CDA Asks Federal Aid For All Schools

Washington—(NC)—The Catholic Daughters of America asked that children in parochial schools be given Federal help in transportation, non-religious textbooks and health aids at a meeting here in which the history of the Federal aid to education movement was reviewed by a Catholic school official.

"We are but asking for what justice demands and the Constitution permits," declared the national woman's group at a semi-annual conference of its board of directors.

SPEAKING AT the meeting, Msgr. Frederick C. Hochwalt, director of the Education Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, declared that "in a democracy, you can't characterize any group as second-class citizens and then demand of them first-class responsibilities."

Monsignor Hochwalt outlined the circumstances surrounding Federal aid to education proposals over the years which led Catholic authorities to change their position from outright opposition to a noncommital stand and finally to a policy of favoring aid for needy States.

IN HIS REVIEW he noted that the first long series of unsuccessful school aid measures in Congress was the Prosser Bill of 1870, which would have provided 50-50 subsidies to the States. He described the fate of a dozen bills proposed from that time until the New Deal days of 1936 when, he said the idea Federal educational aid began to win its first serious support.

Monsignor Hochwalt

The 1936 measure had the support of the National Educational Association and followed recommendations made by President Roosevelt's Advisory Committee on Education. It hurdled a Senate committee but was ultimately shelved, as were similar proposals in 1938 and 1939. In 1941 an NEA-sponsored bill gained wide attention, and though it was voted down in committee a similar measure, tied to the wartime emergency in the teaching profession, nearly passed in 1943.

Monsignor Hochwalt pointed out that in the postwar 79th Congress the Senate Committee on Education and Labor held detailed discussions on Federal school aid and reported out a bill but that no action was taken on the Senate floor or in the House. In the 80th Congress the Taft Federal Aid Bill was passed by the Senate but time ran out before the House could approve it, he said.

"UNTIL 1936," he explained, "Catholic opposition to Federal Aid measures was directed mainly at the danger of Federal control inherent in Federal aid itself and accentuated by proposals to establish a Federal Department of Education. It was felt that centralized control of education would endanger freedom of education, local management of schools and above all, parental prerogatives, especially the right to select either a public or a parochial school for one's children."

"By 1936," he continued, "advocates of Federal aid had come to the conclusion that their concurrent proposal to set up a Federal department was seriously impeding progress toward the principal objective, more money for public education. Accordingly, the N.E.A. and other similar groups abandoned the campaign for a Federal department, concentrated their efforts on Federal aid itself, and endeavored to work into the Federal aid bill definite prohibitions against Federal control of education."

SUBSEQUENT TO this, Monsignor Hochwalt said, all Federal aid bills contained strong provisions forbidding the Federal government to interfere in the educational policies of the States or local school systems. But the Federal aid proponents, having won that battle, tried to capitalize on New Deal sentiment and tie the aid legislation to an emergency situation, according to the priest.

"The Department of Education, N.C.W.C. objected to this strategy, arguing that permanent Federal aid should be debated on its own merits," Monsignor Hochwalt recalled. He noted that the Department had swung to a noncommittal position on the basic idea of Federal aid, while at the same time declaring that "any Federal aid bill worthy of Catholic support would have to guarantee equity for children in non public schools."

THE N.C.W.C. department maintained this stand through the early years of the war, he stated, but by 1944 it became apparent that the need for Federal aid was so imperative that the risk of Federal control would have to be taken in the interest of the educational welfare of the nation's children.

He explained that the department then adopted the position that Federal aid should be made available to areas of need and with no discrimination against any children in either public or non-public schools. In keeping with that position, the department has opposed discriminatory Federal aid bills like the Taft bill of the 80th Congress and the present unfair Thomas bill. He also pointed out that the department has supported fair bills like the Mead Aiken bill of the 79th Congress and the McMahon-Johnson bill of the present Congress.

