

### Literary Award To Mme. Maritain

Paris — (NC) — One of the most important French literary prizes, the "Prix du Renouveau

Francais," has been awarded to Mme. Ralssa Maritain, wife of Jacques Maritain, former French ambassador to the Holy See and today a professor at Princeton University.

The jury, headed by Georges Duhamel, in announcing the unanimous award, declared it was in recognition of Mme. Maritain's book entitled "Les Grandes Amities." The book has appeared in an English translation under the title "We Have Been Friends Together."

The book is an autobiography from the days of Mme. Maritain's childhood in Mariopol, Russia, from where she emigrated to France, to the death of the Catholic writer Leon Bloy, who was instrumental in bringing about her conversion to Catholicism.

The friendships which form the theme of the book are those with Jacques Maritain himself, Leon Bloy, Pichard and Peguy, all Catholic writers who played an outstanding part in the Christian renewal of French intellectual life.

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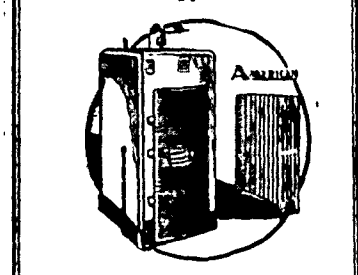


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## Text of NCWC Statement on Federal Aid to Education

Following is the text of a statement reiterating the position of the National Catholic Welfare Conference on the question of government aid to public and non-public schools. The statement, though just released, was prepared prior to the introduction of any specific legislation in the current Congress.

Washington — (NC) — Approximately two and a half million pupils are enrolled in 10,088 Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the U. S. Each year Catholics contribute approximately \$200,000,000 to finance the current expenses of this large school system.

If the cost of maintaining these schools were shifted to taxpayers, the nation's tax bill for education would be increased by over \$400,000,000. The replacement value of Catholic school property is in excess of \$1,000,000,000.

The graduates of these schools are fulfilled American citizens, qualified to vote, eligible for public office, subject to military service. They represent a cross-section of American life, bright and dull, rich and poor, colored and white. It is a caricature to portray Catholic schools as "exclusive private schools." They are as typically American as the public schools.

NEITHER PUBLIC nor Catholic schools have enough money to give every American child the kind of education he deserves. There are gross inequalities of educational opportunity in both the public and parochial school systems. The mere circumstances of a child's residence in a poorer section of the nation often means that his education will be inadequate.

So the time has come for local and state governments and private agencies to increase their appropriations for education. But even when they do their best, federal aid to education will still be needed, particularly in the poorer States.

This first venture of the Federal Government into educational finance is fraught with dangers. An outstanding danger is the possibility that the Federal Government may fail to distribute its funds fairly and impartially among all eligible claimants. If it does fail, it will violate the very premise on which it enters the field of educational finance. This premise is the recognition of its responsibility to see that all American children have ade-

quate educational opportunities. Mindful of this danger, the N.C.W.C. reiterates its long standing position that federal funds should be made available to all schools that are in need, both public and nonpublic.

THE SOLE criterion of eligibility for public educational funds should be "service to the public" and not "public control." Any school to which parents may send their children in compliance with compulsory education laws does serve the public.

In view of the fact that legislation authorizing aid to nonpublic schools may involve major constitutional difficulties, it is proposed that the very least which the Federal Government should provide for nonpublic school children are health and welfare services such as transportation, textbooks, health aids and recreational facilities. Such legislation certainly would be constitutional.

The Supreme Court of the United States has upheld the legality of furnishing transportation and textbook services to nonpublic school pupils.

DURING THE 80th Congress (second session) Senator McMahon of Connecticut proposed an amendment to the Taft Federal Aid Bill authorizing these ser-

ices. His amendment effectively guaranteed that these services would be provided as part of the federal aid program without violation of any legitimate state prerogative in education. Although the amendment was not seriously challenged.

Federal aid for these services is but a token recognition of the Catholic school system's contribution to the public welfare. It is unthinkable that a Congress sensitive to the needs of the children would fail to incorporate a provision for these services in a federal aid bill.

