

The Answer

Why Public Transportation For Catholic School Pupils?

The following article is written in answer to an editorial in the Auburn Citizen-Advertiser (Sept. 5, 1953) attacking the right of parochial school children to free bus transportation.

By REV. DR. FREDERICK J. ZWIERLEIN

If the writer of the leading editorial in the Citizen-Advertiser of Auburn (September 5, 1953) knew the Constitution of New York State, of the United States, and a few allied documents he would be able to answer his own question:

Why the State Commissioner ordered the Union Springs School Board to provide public transportation to students attending parochial schools in Auburn.

While the revised Constitution, voted for the State of New York in 1938, maintained the prohibition of using or authorizing the use of public property, money, or credit for denominational schools, it excepted, as had been done since the State Constitution of 1894, from this prohibition what is done by the State for "examination or inspection" of such schools.

Still another exception was added when the revised Constitution of 1938 authorized provision for the transportation of children to and from any school or institution of learning. (Art. XI, Section 3).

THE VERY next Legislature of the state of New York passed a bill which was signed by Governor Lehman May 16, 1939, that provided for public transportation for school children, including those attending private and parochial schools as well as public school children.

What this meant practically was well illustrated by a case that developed when the Trustees of School District 7 in the town of West Sparta refused to contract for the transportation of four Farrell children to St. Patrick's School in Danville.

Mr. Farrell, on the advice and with the assistance of his pastor, the Rev. John C. O'Donnell, sent an appeal to the New York State Commissioner of Schools, Mr. Stoddard, who replied by ordering the Trustees to "proceed forthwith to provide transportation for elementary pupils to the nearest parochial school and pay the reasonable cost thereof out of any funds of the district available for such purposes subject to the approval of the district superintendent of schools and of this department."

WHAT HAD been done then in the State of New York was likewise done in 1941 by the Legislature of New Jersey which decided, in the Act it passed that a public purpose would be served by using tax-raised funds to pay the bus fares of all school children, including those who attend parochial schools.

IN VIEW of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, containing not only the clause against "an establishment of religion," but also the clause for "the free exercise thereof," the Supreme Court of the United States declared:

"New Jersey cannot hamper its citizens in the free exercise of their own religion. Consequently, it cannot exclude individual Catholics, Lutherans, Mohammedans, Baptists, Jews, or the Non-believers, Presbyterians, or the members of any other faith, because of their religious faith, because of the benefits of public welfare legislation.

"Measured by these standards, we cannot say that the First Amendment prohibits New Jersey from spending tax-raised funds to pay the bus fares of parochial school pupils as a part of a general program under which it pays the fares of pupils attending public and other schools."

In the light of these public documents, the writer of the editorial in the Citizen-Advertiser of Auburn is giving very bad legal counsel, trusting that the commissioner's ruling will be appealed, and judging that "it certainly is a matter of sufficient importance to warrant the highest court's decision thereon."

Anyone that is well informed knows that it has already been decided for years by the Supreme Court of the United States.

IT IS A SAD thing to realize that a leading editorial of an Auburn newspaper has been evidently inspired by malicious ignorant prejudice against Catholic school children. For bus transportation is in the interest of the child rather than the school to which it is only incidental. It is contemptible for a grown man to attack little school children whose parents pay school taxes for the welfare of all children without discrimination of creed, color, or class.

The Question

(The following appeared as the lead editorial in the Auburn, N. Y. Citizen-Advertiser, Sept. 5, 1953.)

The Education Commissioner's Ruling

We thoroughly disapprove the new ruling by the State Commissioner of Education ordering the Union Springs School Board to provide public transportation to students attending parochial schools in Auburn.

In behalf of the citizens of Union Springs we would ask these questions:

Why, when taxpayers are already providing a system of public schools, should they be called upon to pay for transporting children to private schools?

Why, in fact, should they be called upon in any way to provide any sort of even the slightest support to private schools?

These are questions we would like to hear answered. We trust the commissioner's ruling will be appealed. Certainly it is a matter of sufficient importance to warrant the court's decision thereon.

Union Springs Pupils Win Bus Rides

Auburn, N. Y. — (RNS) — An appeal by parents of parochial school pupils in the Union Springs area, some 15 miles from here, for public bus transportation to Roman Catholic parochial schools has been granted by the State Commissioner of Education.

