

Missouri Suit Charges State Aid Given Teaching Nuns

St. Louis, Mo., (AP)—The Missouri Association for Free Public Schools filed suit in Cole County's circuit court here today to prevent the state from paying for the salaries of nuns who teach in public schools.

Four school districts in as many Missouri counties were named as receiving state aid while the suit is pending, their schools are wholly or partly administered by the Roman Catholic Church.

The association, described by its attorney as a "non-sectarian group which desires complete separation of Church and State," asked that state support be suspended or that the salaries be removed from Catholic schools.

The plaintiffs charged that some of the schools held classes in buildings owned by the Catholic Church and that in many instances the teachers were members of Catholic orders who had vowed to devote their lives to the service of the Church.

It was further alleged that these teachers were, in effect, giving the Church their salaries, part of which came from state funds.

According to the Association the Missouri Constitution forbids payment of public funds to aid any religious creed, Church, or sectarian purpose.

The suit also contended that the wearing of nun's garb by the teachers was embarrassing to non-Catholic students, as was also the obligation to wait while Catholics were taught the catechism during the first school hour.

It was further claimed that nuns worked for less money than non-sectarian teachers and that the nuns frequently lived on the school premises. In addition, the Association charged, board members of the school districts were given no choice in hiring teaching women except to take instruction from a list supplied by the Church.

One of the defendants named in the suit, J. M. Wilson, superintendent of schools in Cole County, said the arrangement was justifiable because the average level of education attained

by the nuns was "frequently higher than that of non-sectarian teachers."

Friday to the filing of the suit, the Rev. William A. C. Williamson, treasurer of the Association for Free Public Schools, told a Methodist group in St. Joseph, Mo., that Cath-

olic-controlled schools receive more than \$30,000 annually in direct and indirect aid from the state. More than 100 nuns, he added, are teaching in Missouri public schools. Mr. Williamson is pastor of the Missouri Methodist Church, Columbia.

SENATOR TAFT OPPOSES

Free Bus Rides For Non-Public School Pupils

Cincinnati—(AP)—Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio is still opposed to the position of Catholics generally on Federal aid to education.

In an interview here with three Ohio Catholic editors, the Senator said he is opposed to it.

1. Direct Federal aid to nonpublic schools.

2. Federally aided transportation for nonpublic school children in States whose constitution or local laws bar the State from providing such aid.

Catholic spokesmen have consistently maintained that nonpublic school pupils in every State are entitled to Federal aid for bus rides, regardless of State practices. Legislation that fails to include this provision, they say, is unjustly discriminatory and should be defeated.

Senator Taft was interviewed by the editors of the Cincinnati Catholic Telegram-Register, the Catholic University Bulletin of Cleveland, and the Catholic Chronicle of Toledo.

In defending his position on bus rides, Senator Taft said he is "unwilling that Federal aid be used to force a change in the educational system of any community or State." Actually, Catholic leaders never have suggested that a State or community be required to change its educational system or policy in any way as a condition for receiving Federal aid.

They have urged that a fair Federal-aid bill should give the State the option either of using a fair amount of its share of federal funds for bus rides for nonpublic school pupils or of requesting the Federal government to do so. In the latter case, the Federal government would withhold a pro rata share of the State's allotment of federal funds, and distribute it directly, through a Federal agency.

In another interview this week, with a Cincinnati daily paper, Senator Taft was quoted as declaring: "My basic ideas have not changed. The issue is so narrow: If a state law forbids aid to private schools for bus transportation, shall the federal government come in and insist that bus transportation be given as a condition to federal aid? I think not."



SENATOR TAFT

New York See Plans Rites In Centenary

New York—(AP)—All parish churches throughout the Archdiocese of New York will take part in ceremonies highlighting the observance of the centenary of the elevation of New York from a diocese to an archdiocese on October 22, it has been announced.

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, in a pastoral letter directed that on the day a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving be offered in each parish of the archdiocese.

AT THE SAME time, the Cardinal disclosed that a Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered in St. Patrick's Cathedral on October 29 in connection with the celebration.

It also was announced that on October 25 there will be a diocesan synod of some 2,000 priests of the archdiocese who will meet in closed session in St. Patrick's Cathedral, as another event of the celebration.

The calling of the synod recalled that one of the See's outstanding synods was held in the Cathedral in 1896 under the direction of Archbishop John Corrigan. Among its promulgations were warnings against the errors of socialism, communism and anarchism, while among its recommendations were the establishment of a Catholic board of education, the organization of a board of consultants and other forms of diocesan administration.

THE CENTENARY celebration was opened in July when Cardinal Spellman officiated at a Pontifical Mass offered in historic Old St. Patrick's Cathedral. More than a dozen members of the Hierarchy took part in the ceremonies.

New York was established as a diocese in 1808 and was elevated to an archdiocese on July 19, 1850, by Pope Pius IX, but it was not until October, 1850, that official word of the elevation reached New York from Rome.

In his letter, Cardinal Spellman also called for tridiums in the parishes and for special Masses and devotions for school children.

Pope Condemns Stage Immorality; Rejects Excuse—'Give Public What It Wants'

Rome—(AP)—Pope Pius XII, in a talk here to a Catholic theatrical group, condemned immorality on the stage and rejected the excuse sometimes given for it—"that one must offer what the public demands."

He said that "terrific prejudices" of the state of mind one must have to give that excuse for the immoral, irreligious, vulgar theater.

That contention, said the Holy Father, "would calumniate the public its good taste, good judgment and good morals." He offered the Passion Play at Oberammergau as an example for the refutation of this assertion.

"FOR HOW long have people been coming from all parts of the world, time after time, solely to be lifted up on wings of emotions truly holy and to applaud with all their hearts the presentation of a sacred drama?" he asked.