Federal aid is needed. However, rather than accept a bill that denies bus rides and textbooks to thousands of nonpublic school pupils, it would be better to have no legislation at all.

IN SUMMARY:

1. The N.C.W.C. reiterates its position that public and nonpublic schools are both eligible claimants to federal aid.
2. The N.C.W.C. maintains that as the very minimum federal aid legislation must include a mandatory provision that funds be appropriated to furnish school services to nonpublic school pupils.
3. Federal aid legislation that fails to include the above provision is unjustly discriminatory and should be defeated.

## Canandaigua Women Back Federal School Aid Plan

Canandaigua — A resolution favoring federal aid to education as approved by the National Council of Catholic Women was adopted by the St. Mary's Rosary Society at a meeting here Thursday.

The resolution stated: "We favor federal aid to education in areas of proved need providing that such aid be distributed in the best interests of the individual well-being of all school children and be administered without discrimination."

PROVISIONS WHICH should be included in federal education aid are "safe transportation, adequate instructional material and other basic needs for sound living habits in our American democratic society," the statement said.

Mrs. Edward Hill, secretary, was instructed to write to Congressman John Taber stating that the society was in accord with this resolution.

About 50 new members were enrolled in the Rosary Society in a service conducted by the Rev. John E. Kleintjes, moderator. Rev. John Brill, guest speaker.

## Parochial Pupil Barred from Bus

Freemont, O. — (R) — An order denying free bus transportation to a Roman Catholic high school student was issued here by the Washington Township School Board. Parents of the student, Mary Ann Held, 15, said they would appeal to Governor Frank J. Lausche.

The youngster had been barred by bus from her home near Lindsey to St. Joseph's high school here until Jan. 17 when the bus driver barred her after receiving notice from the school board that "it is unlawful to transport any pupil attending parochial school." Mary Ann has neither ridden the bus nor attended school since that date.

J. Paul Gough, president of the board, said it was acting under a 1927 option given by the state's attorney general.

W. A. Whitman, Sandusky County School Superintendent, informed the board that it was not required to provide transportation for a parochial school pupil, but may do so if it desires.

Socially Heads to Meet St. Louis (NC) — The eleventh annual meeting of diocesan, deanery and union directors of the Sodality of Our Lady will be held from January 25 through January 27 at the central office of the Sodality, The Queen's Work, here.

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## Israeli Confirm Church Attacks As 'War Loss'

Washington — (NC) — At least twelve lawless acts affecting Catholic institutions in the Holy Land have been confirmed in special information issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Israeli government.

The Israeli statement insists, however, that the incidents were due to war conditions and must not be considered as "indications of the policy of the State of Israel" whose authorities are "taking stern measures to stamp out hoodlums and vandals."

"DESPITE THE chaos of war, the overwhelming majority of religious establishments have been safeguarded from destruction and interference due to the special precautions taken by Israeli authorities," said the information, which was made available here by the press officer of the Israeli Mission to the United States.

"Any destruction or sacrilegious act committed by lawless individuals in defiance of the strict injunctions of the military and civil authorities is abhorrent to the State and its citizens and is punished accordingly," the information said. It deplored as "particularly malicious" the "irresponsible charge that the Government of Israel seeks to expropriate church property."

THE ISRAELI source, in discussing "the several admittedly grave breaches," cited circumstances it believed to be extenuating and in some instances minimized the gravity of the transgressions. It also quoted a number of clergymen and superiors of religious institutions as saying that they had "no complaints" about the attitude and behavior of Israeli troops and an expressing gratitude for the measures taken by authorities to prevent further such acts.

(The "lawless acts" referred to in the Israeli report have — without exception — been previously reported in greater detail by the Palestine correspondent of N.C.W.C. News Service, who based his reports exclusively on statements by local Church authorities.)

N.C.W.C. News Service has also frequently reported statements by Palestine ecclesiastics favorably commenting on the behavior of Israeli troops. Among the latter was, for instance, a declaration by Msgr. Anthony Vergani, Vicar General for Galilee in the Latin Patriarchate, acknowledging the "correct manner" of Israeli troops in Nazareth.)

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