Sixty Millions For Non-Public Schools Sought

Washington —(NC)— Senator George D. Aiken of Vermont has introduced into the 80th Congress a bill authorizing a $60,000,000 federal grant to help non-public schools finance their essential school services such as "necessary transportation, non-religious instructional supplies and books, health examinations and services."

All non-public schools exempt from income tax are eligible. It is proposed that the funds be distributed among the states in proportion to the non-public school enrollments and be disbursed through the state treasurers.

In those states in which the State Educational Authority is not permitted by law to pay the funds to non-public schools the Commissioner of U. S. Office of Education will assume this responsibility. The bill requires non-public schools to bear at least 40 per cent of the cost of services for which federal funds are used, and to submit to an inspection or audit as to the manner in which the federal funds were expended.

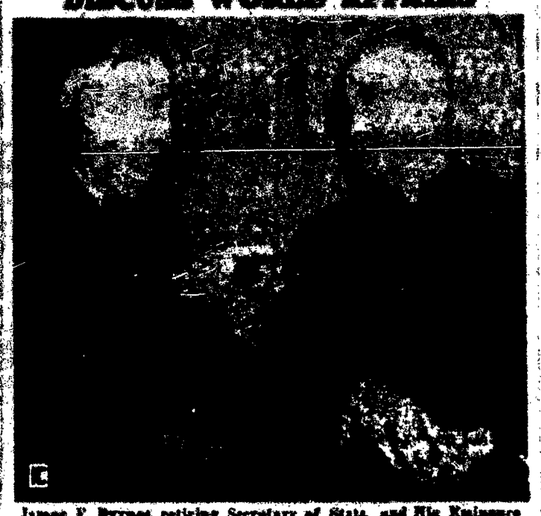
$100 a Child

These provisions are part of a measure which would give federal aid to the public elementary and secondary schools of all the states on a sliding scale, the total annual appropriation to reach $1,200,000,000 by 1952. To qualify for the federal funds local school jurisdictions must spend from local and state sources a certain minimum yearly amount, so that by 1953 at least $100 would be expended from all sources each year on each school child in public schools across the nation.

In a statement before the Senate, Senator Aiken explained that he favored federal aid for all the states — not just for the poorer ones — so that "a portion of the tax load for the support of education would be shifted from the shoulders of the real estate owner in each local school district, where it now rests far too heavily, to the shoulders of all who contribute through direct and indirect taxes to the federal treasury."

In defense of aid to non-public schools, the Senator declared that the motivation for such assistance is "implicit in the concept of democracy."

DISCUSS WORLD AFFAIRS



James F. Byrnes, retiring Secretary of State, and His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, hold an informal discussion before they spoke at the final session of the Council on World Affairs, held in the Cleveland Auditorium. Acme. (NC Photos)

Wheat Piles Up in Syria While Europe Starves

Damascus — (NC) — A puzzling question to people here, residents and visitors alike, is: Why is not more use made of the resources of the great grain-producing country bordering the Holy Land to feed the starving people of Europe, India and Asia?

Unbelievably great amounts of wheat have for some time been piled house-high in village after village like Homs, Hama, Aleppo, and other centers through which the railroad passes in Syria. The grain has been harvested, threshed and brought to rail centers with much effort, there to stand in what some observers have called "heart-breaking futility." There are thousands and hundreds of thousands of sacks of wheat at station after station. It stands there, one is told, awaiting the untangling of red tape that would make possible its purchase and transfer to countries facing starvation.

Inquiries made here have produced three reasons that are said to prevent the shipment of this life-saving grain to Europe. India or Asia. One is that Syria's single rail-line, still using rolling stock acquired from Turkey after World War I, is inadequate to the task of transportation. Another is that there is a shortage of motor transportation to carry the wheat over Syria's none-too-good highways. The third reason given is that UNRRA has been unable to agree with the Syrian Government on terms of purchase for this surplus grain. Here, however, it is said the Syrian Government has offered to sell the wheat to UNRRA for the price it paid to the farmers who raised the wheat, but that UNRRA demands a 50 per cent reduction in one form or another.