The Commissioner reversed the action taken at the Union Springs district school meeting July 14 when residents voted 320 to 50 against furnishing transportation to parochial schools. Catholic parents appealed to the state official from the decision.

According to Andrew J. Smith, principal of Union Springs Central School, the Commissioner's ruling will apply only to pupils living more than two and less than eight miles from the nearest parochial school.

Mr. Smith cited the Commissioner's order that transportation be furnished to denominational schools "provided that such school is more than two miles distant from the homes of the children in the case of elementary pupils and more than three miles in either case."

Last June the Commissioner's office held that school districts could not be required to transport parochial pupils more than eight miles, which it called a reasonable limit.

Wisconsin Frames Model Law On Obscene Books

Superior, Wis. — (NC) — A model ordinance to curb the sale of obscene reading matter will be distributed to 434 towns, cities and villages in Wisconsin.

The ordinance, already established as law here, calls for a Publications Advisory Board which modifies publisher, distributors and city heads of the presence of obscene matter in the city.

The model was prepared by Flynn, a member of Cathedral of Christ the King Parish here. He said he hopes to convince Wisconsin law makers that they are not impostors to deal with the filthy book and magazine situation.

Under the model ordinance, distributors of publications judged as obscene by the advisory board are notified by city officials. After notification, they are subject to arrest but have the right to appeal to the City Council within five days of notification.

Diocese Centenary Commemorates Covington, Ky. — (NC) — His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, will preside at a Solemn Pontifical Mass and preach the sermon at the official celebration of the centenary of the Diocese of Covington in St. Mary's Cathedral here Sept. 20.

NCCM Names Four Chairmen

Washington — (NC) — Distinguished experts in their special fields have been named chairmen of four of seven national standing committees being established by the National Council of Catholic Men.

The appointments made by Francis I. Nally, president are a part of the NCCM's plan to concentrate heavily on Catholic Action programming. The new chairmen are:

Douglas Murphey, Committee on Public Relations. Murphey is president of the Co-ordinating Committee of Lay Organizations of the New York archdiocese and is vice-president of an advertising agency.

Robert Otto, Committee on Communications (Radio, Television, Press and Screen). Otto is president of the Cincinnati Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men, and is a news analyst and commentator.

Thomas H. Buckley, Committee on Religious Affairs. Buckley is vice-president of the Boston Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men and is State Commissioner of administration and Finance of Massachusetts.

John Fitzgerald, Committee on Legislation. Fitzgerald is past president of the Chicago Archdiocesan Holy Name Union and is dean of the law school at Loyola University, Chicago.

One Of 20 To Join Church Convert Killed In Korea After First Communion

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR (N.C.W.C. News Service)

Seoul, Korea — "The man who had the Faith died with no regret and no fear," said Father (L.) James F. Madden of Philadelphia. He was summing up, after 11 battle-crowded months in Korea as Catholic chaplain to the 32nd U. S. Infantry Regiment.

Asked what he remembers best from his priestly work here, he answered: "The conversion of R. A. Smith, a Negro boy from New York City. He was very sincere. He received his First Holy Communion at a Mass I said out in the open. All the Catholic men of his company were there. He knelt for about 10 minutes making his thanksgiving. Then he walked up the hill, with his hands joined completely absorbed. As he passed by, you'd see men taking their helmets off and making the Sign of the Cross.

"He was killed that night. He was a very quiet character but when he'd go on patrol, he'd step up in front and insist on being point man. He got a direct hit that night, as point man."

FATHER MADDEN received 20 converts into the Church from the 32nd Regiment.

"When Sergeant King was taking instructions, two platoons of it all on the sound power 'phone," he recalled. "The sergeant would go over the instructions with a Catholic clerk all night. All the circuits on a sound power 'phone are open, so everybody hears what's said wherever it's connected. The platoons in the area got the full Number 3 Baltimore Catechism, as the Sergeant memorized it word for word."

A DYING BOY saying the Halli Mary is another vivid memory with the priest.

"It was something more than you can put in words," he said. "I had heard his Confession in the aid station and had given him Communion. Then he asked me: 'Are you going to anoint me, Father?'"

