

Federal Education Bill Is Opposed By Noted Educators

Dr. Macken of Princeton Tells Joint Committee of Congress That It Would Result in Intellectual Slavery—President of Johns Hopkins Characterizes it as Dangerous—President Lowell of Harvard, Also Protested

National Referendum Hostile Representative of Archdiocese of Boston Charges Dropping of Subsidy Was Merely Tactical Move and Insincere—Judge (Call of Cleveland Predicts a Wave of Popular Resentment if Bill Should Be Enacted

Washington, Feb. 25.—The oft-debated bill to federalize education in the United States came up once more for hearings by members of Congress this week and was denounced as a proposal to enslave education, as sheer bureaucracy, as unwieldy, unnecessary, insecure and unfair.

Beating the new title of the Curtis-Reed Bill, it presumably had been safeguarded from the heaviest attacks made upon it formerly through the dropping of the federal subsidy clause. No federal aid is now asked in the bill providing only for a Federal Department and a Cabinet Secretary. However, its opponents refused to acknowledge it as invulnerable on this point and hurled the added charge of insincerity, time and again, asserting that expediency alone had prompted the dropping of the subsidy feature and that the intent to demand huge sums in federal aid was still uppermost in the minds of proponents of the bill.

Subsidy Idea Still Strongly Favored Attacks on the measure followed a day in which Senate and House sub-committees, in joint session, had heard all the seven-year-old arguments in its favor expounded, together with assertions that all objectionable features had now been eliminated.

Marshaled in careful array by Dr. Charl Williams, field secretary of the National Education Association, eighteen speakers for the measure followed each other throughout Wednesday, each bent on impressing upon the legislators that the bill now meets the objections formerly advanced against it. Under repeated questioning, however, chiefly from Representative Black of New York,

fully half a dozen admitted openly that the subsidy idea was still strong in the minds of the N. E. A. advocates and thus undid much careful work to cover up this issue.

And even half of those who testified in favor of the bill admitted they favored subsidy. One witness burst forth with the following damaging words:

"Of course I favor subsidy. It may not come this time, but its coming."

Most of the speakers for the bill were in Washington to attend the convention of the Department of Superintendence of the N. E. A., which on the day before had gone on record unanimously as favoring the measure. The hearing had been timed to coincide nicely with the convention. The N. E. A. endorsements were repeatedly cited as indicating that the teachers of the country unanimously favored the measure. Poes of the bill, however, backed by figures and teacher resolutions, shattered this claim.

Heads of universities, college professors, public school superintendents, parochial school heads, N. C. W. C. speakers, and representatives of various citizen groups alternated in the attacks on the bill. Their contentions, in the main, were first, that it is unnecessary, but chiefly that its adoption would inevitably mean bureaucracy and a stagnating Federal control at the expense of the States, spelling the end of educational liberty.

Letters of Protest Letters strongly protesting the bill were introduced into the record from Dr. Lowell, President of Harvard University; Governor Ritchie of Maryland and Governor Billings of Vermont, and Secretary of the Interior Work made a formal report opposing the measure.

"I am opposed to the creation of a Federal Secretary of Education because I believe it would almost inevitably bring education into politics and make the appointment of that office a political one," said President Lowell's letter.

"It is important to keep the educational, as well as the scientific work, of the Federal Government in the hands of experts. Action by the Federal Government is almost sure to mean a certain bureaucratic uniformity whereas it seems to me that we need in this country a wide diversity in educational experimentation; for about education we talk much and know little."

Federal Education Slavery Dr. J. Gresham Macken, of the Faculty of Princeton Theological Seminary, led off with the charge that a Federal Department of Education, working efficiently, would be the worst kind of slavery the world has ever known. This was in reply to repeated assertion by proponents of the bill that it would bring efficiency into government educational endeavor. The work it is proposed that the Department do is, the objectionable thing, Dr. Macken declared, and the more efficient it became the worse it

would be. Standardization, he held, is bad in itself, and, more important, it is the foe of liberty.

"The result it is aiming to accomplish," he said, "I hold to be nothing short of slavery. I hope not only that this bill will be defeated, but that this whole tendency will be stopped. It aims at the heart of liberty. We are contending for a principle absolutely necessary for educational liberty. Unless we preserve liberty in our schools, we cannot hope to preserve liberty anywhere else. If you give the bureaucrats the child, then we must give them everything else. We are having today a gradual intellectual as well as moral decline as a result of this principle of uniformity and standardization."

Johns Hopkins' President Opposes Bill Erection of the new Department would "inevitably bring the whole of public education into the field of active politics," Dr. Frank J. Goodnow, President of Johns Hopkins University, declared. Under the Constitution, he added, education was never meant to be a Federal function.