Only One Can Ride— It's 'Separation of Church and State'

This picture story was taken on State Highway 92, three miles southwest of Keota, Ia., one snowy morning. It shows LaVonne and Dennis Trier, with the school bus approaching. They both go to school in Keota, different schools but only six blocks apart. The bus doors swing open to six-foot Dennis, 17, who goes to Keota's public high school; they slammed shut in the face of his sister LaVonne, 13, who goes to St. Mary's Catholic grade school. He rides. She walks. LaVonne Trier doesn't know any arguments about church-state separation. She only knows that her brother enjoys the warmth and safety of a school bus from which she is barred, although her parents pay taxes to keep it running. Mr. and Mrs. Trier and her non-Catholic neighbors think she should be allowed to ride on the school bus. None of them understand the apparent discrimination between the two children. The Triers know they have the right to choose a Catholic school for LaVonne's education, but they feel they are being penalized for exercising that right. LaVonne enjoys the benefits of the Federal School Lunch Act of 1946. The Catholic school she attends is reimbursed by federal funds for part of the cost of her lunch. If Congress does not discriminate on school lunches and other welfare benefits, why should it discriminate on bus transportation.

Birth-Controllers Blasted By Congressman, Father of 9

Washington — (NC) — The Planned Parenthooders of nearby Montgomery County in Maryland picked the wrong folks when they sent some of their literature to Representative and Mrs. Augustine B. Kelley. They got back a blistering reply from Mr Kelley, who represents Pennsylvania's 27th District in Congress.

"Mrs. Kelley and I," the legislator wrote, "are in receipt of a letter from you with literature pertaining to the Planned Parenthood League, Inc., of Montgomery County. Some may have been happy to have this literature, but it is an insult to Mrs. Kelley and me.

"MRS. KELLEY was selected as the Catholic Mother of America in 1944, because of the high standards of morality she had held before her the fine family she had reared, and her five sons in the service. She did not need the help of Planned Parenthood to achieve this honor.

"The Kelley children, of whom there are nine, are a living testimony to the fallacy and futility of your theory. Had we been disciples of that theory, there would not have been nine healthy and mentally sound children. Which of them would have been sacrificed?"

Catholic Scout Troops Increase

Washington — (NC) — A new high total of 5,873 Catholic-operated Boy Scout Troops are now in existence in 121 dioceses of the United States — a gain of 170 units, or three per cent, over last year.

Activities and growth of Catholic participation in the Boy Scout movement are detailed in the Fifteenth Annual Report of Progress just released by the Catholic Committee on Scouting, headed by the Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow, Bishop of Natchez.

The Ad Altare Dei Cross, the name of the religious award given by the Church to Catholic boys in Scouting, is proving popular, the report notes. In spite of rigid standards nearly 3,000 Scouts received it.

Most concerning the Committee, the report stated, is the problem of securing competent qualified lay leaders in the parishes.

Rumania Taxes Sacraments

Fribourg, Switzerland (CIP) — A State tax on the administration of Sacraments in the Church has been announced by the Minister of Religion in Rumania. The tax levies, which vary according to the Sacrament performed, require $66 for a Baptism, and $186 for a church marriage. The average monthly income of a worker in Rumania is estimated at $23.30.

Canadian Papers Urge Vatican Tie

(NCWC NEWS SERVICE)

Ottawa—The question of the appointment of a Canadian ambassador to the Vatican is under discussion in the legislative councils and the secular press of Canada.

The matter has been before the House of Commons on several occasions, and there has been a noticeable change in attitude on the part of several of Canada's most influential secular newspapers which are now urging the appointment.

LESTER B. PEARSON, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, when asked in the House of Commons why Canada did not have an ambassador at the Vatican, replied:

"The question of the extension of Canadian diplomatic representation, which is influenced by a variety of circumstances, is under periodic consideration by the Government."

TYPICAL OF the Canadian secular press editorial comment on the need of a Canadian ambassador at the Vatican are the following excerpts:

The Evening Telegram, Toronto: "There is one glaring vacancy, a major post that ought not to be left unfilled. Canada is still without a diplomatic representative to the Vatican . . . Britain has long had the advantage of a Minister to the Holy See; Myron C. Taylor has been the American representative for the past 10 years.