Persons here who have watched the situation contend that trucks should be brought to Syria to transport this tragically needed foodstuff to the nearby coast, for shipping across the Mediterranean to the adjacent countries where hunger stalks. Each bag of wheat stacked along Syria's railroad line can mean the saving of lives in neighboring Europe, or in India, or in Asia, it is pointed out.

German Catholic Groups Revived

Cologne — (NC) — Indicative of the revival of Catholic activities throughout Germany is the establishment of two important organizations which will have their headquarters in the Rhineland.

Some 40 Abbots and other Superiors of German religious communities in southern, northern and Western Germany have established an "Association of German Religious Superiors" at a meeting held in Fulda under the chairmanship of Father Laurentius Siemer, P.P. The association is to continue the tradition of a similar organization that existed before the war.

A parallel function in the lay field will be assumed by a group set up in Cologne with the approval of Cardinal Joseph Frings, under the name "Fides Romana." Hermann Struth, a Catholic publisher, took the initiative. The aim of the organization is to rally Catholic men

Special Confirmation Powers Limited to Pastors of Parishes

By the REV. JEROME D. HANNAN
(Professor of Canon Law, Catholic University of America)
(Written for N.C.W.C. News Service)

Wide notice has been given in the American Catholic press to the decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Sacraments authorizing pastors to act as extraordinary ministers of Confirmation in cases in which the subject is in danger of death. It should be explained that this faculty has not been granted to all priests; some are given the power, while others are clearly excluded.

Priests who have the faculty are authorized to confer the Sacrament only on those who are in real danger of death as a result of a serious illness caused by disease which it is foreseen, will cause death. The serious illness must result from disease, not from accidental injury, battlefield wounds, etc.

In considering those eligible to confer, it is obvious from the text of the decree, as reported in the official Holy See publication "Acta Apostolicae Sedis," that **parish assistants** are not included.

Neither are **chaplains of hospitals or institutions**, even though they have been given parochial rights in other matters by the Bishop.

Neither are **seminary rectors** nor **superiors of religious houses**.

Extraordinary Minister

Who, then, has the right to act as extraordinary minister of Confirmation?

The authorization extends primarily to **parish pastors**, by which we mean any priest who has been exclusively and permanently entrusted with the care of souls to the full extent of a pastor in a given territory and a given church.

A **vicar econome**, that is, a priest acting as administrator in charge of a vacant parish, also possesses the faculty.

A **parochial vicar representing a moral person**, that is, a priest representing a religious house or a unit of a religious Order or community, likewise possesses it. This applies where a parish has been entrusted to a religious Order or community, and one of the members of the Order acts as the equivalent of the parish pastor.

A **personal or family pastor with territorial jurisdiction** also has the faculty. Examples here are the pastors of the so-called "national" parishes in the United States, the "Italian" parishes, the "Hungarian" parishes, the "Czech" parishes, etc.

It is important to note that the parish pastor has permission to confer the Sacrament not only on the members of his parish, but on all those who are within the bounds of his parish. The decree expressly authorizes him to act as extraordinary minister of Confirmation to the Catholics in all hospitals, orphanages, homes for the aged, seminaries and other religious institutions located within the boundaries of his territory.

This means, for instance, that when an unconfirmed person is lying in a hospital in imminent danger of death and desires the Sacrament, the Bishop not being available, it is not the hospital chaplain who is called in, but the parish priest of the neighborhood in which the hospital is located.

The faculty can be used even in the city in which the Bishop resides, in case the Bishop is legitimately prevented from conferring the Sacrament and no other Bishop in communion with the Holy See is available.

Administration of the Sacrament beyond the limits set forth in the decree is invalid, and penalties are prescribed for improper administration. Loss of the faculty is the penalty for those who presumptuously exceed the limits; those who attempt to confer Confirmation without authority are to be suspended.

In noting the fact of Confirmation in the register of confirmations the extraordinary minister shall, in addition to the usual information, insert a note explaining the extraordinary nature of the Confirmation. The notation regarding the administration of Confirmation is also to be inserted in the baptismal register.

If the subject belongs to another parish, the information is to be sent his pastor. It is to be sent each time also to the local Ordinary. The latter is required to send at the beginning of each year a report informing the Sacred Congregation of Sacraments of the number of persons confirmed in the preceding year and of the manner in which this faculty is used by the extraordinary ministers.