"I don't believe this bill expresses the real intent of those back of it," was Dr. Goodnow's open challenge. "If we are to judge by the immediate past, we can expect shortly demands for large sums of money. Then, standardization and uniformity are inevitable, and that is not only undesirable, it is dangerous. A needs change, education must change. If the same sort of control is exercised over the schools as is exercised in the other departments, then it means stagnation. Experimentation by states will cease. The tendency would be next to exercise control over what we teach. I believe it is a dangerous bill."

Frank C. Page, speaking as the representative of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, told how the Chamber had circulated a questionnaire among its member bodies and how 1,319 1/2 votes had been cast opposing the creation of a Federal Department of Education to \$61 1/2 for such action. Twelve hundred votes had been received against a Federal subsidy to \$27 for it. Mr. Page expressed the view that the war had led to approval of federal centralization but believed that the pendulum is swinging the other way now. "We are now turning the power back to our people," he said, "and that is the only way to save our form of government. I feel very strongly that this is the opening wedge to a demand for federal subsidy."

The Rev. Augustine E. Hickey, Director of parochial school education in the Archdiocese of Boston, vigorously opposed the bill in the name of 90,000 Catholic pupils, 2,200 teachers and the million Catholics in the archdiocese, and ridiculed the idea that sponsors of the bill are sincere on the subsidy question.

"We object to any attempt on the part of the Federal Government to regulate the internal affairs or to superintend the domestic and personal interests of the people of Massachusetts," he declared. "We believe that the right to provide for the general welfare of the people of Massachusetts is vested in our own Commonwealth and is not to be surrendered to the United States."

"For seven years Congress has been harassed by a politico-educational group of American citizens clamoring for Federal control and Federal superintending of education. The hopes and plans of this highly organized effort for new educational legislation have met with serious obstacles. Their determination to succeed is dauntless. First the objectionable element of Federal control is dropped. Now, as a matter of good legislative tactics, they surrender again. Federal support of education is not asked in this new proposition of 1926. This year they plead for a Department of Education and a Secretary. For what purpose?"

"I believe sincerely, and those I represent share the conviction, that the sponsors of the Curtis-Reed Bill retain their original purpose in forcing before Congress their unreasonable demands for new educational legislation. They intend to place our public schools under the guidance, direction and control of the Federal Government. They intend to bring the several States into conformity by means of the fifty-fifty scheme with which we have been familiar for some years."

"The Citizens of the country have protested so strongly against these intentions that the proponents are this year trying to make progress in the only way that is open. We of Massachusetts are keenly interested in breaking down this growing tendency towards Federal bureaucracy."

The following statement addressed to the committee was read into the record on behalf of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, signed by the Rev. John J. Burke, C.S.P., General Secretary:

"Dear Sir: The National Catholic Welfare Conference emphatically protests against the present Senate Bill Number 291 (House Number 5000) on the grounds that it is an entirely unnecessary piece of legislation; that it is potentially extremely dangerous, and wholly inadvisable. What the Bill calls for is already being done by the Federal Bureau of Education and what further may be done by the Federal Bureau of Education can be done fully and efficiently by that same Bureau with additional appropriations."

Anglicans Outline Plan Of Campaign In The Near East

By Dr. Alexander Mombelli, Jerusalem Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service

Jerusalem, Feb. 8.—The "Egyptian Gazette" comments on the purposes and ends of Anglican proselytizing efforts in the Near East as follows: "Is anyone so optimistic as to suppose that the various (Oriental) Churches would allow themselves to be absorbed by any one Church? Certainly not. Does anyone suggest that each church should shed its own peculiar idiosyncrasies and consent to stand for nothing more than the least common denominator of all the churches? No, it is not compromise that is wanted."

"The first step to take is to find some common ground where we can all join together and talk matters over, and try to discover what is right and what is wrong, and so, gradually to cultivate a spirit of corporate unity. Now this is exactly where there is a magnificent opening for the English Church. As with the British Empire, whose aim is among other things to weld the nations into one and to lead men to think internationally, so with the Church, our policy is not to 'westernize' the East, but to share with our friends there our respective talents."

"In religious matters, then, the Church of England does not seek to make Anglicans of the Greeks, the Latins, the Copts and the Armenians but she does want to establish a contact with the life and work of her sister churches. Here lies the very special mission of the English Church. Her position is unique. She claims to be both Catholic and Protestant. So far from apologizing for adopting this middle position, she rather glories in her effort to steer a course between the two extremes, and in her ability to get into touch with all denominations and churches which are at present separate. She wants to help and she can help as no other church can help, and the task which is set before her is nothing less than being the instrument in God's hand to expedite the reunion of Christendom."