"That depended on the doctor's verdict, I told him frankly. 'I asked the doctor about his condition, and then anointed him.'"

"So I'm dying," he said calmly. "Then he reached up for the Rosary around his neck and began to say the Halli Mary out loud."

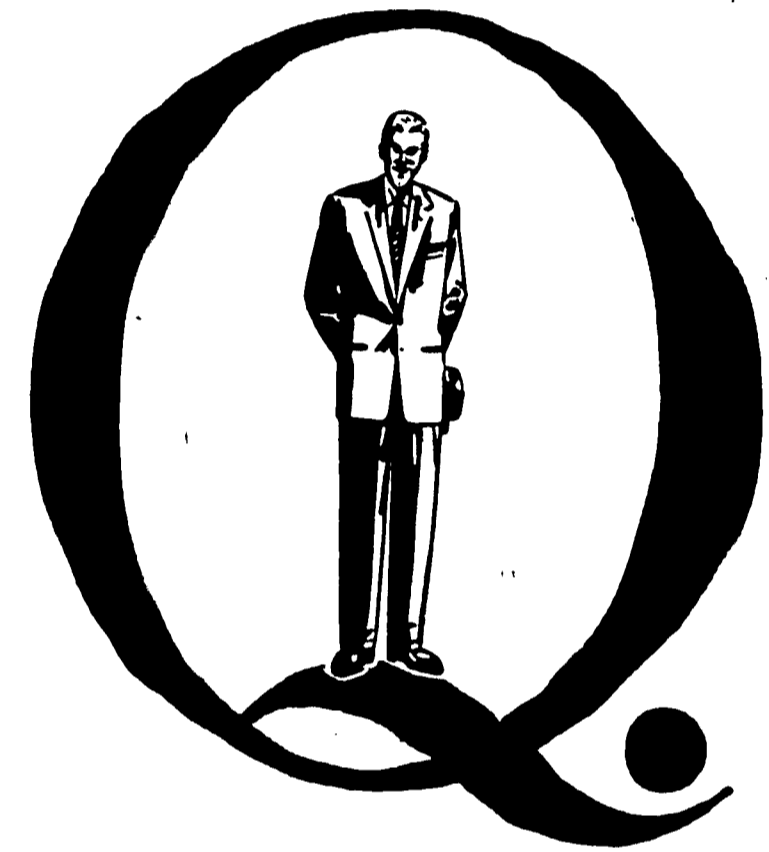
"I've heard it said many times, but never like this. He said it slowly, clearly, like a soldier reporting for duty. Then he died."

Father Madden himself has received the Silver Star for heroism. Many of his men think he has earned it at least twice.

Pilgrimage Center

Madras, India — (NC) — Archbishop Louis Mathias, S.D.B., of Madras-Mylapore is going ahead with a plan to make the shrine of St. Thomas the Apostle near here a national pilgrimage center.

OLD RANGER BEER AND ALE BREWED IN PURE SPRING WATER HORNELL BREWING CO., INC.



How much more does it cost to get double the wear from your Fall suit?



Not one cent more — when you buy a 2 trouser suit at Bond's

You can bet on it every time! Compare two suits — a Bond suit and another of the same superior quality. Stitch for stitch of fine tailoring, yard for yard of fine fabric, they're almost identical. Best there is one big difference! The Bond suit has 2 pairs of trousers. The other has only one pair. Now check the price. Again, just about the same! That's why more men buy Bond suits than any others. Double-the-wear insurance costs no more — at Bond's. Come in right now and choose from America's largest selection of handsome new 2-trouser suits!

Charge it and take 6 MONTHS TO PAY with no down payment and no service charge if you pay in 90 days

5575 to 6575 Including 2 trousers



DOWNTOWN STORE 133 EAST MAIN 10 TO 5:30 DAILY THURS. THRU 9 P.M. FACTORY STORE 1400 N. GOODMAN NOON TO 9 P.M. DAILY SATURDAYS 9:30 TO 5:30

Advertisement for 'The Way of Life' by St. Thomas Aquinas. Features a large graphic of a path leading to a sun and the text 'THE WAY OF LIFE' and 'masterpiece'.