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State Bill Seeks Bus Rides For Parochial Pupils

Jefferson City, Mo. — (RNS) — A bill proposing a solution to the issue of financing bus transportation for parochial school pupils out of public funds was introduced in the state legislature here by Rep. (Mrs.) Jennie S. Walsh (D-St. Louis).

The measure would shift the whole matter of school bus transportation from the Department of Education to the Department of Public Health and Welfare, with operating costs charged against the general revenue funds instead of the public school fund.

Two years ago the Missouri Supreme Court ruled that public funds could not be used for schools conducted by churches and religious organizations. The attorney general subsequently held, on the basis of this decision, that such funds could not be used to transport pupils to a parochial school.

REP. WALSH'S bill calls for the creation within the health and welfare department of a new division of transportation. Its director would be authorized to "provide free transportation of all school children of this state" between their homes and schools at which they receive instruction "in subjects meeting the requirements of the compulsory school attendance law."

Advocates of the bill say these definitions are sufficiently broad to include both public and parochial schools.

The state would pay transportation costs up to \$4 a month for each pupil carried, with any cost above this figure borne by the local districts. Under the present law, the state pays \$3 a month per child but this is limited to public school pupils and is charged against the allocation of revenues for school purposes of a cost to the state of about \$3,000,000 annually.

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Expelled Missioners Go To Formosa

Hong Kong — (NC) — Four Belgian Scheut Fathers, veteran China missionaries who once served time in communist jails, made a brief stopover here on their way from Belgium to a mission assignment in Formosa.

Assigned to open a new parish in the Formosa capital of Taipei are Fathers Peter Creyts, Andrew Baert, Remi Van Hyfte and Albert Geuens. The four missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary served a total of nearly six years in communist jails. After their expulsion from Red China, they returned for a brief rest to their native Belgium.

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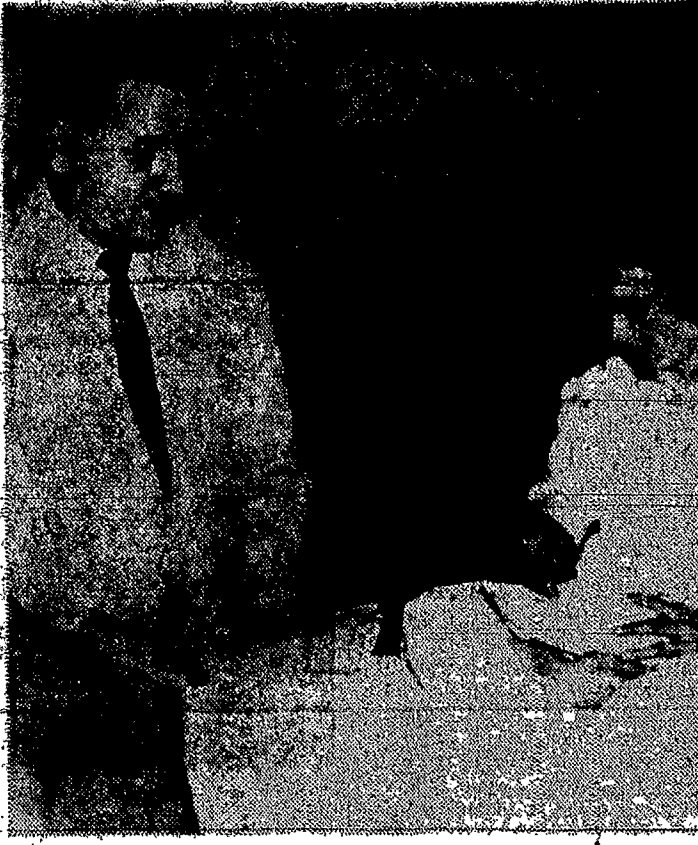
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FIRST ON THE THRUWAY



DR. WILLIAM J. BRADLEY of Palmyra delivered the first baby born on the New York State Thruway—his own daughter. The infant, Elizabeth Bradley, was born at 3 p.m. Jan. 21, one mile west of the Geneva interchange. She weighed six pounds. Mother and daughter are reported "doing nicely" in Geneva General Hospital. (E. B. Oakley, Geneva photo).

CATHOLIC QUIZ Ex Cathedra Cannon Law

What does "ex cathedra" mean? It is Latin which means "from the throne." It refers to official decrees made by the Pope when he infallibly speaks with supreme authority as Vicar of Christ on questions of faith and morals.

Where does the name "canon law" come from? The word "canon" is Greek for "unchanging rule" or "regulation." During the course of the centuries, many laws have been made by Popes and Church Councils regarding the practice of faith, moral life, and discipline of priests and people. Examples of such laws are: laws pertaining to the appointment of pastors, laws of fast and abstinence, rules concerning arrangements for weddings, etc.

These laws have been promulgated by the authority of the Church and cannot be changed except by proper ecclesiastical officials. An example of such a change is the recent modification of the required fast before Communion.

All these laws that have been made at different times were assembled into one book in 1917 and total 2,414 different rules of law. This book is called the "Code of Canon Law" or in simple English we would say the "Church's Rule Book."

Is an archbishop higher than an ordinary priest? It is a title used in some European countries to refer to the Vicar General of a diocese. In America, it means the priest who assists a bishop or a newly ordained priest at Mass. Any priest may fulfill the role.

Some Saints are called "Doctors." More than many of his more conservative brethren, under the mentality of non-Catholic Americans, a priest who did much, by word and work, to set an example of social awareness for the American hierarchy of our own day.

The picture of Keane's era is not yet completely in focus. But even now, two conclusions about it seem justified. First, that the existence of both conservative and progressive groups in the American hierarchy was wholesome, even providential. Second, that their very conflicts have put the Church in America on its guard against the extremes on both sides: reaction on the one, and the suspicion of ecclesiastical liberalism on the other.

Father Ahern's new biography is a real contribution to American church history. Well researched, well organized, and judiciously written, it is, one may safely say, a definitive work.

Archbishop Keane

Alfred Patrick A. LIFE OF JOHN J. KEANE, BISHOP, 1884-1954
Milwaukee, 1954

JOHN J. KEANE, who was successively Bishop of Richmond, first Rector of the Catholic University of America, and Archbishop of Dubuque, was unquestionably one of the most outstanding—and especially among his non-Catholic fellow-Americans—one of the best known and most influential American prelates of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Appropriately, therefore, the Bruce Publishing Company of Milwaukee, Inc., has issued a scholarly biography of Archbishop Keane, *The Life of John J. Keane*, Editor and Archbishop, 1884-1954. The author is the Reverend Patrick Henry Ahern, Professor of Church History at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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