the air. Oh, yes, I conduct a Polish Hour every Sunday at 5 P.M. And by the way, I conduct the Polish Hour in English over WKNY 1490 on the dial, for I am interested in educating our neighbors in the glorious history of Poland and the debt America and the whole world owe to Poland and her many illustrious sons and daughters. This incidentally has been neglected by the Polish Propaganda agencies,

Before closing, ^{about this very matter} I would like to add that I wrote to the author of a very interesting and helpful booklet "Poland's Contribution to the World's Civilization" in this matter. However, I never received even an acknowledgement of my letter, though in his foreword, he wrote: Readers are free to comment on this work.

My dear sir, please accept this constructive criticism in the wholesome spirit in which it is written. I intend to write to the N.Y. TIMES asking them to use the correct Christian names in their articles about Poland.

God bless you in advance for anything you may do in this very worthy and educational cause.

Most sincerely yours,

P.S. I almost forget, a month or so, I listened

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to the "Tums Program" one Tuesday Evening 8:30 and heard Horace Heidt interview a soldier and say, "Oh, you are a Polack!"

I immediately wrote to him and protested demanding a public apology. The following morning I went to our school and had each child from the Fourth Grade up write two open cards of protest, demanding a public apology; one to Horace Heidt and the other to the Tums Co.

In addition to that, I mentioned the incident over the air during my regular Sunday Polish Hour and insisted that all of Polish ancestry do the same. I even repeated the same in Polish.

Incidentally, the answer I received from the company was strange indeed, believe it or not, they wrote that it is strange that no protest came from any other part of the country EXCEPT Kingston.