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Rotary Head Lauds Aims of Group

A Vatican ruling once interpreted as barring Catholics from Rotary Clubs has now been clarified and "it's perfectly all right for a layman to be a member of Rotary," Arthur Lagueux, president of Rotary International, said in an interview here today.

Lagueux, on a tour of American and Canadian cities, was the speaker at the Cleveland Rotary Club luncheon at Hotel Statler.

A Roman Catholic, he said: "Laymen have to abide by Canon Law 684, which applies to secret and seditious societies. That wouldn't include Rotary."

Some Catholic clergymen have resigned, he said, while others have asked for leaves of absence or have stopped coming to Rotary meetings as a result of the papal pronouncement.

"It's usually a matter of local situations," said Lagueux. "In some dioceses, priests will always get permission of their bishops before making any address. I've been in Rotary for more than 15 years and have held many offices. I've never run into anything that is against any church."

At the luncheon, Lagueux said: "The quality of human understanding, as developed and promoted first in the local Rotary club . . . transcends national boundaries and eliminates prejudices of long standing."

Because the problems of the whole world have become so inter-related, he said, individual Rotary Clubs or Rotarians can no longer depend solely on diplomats to handle all international



ROTARY CLUB ENTERTAINED Arthur Lagueux, center, president of Rotary International, last night at a Hotel Statler dinner. Greeting him after a flight from his home in Quebec are Grant Stone, president of Cleveland Rotary, and Mrs. Stone. Mrs. Lagueux is at the right.

relations.

"The problems of the UN will never be solved by the diplomats alone. They will be solved only by the full force of an informed and enlightened public opinion.

It is in the creation of such a public opinion that a Rotary Club has one of its greatest opportunities for service."

Lagueux lives in Quebec, Canada.

New Alibis