"There are purely selfish reasons why Canada should follow the example of London and Washington. The Vatican and the Roman Catholic congregation have been one of the great bulwarks against the spread of communism. The Vatican maintains an alert and efficient diplomatic corps . . . The 'cold war' having reached the stage it has, Ottawa should name a minister without delay . . ."

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, Toronto: "That Canada's foreign service would be greatly strengthened by the appointment of a Minister to the Vatican is not open to argument. Diplomatic missions . . . all have one aim in common and that is to gather information about policies, alliances and trends of opinion in foreign countries. Vatican City is one of the world's great clearing houses for such news."

Red Killings

All six native Chinese priests in Mukden have been killed by Chinese communists since the Manchurian capital was occupied, according to the Rev. John T. S. Mao, (above) chancellor of the Nanking archdiocese and now visiting in the United States. Father Mao, executive secretary of the Overseas Students Service of the Catholic Central Bureau of China, accompanied 23 Chinese students to schools in America.

Holy Land Gets Clothing Gift From U.S. Women

New York — (NC) — A special gift of 150,000 children's garments, valued at over $96,000, has been collected by the National Council of Catholic Women for immediate shipment to Beirut, Lebanon to be distributed among children who have been displaced from the Holy Land because of the fighting there.

Whole villages, including almost the entire Christian Arab Community are dispossessed of their homes and means of livelihood. More than 750,000 of these homeless people live in tents, under the trees or on the unprotected desert. Several hundred thousand of them are children.

The Children in Need campaign of the National Council of Catholic Women is a continuous drive for new and used children's garments.

State Senate Passes Bill To Control Comics

Albany— (NC)—An indication of the strength of the feeling today that evil comic books must be kept out of reach of children was the vote in the New York State Senate here on a bill to regulate the sale of comic books.

The proposal, which would set up a division in the State Education Department to license such publications, was approved by a vote of 49 to 6 and now goes to the State Assembly for further consideration.

THE BILL provides that no comic may be distributed in New York unless an application for license is filed with the Education Department unit. Publishers must then state on the title page of each book whether the license had been granted or denied.

In case the comic is disapproved, the publisher or distributor must file a copy with the district attorney in each county where its sale is scheduled at least 30 days before the comic is to appear on the stands. The law has a provision for review and possible court action, if necessary.

THE SPONSOR, Senate Majority Leader Benjamin Feinberg of Plattsburg, defended his bill during discussion against the charge that it infringed on "the sacredness of the freedom of the press." He said it represented a method of regulation that would be free from political influence.

The New York Times and the New York Herald Tribune both attacked the bill as opening the way to pre-publication censorship. Editorials in both papers argued that remedies against indecent literature already exist in law.

The Times point out, however, that the vote on the bill "clearly demonstrates that many people are deeply concerned over the moral and social effect of this flood of pulp paper that has been loosed on the newsstands in the last decade or so. Its publishers are now reaping the whirlwind of indignation that is the result of their own failure of self-restraint."

New Bishop Ordains 3 Negroes

May St. Louis, Miss.—(NC)—Three Negro seminarians were ordained in the Society of the Divine Word priesthood here by Bishop Leo C. Arkfeld, S.V.D., Vicar Apostolic of Central New Guinea.

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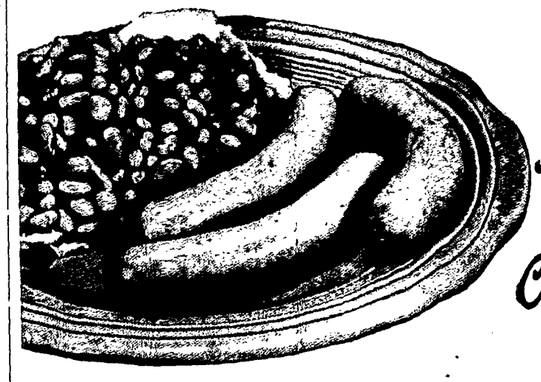

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