The quotation is a fair illustration of the method adopted by Anglicanism in the Near East, of ignoring the true position and potentialities of the Catholic Church.

Anti-Catholic Papers Praise Prague Priest

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Prague, Feb. 13.—Even papers avowedly antagonistic to the Catholic Church have joined in the general praise of Father Methodus Zavoral, whose twentieth anniversary as Abbot of the Praemonstratensian Monastery of Prague has just been celebrated. All sorts of journals and individuals have sent the venerable priest their felicitations.

Abbot Zavoral is widely known as a preacher and author. He is particularly appreciated as a Czech patriot. At the beginning of the Republic, he became a member of the Revolutionary Committee and was made a Senator, although, in accordance with the decree of the Holy See barring all religious from being political candidates, he has since resigned his seat in the Senate. His scholarship—he is a master of eight foreign languages—has brought him high honors from several countries, including Italy and Roumania.

Why Irish Friars Objects to Pay Rates

Dublin, Feb. 22.—A very peculiar situation has arisen in the ancient town of Athlone, Westmeath County. The Government refused to allow the claim of the Franciscan Friars, in the Athlone Friary, to exemption from the obligation to pay rates. Father Fidelis explained that the Friars did not object to pay if legally bound to do so. He pointed out, however, that by a decision of the Courts, as recently as 1912, the Franciscans according to the terms of the law were presumed not to exist. The law on the point, which comes down from the Penal days, debars them from being considered in their priestly capacity. It follows that if they have no legal status they cannot legally be called on to pay governmental demands.

The Free State authorities are likely to bring in a bill giving legal rights to religious orders in Ireland, for the first time since the Protestant Reformation. As the measure could not be retrospective and redress centuries of persecution, it is probable the old liabilities will not be enforceable either, and that arrears of rates up to the time of the bill will in equity have to be discarded.

Georgetown To Have New Medical Building

Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—The Medical School of Georgetown University here is to have a new building, the Rev. Charles W. Lyons, S. J., President, told alumni at a luncheon Thursday. A new building now in progress, which will contain dormitories and a large assembly room, will be ready in May, Father Lyons said.

Apostolic Delegate Opens San Antonio Community House

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

San Antonio, Tex., Feb. 26.—The blessing and formal opening of the Catholic Community House conducted here by the Council of Catholic Women took place recently, with the Apostolic Delegate, the Most Rev. Pietro Fumasoni-Biondi, officiating, assisted by the Right Rev. Arthur Drossaerts, Bishop of San Antonio.

Following the blessing the Apostolic Delegate made a short talk in which he commended the Council of Catholic Women for undertaking this work among the Mexican people, a work which he said was very near to the heart of the Sovereign Pontiff. He wished for the women continued and even greater achievements in the future.

After the ceremony, an informal reception was held. Mrs. Henry Guerra, chairman of Community Centers; Mrs. R. J. Moore, president of the Council, and Miss Martina Pleace, Executive Secretary, were assisted in dispensing the hospitalities by members of the Council. Among the Catholic Clergy present were the Very Rev. Msgr. George L. Leech, Secretary of the Apostolic Delegation and Fathers Leo V. Murphy, M. S. Garriga, F. Schneider, B. Mayer, Eugene Nugraves and J. M. Preclado. A night school is being conducted at this House and social activities are being instituted for the young people. Miss Pleace is in charge.

Priests Win Prizes Given by Newspaper

(N. C. W. C. News Service)

Cleveland, Feb. 22.—Two Cleveland diocese priests were prize winners in a recent circulation campaign conducted by the Cleveland "Plain Dealer." Rev. Oldrich Zlamal of Cleveland was awarded one of three homes with a value of \$12,500 each and Rev. Patrick A. Logan of Lorain was given an automobile.

Besides the house and lot Father Zlamal also was given several hundred dollars additional award, commission on the subscriptions sent in. At a dinner Sunday night attended by City Manager W. R. Hopkins and other representative citizens, Father Zlamal announced that he would use the proceeds from the house and the extra commissions to build a home for the Sisters who teach in the parochial school and also to build a new parish house.

A loving cup commemorating Father Zlamal's victory also was given him by his parishioners.