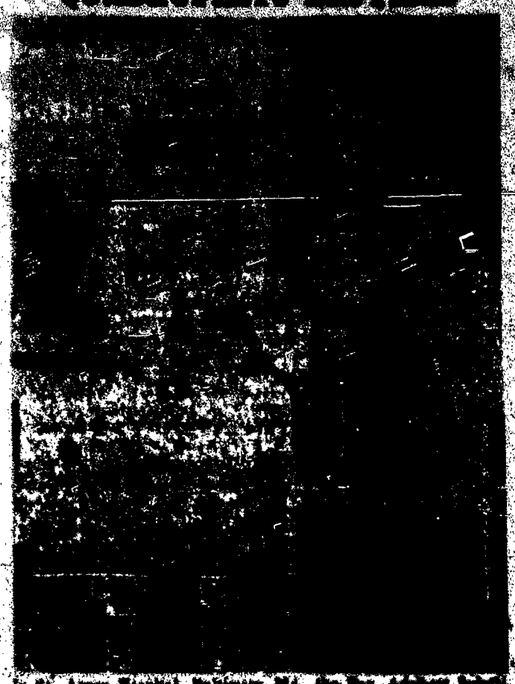
The rite is that which was given in the third section of the Instruction of the Sacred Congregation of May 20, 1934, found in the Appendix of subsequent editions of the Roman Ritual. It is reproduced in "Acta Apostolicae Sedis", with appropriate minor changes suggested by the circumstances in which the faculty will be used.

A noteworthy provision is that after the administration of the sacrament, the priest cleanses his fingers with bread and water, and that he places the used bread, cotton, and water in a clean receptacle and brings them back to the church. He burns the bread and cotton, and places the ashes with the water in the sacrarium. An admonition is inserted that is not found in the rite as presented in the "Roman Ritual," i.e. that the extraordinary minister shall take care that no heretics or schismatics are present, much less assist in the administration of the sacrament.

Abbot Deutsch Honored

Collegeville, Minn. — (NC) — The felicitations of the monks of St. John's Abbey here were extended to their Abbot, the Rt. Rev. Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B., on the occasion of the silver jubilee of his election as abbot.

QUADRUPLETS BAPTIZED



In St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, Md., the Rt. Rev. Monsignor J. F. Bosfield Thomas Joseph, Dennis Joseph, Mary Joan Mary, quadruplets born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Joseph Hahn, Jr., in an ante-natal clinic, held in their bassinettes, were baptized with water, a ceremony and formality considered necessary for almost a hundred years, most of the ages in the Hahn family have had Joseph as part of their names and most of the girls have had Mary as part of their names. NEA. (NC Photos).

Texas Legislature Gets Bus Bill

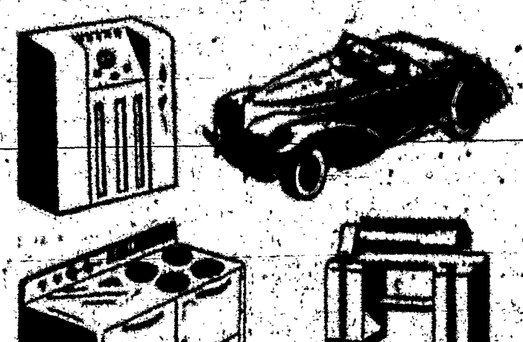
Austin, Texas — (RNS) — Disputes between officials of public and parochial schools in Texas over use of school buses by pupils would be eliminated under the terms of a bill introduced in the Texas Senate by Senators Gus Strauss of Hallettsville and Walter Tynan of San Antonio.

The bill authorizes trustees of all school districts, common or independent, to contract for transportation of pupils in parochial, denominational or private schools, provided the district is compensated for transportation of the pupils.

Numerous disputes have arisen in the last few years because of the refusal of some districts to allow pupils of parochial and denominational schools to ride school buses.

Opponents of the measure point out that the bill is classified as emergency legislation, pointing out that there is "no emergency law providing for the transportation of pupils to and from parochial, denominational or private schools."

Pontiff Names Archbishop For Argentina



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