While condemning the pernicious spread of evil through the means of an immoral theater, His Holiness, nevertheless insisted that the theater is a great power for good, having a long tradition in the instruction and inspiration of mankind for a good and noble life.

"One can never deplore as much as one ought," said the Holy Father speaking of the spread of evil in the world, "the extent of the damage it is causing to souls and to society. Even more, so one cannot stigmatize too rigorously the scandal which the diffusion of evil causes in every country, in all circles of society and people of all ages, even the youngest."

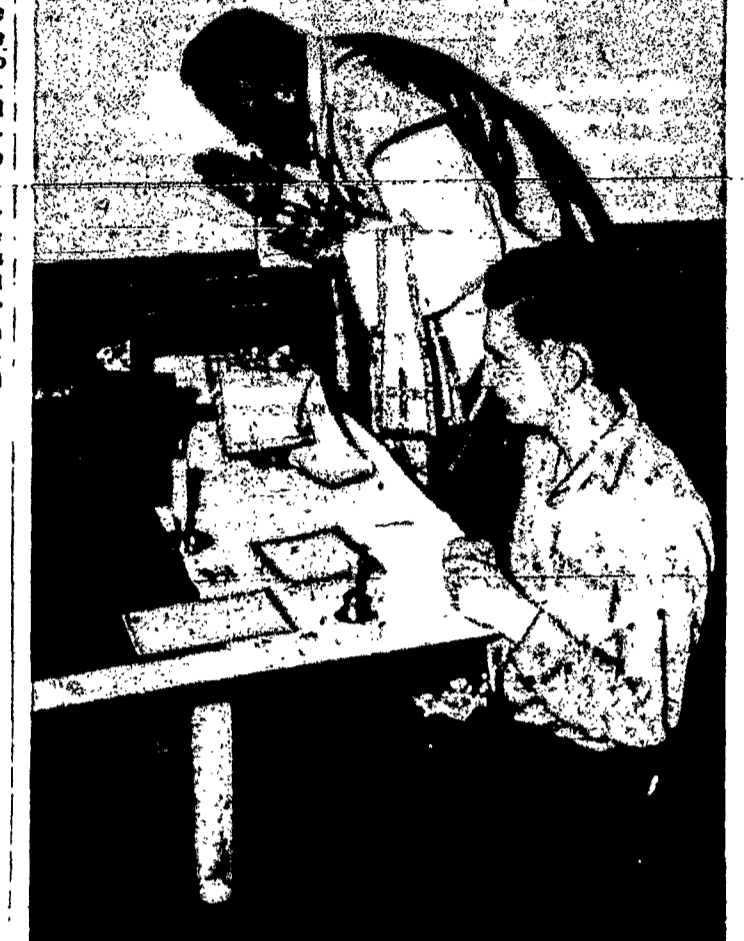
"It would be a pity, however," he said, "if the mere condemnation of a corruptive or dangerous play would obliterate the existence and noble history of the theater, which have been both beneficial and elevating."

shadow of the cathedral and grew on the subject matter of liturgy, developed into miracle and religious mystery plays for teaching the great lessons of life and salvation, and how in recent years there has been much encouragement for authors and actors in the return to popularity of mystery and religious drama.

The Pope cited as one factor for success in achieving a good and acceptable theater the "psychological power of the actors," and said, "you can

prove that by a close union of your faith and your talents." Emphasizing the latter point, the Holy Father declared that "fundamentally there is only one way suitably to combine sincerity and an effective performance: that is, to live in such a way that the beautiful and pure sentiments, which the public applauds, swell spontaneously from the heart of one whose voice and gestures express them on the stage."

BERING SEA PATROL MASS



While the U. S. Coast Guard's famous icebreaker NORTH WIND plies Alaskan waters on her annual cruise of the Bering Sea, Mass is celebrated for members of the crew by their chaplains for the trip, Rev. Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J., geologist of the University of Santa Clara, Calif. The "Glacier Priest" is also winning Coast Guard operations for a forthcoming documentary motion picture on Alaska and the Bering Sea Patrol. Pictured serving the chaplain's Mass is Seaman William C. Steiber of Cincinnati. Official Coast Guard Photo. (NC Photos)

Bishop Answers British Critics Of Assumption

London—(AP)—Criticism by English Protestant leaders over the coming definition of the dogma of the Assumption were answered by Bishop Cyril C. Cowderoy of Southwark.

The dogma, Bishop Cowderoy said, does not mean that the Church will begin to believe something new. It means that the age-long belief of Catholics will be set forth in the carefully chosen theological terms of an infallible pronouncement by the Vicar of Christ.

"CERTAIN NON-Catholic leaders in England today," he said, "have expressed sorrow and concern at this coming definition, professing to see in it a widening of the gulf that divides them and us."

"Protestations that the Pope is making things more difficult, making reunion more of a dream than ever, do not come with grace from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York."

"It is to be regretted that certain truths which non-Catholics held in common with us, say a hundred years ago, have now been largely given up by those who belong to organizations outside the Church."

It would seem possible to them, he added, to belong to a professedly Christian organization and yet, in some cases, without forfeiting membership, to doubt such truths as the bodily Resurrection and Ascension of the Son of God, His Virgin Birth and Divinity.

IT WOULD also seem possible to them, Bishop Cowderoy went on, to differ from the Catholic Church, not merely in matters of faith but even in matters of traditional Christian morality: to claim to be Christians and yet to be able to accept divorce, to justify artificial contraception and to speak with toleration, if not with favor, of the murder of the innocent under the less unpleasant name of euthanasia.

The idea of corporate reunion with the Catholic Church by an organization so divided among itself is fantastic, he said.

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