Bishop Drossaerts Denounces Immoral Reviews And Fashions

San Antonio, Tex., Feb. 22.—A strong call for a general reform in women's fashions, together with an unsparing denunciation of bathing girls reviews as "degrading spectacles" of "young women being exhibited and appraised like dogs and cattle," has been issued by the Rt. Rev. Arthur J. Drossaerts, Bishop of San Antonio in a letter read in all the Catholic churches of the diocese. The letter also calls an "abomination" the appearing of women in male attire on the streets and in other public places.

A thorough reform in feminine fashions is imperative, Bishop Drossaerts declares. Present modes, he continued, are a scandal to modern life and a threat to Christian civilization. He questioned whether standards of morality are not being lowered, year by year.

Other modern abuses which the letter flayed were unchaperoned automobile parties, especially at night; indecent dances, and suggestive motion pictures.

Priest of 70 Years Becomes Chaplain In The Rif War

Tangier, Feb. 19.—Accompanying the troops who recently landed in Morocco to take part in the Rif campaign was a volunteer 70 years of age. He is Father Bernard Alix, a Capuchin.

Having heard that the Franciscans who are the ordinary chaplains of Morocco were not able to assure religious services for the new contingent fighting in the mountains, Father Alix bravely offered himself for this new ministry which is as difficult as it is fatiguing.

Father Alix was a missionary in Abyssinia in 1914. At the outbreak of the World War he enlisted and served as a chaplain.

Cleveland Catholics Charter Lake Vessel For Chicago Congress

Cleveland, Ohio, March 1.—The steamer See-and-bee, one of the largest vessels on the Great Lakes, has been chartered to take Cleveland Catholics to the Eucharistic Congress in Chicago in June. The party will leave here several days before the opening of the Congress and will be under the direction of Bishop Joseph Schrembs. The passenger list is limited to 750. The boat will be the home of those on board during their stay in Chicago.

Chicago Retreatants Draft Constitution

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Chicago, Feb. 26.—A constitution has just been drafted for the purpose of consolidating the retreat movement in Chicago and vicinity. At a meeting of the St. Francis Laymen's Retreat League arrangements were made for the passing of the League from the status of a volunteer movement to that of an organized body, the ultimate aim being to promote the closed retreats in several retreat centers in and around Chicago.

The St. Francis League was launched in March, 1925, at the close of the first closed retreat at Mayslake, the Franciscan retreat house at Hinsdale, Ill., near Chicago. In its first year it has enrolled 450 men. The membership is limited for the present to Mayslake retreatants.

Collection of funds in any way for the retreat house has been expressly eliminated by the rules of the League. The organization provides for an executive board of five officers and three regional chairmen. The executive board will act as a clearing house for all bookings of retreat classes. Bishop Hoban, who from the first has identified himself with the movement, will preside at a reunion of retreatants in March.

Italian Clergy Give Pledge Of Fidelity To Cardinal Gasparri

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Rome, Feb. 20.—The Executive Board of the Federation of Associations of the Italian Clergy has addressed the following letter to His Eminence Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, on the occasion of the letter recently sent him by Pope Pius dispelling rumors which had been circulated to the effect that he had incurred the displeasure of His Holiness:

"The Executive Board of the Federation of the Associations of the Italian Clergy having seen with profound sorrow the attacks published in certain newspapers against the venerated person of His Eminence, Cardinal Gasparri, greatly deploring this indecorous campaign against a Prince of the Holy Church who has deserved so well of the cause of God and who is so beloved by the clergy of Italy, particularly by the large membership of our national organization to which His Eminence has always given his protection and fatherly interest. It professes also, in the name of all the clergy of Italy (feeling sure of being their faithful interpreter in this) its allegiance to the Hierarchy at the cost of any sacrifice, pledging that obedience and devout homage which its invincible strength and the unshakable faith of its peaceful conquests. And it embraces this opportunity to congratulate His Eminence upon the magnificent letter addressed to him by the Holy Father."

The letter is signed by Msgr. Nazzeno Orlandi, vice-president of the Federation of the Italian Clergy.

Parochial Schools To Assist In Fight To Preserve Forests

Washington, Feb. 26.—A booklet stressing the enormous waste in lumber annually in the United States and appealing for cooperation in saving the forests, has been sent to every parochial school in the country by the American Tree Association, whose headquarters are in this city.

A dual purpose has been set for the little volume: to mark the completion of 50 years since the United States Government took the first step in forestry; and to serve as a text book for American Forest Week, which begins April 18. Two hundred thousand copies have been sent to all government and school officials in the country, to every public, parochial and private school, and to every library. The eloquence of verified figures is used to paint a tragic picture of the dissipation of America's tree resources and to interest all in efforts to halt the waste and reconstitute the forests.

One plea is that all who read may plant a "semi-centennial tree," register it with the Association and thus be placed on the honor roll it maintains. The Association is conducted without dues, the only requirement for membership being the planting of a tree. It mails suggestions for tree-planting free of charge, upon application.

Responses from schools throughout the country, say the officials here, are enthusiastic and indicate that hundreds of tree-planting programs will be held in the course of American Forest Week.

Superior Will Have \$500,000 Cathedral

Superior, Wis., Feb. 26.—The Rt. Rev. Joseph Pinton, Bishop of Superior, is completing plans for a new \$500,000 cathedral. Building operations are expected to be started sometime in March. Plans indicate that the cathedral will have a 300-foot frontage on Grand avenue and a 50-foot frontage on Belknap street. The church auditorium is to have a seating capacity of more than 1,100. The exterior will be of brick and limestone.

Goodwill To Germany Voiced By Catholic Bulletin In France

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Capitaine, Cologne Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service

Cologne, Feb. 22.—When the cornerstone of a great monument to the Sacred Heart was laid recently at Jacobsberg, (a mound near the former American area) the French "Bulletin Catholique International" published an article which has attracted widespread attention because of the sentiments of good will toward Germany expressed therein. The article reads in part:

"High upon on the bank of the Rhine, the national river of the Germans, that monument will be erected to the King of Peace. Its far extended arms will stretch in blessing over the country, its image will announce: 'Hated be still; I will reign over all mankind with the love of My heart.'"

"In harmony with the desires of those erecting it the monument will represent the will for peace of the peoples on the Rhine. The great thought and idea will be indicated externally. If we do not live to see that ideal realized, our children will see it. As the heirs of our ideal they will make the pilgrimage to the monument of the Prince of Peace. The monument of Christ, King of Peace, will then glorify and transfigure the nearby monument of Germania. And the song of the 'Wacht am Rhein' will, by and by, become an historical memory; not because nobody will watch on the Rhine but because two great nations will have forgotten their hatred before Him in the love of Whom they now unite themselves with a brotherly kiss."

Apostolic Nuncio Replies In Croatian To Ragusa's Welcome

Ragusa, Feb. 18.—Great rejoicing attended the visit of the Apostolic Nuncio, Msgr. Pellegrinetti, for while Ragusa has received within her walls papal consuls and viceregents, this is the first time since the Holy See was deprived of its temporal possessions that an Apostolic Delegate has visited this ancient city which was the rival of Venice for the dominion over the Adriatic.

Msgr. Pellegrinetti was met at the gate of the city by the Mayor, Dr. Koprivica, who delivered a cordial address of welcome to which the Nuncio replied in the Croatian tongue to the great delight of the masses of people assembled to greet him. The entrance to the city took the form of a triumphal procession, a group of youths in the native costume of the country carrying the baldachin. The venerable bishop, Msgr. Marcell, accompanied the distinguished visitor with all the members of the Chapter, every church bell in the city was set ringing, bands played while choirs sang the Benedictus, and the procession came slowly to the age-old thoroughfare, the Stradone, gaily adorned with banners, festoons of flowers and crowded with people, arriving at last at the Cathedral, where Msgr. Pellegrinetti made another address, declaring with visible emotion that in no city had he ever been given such a cordial welcome.

Monument Unveiled In Paris Cemetery To Canon Rousselot

Paris, Feb. 20.—In the presence of a large group of eminent scholars and delegates from the Municipal Council of Paris and of the Catholic Institute a monument was unveiled in the cemetery of Pere Lachaise in the memory of Canon Rousselot, inventor of experimental phonetics, who died last year.

It was Canon Rousselot who discovered the photography of speech and the means of correcting defects of speech.

M. Leon Berard, former Minister of Public Instruction, who had established an official chair for Canon Rousselot's course, spoke of the renaissance and precision brought by the priest to the study of phenomena which had seemed undiscoverable, and extolled his memory as that of one who had renewed a branch of human knowledge.

Msgr. Bandillart, Rector of the Catholic University of Paris, in the brief address delivered before he blessed the monument, declared that Canon Rousselot, a simple and kindly priest, had realized the wish of Cardinal Mercier who desired to see Catholics not merely among the adepts of science but among the "makers of science."

Detroit Women Join Fight On Obscenity

Detroit, Feb. 26.—Declaring that "nothing can be more damaging to the character of youth or more vicious in its subtle influence" than the dissemination of obscene literature, the Detroit League of Catholic Women has adopted a resolution that its 10,000 members will "cooperate with the women's clubs, parent-teacher associations and other civic organizations throughout the country in their endeavor to destroy this traffic in printed obscenity."