

Synagogues Back Zone Exemption Bill

New York—(RNS)—The New York Federation of Reform Synagogues has called upon affiliated congregations throughout the state to organize local support behind a bill pending in the legislature to exempt churches and synagogues from zoning regulations.

THE MEASURE, sponsored by Sen. Wheeler Milmoie (R-Canaanota), would amend the state's general city law, town law and village law so as to make invalid any regulation which "prohibits or limits the use, erection, alteration, or improvement of buildings or structures for churches, synagogues and schools or for residences or other uses related to" such institutions.

It was referred to the Senate and Assembly committees on the affairs of cities.

Herbert Henschel, head of the federation's committee on public affairs, urged leaders of Reform congregations to write the chairman of the Senate and Assembly committees, as well as their own representatives in the legislature, asking them to work for passage of the Milmoie bill.

He also proposed that congregational committees organize similar action by synagogue members and urge Christian church leaders in their communities to do the same.

MR. HENSCHEL pointed out in a memorandum that two Reform congregations in the state are involved in court battles against zoning regulations.

He said that should the restrictions prevail these congregations "will have their very right to existence threatened."

"It is most important that expressions of support for this bill be sent to members of the New York state legislature," he wrote, "so that churches and synagogues may be spared the necessity of long and costly court battles to uphold the principle of freedom of religion."

Protestants Ask Tax Relief On School Tuition

Chicago—(RNS)—Support of a pending federal bill to exempt religious school tuition from income tax was pledged here by the National Union of Christian Schools, a Protestant group.

The union's board of directors voted to back the measure introduced in the House by Rep. Gerald R. Ford Jr. (R-Mich.).

THE UNION coordinates the programs of 167 elementary schools and 20 high schools with a total enrollment of 36,000 pupils in 22 states and three Canadian provinces.

(The Men's Club of St. Cecilia Church in Rochester recently called upon area representatives in the New York State Legislature and in Congress to enact legislation granting tax deduction relief to parents paying tuition for their children in private schools.)

THE SCHOOLS are operated by parents' societies organized independently of churches. Most of their members belong to the Christian Reformed Church.

Because these schools receive support from individuals instead of local churches members of the parental societies cannot deduct tuition payments for income tax purposes. John Vander Ark of Grand Rapids, Mich., the union's director, said.

"We don't want federal aid, but exemption from taxes on tuition for what we consider is education based on religious principles," he said.

New Mass Coming For St. Joseph

Vatican City—(NC)—Cardinals and theological consultants are now considering a new Mass and Office for the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, Patron of Laborers. The new feast, set for May 1, was announced by Pope Pius XII last May 1.



New Home For Foundling

Chicago—(NC)—A good washing by Sister Martha introduces this abandoned 11-month old boy to St. Vincent's Orphanage, here. The youngster's mother, a housekeeper left him with her employers a month previously, saying she was going to buy shoes, but never returned.

Revised Holy Week Rites Presented In New Booklet

Washington—(NC)—"The Sacred Ceremonies of Holy Week" is the subject of a new pamphlet in preparation by the Publications Office of the National Catholic Welfare Conference here.

Ready in March, the 190-page booklet in attractive format, will contain each Mass from Palm Sunday to Easter including the Easter vigil, with full directions for the Eucharistic fast and the responses of the laity.

These changes, made by the Sacred Congregation of Rites are the most important in the liturgy in 400 years. They were made so that "the liturgical services can be attended more easily, more devoutly and more fruitfully by the faithful."

TRANSLATION of the new prayers, to be used for the first time in Holy Week of 1956, were made by a group under Father Gerald Ellard, S.J., and Father F. P. Prucha, S.J., both of St. Mary's (Kans.) College. The new rendition of the rubrics for the laity and explanatory introductions to each day's services are by Father John Joseph Danagher, C.M., of St. Thomas Seminary, Denver.

The booklet will also contain seven illustrations depicting Holy Week events, from paintings by the old masters. A set of rules for assisting at High Mass and a glossary of ecclesiastical terms used in the booklet are included. The price is 50-cents per single copy with discounts on quantities.

Segregation Immoral, Says Abp. Rummel

New Orleans—(NC)—Racial segregation "is a violation of moral principles," Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans, declared in an address here at the New Orleans archdiocese teachers' institute.

In this area where racial segregation in the Catholic schools has become an issue, the Archbishop said that segregation "put off for an indefinite time is not a good moral principle."

"**CHILDREN SHOULD** know," the Archbishop declared, "that regardless of color, all are children of God. That, I think, should be communicated to children by those in direct charge of them. Social justice should be an integral part of the school program so that children will be prepared with the principles of justice and charity."

In the situation here, the prelate said there "is a great deal of turmoil, a great deal of misrepresentation and not much evidence of Christian principles." He said that he has been asked "What is the moral responsibility of integration? And is segregation a moral issue of interpretation of a so-called way of life?"

THE ARCHBISHOP said: "Christ told St. Peter, 'Teach all nations . . . I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world.' If those words mean anything, they apply not only to Peter but to his successors, the Bishops, and all groups associated with the Church. Questioning and challenging the authority of the Church is not a conviction but an alibi of certain prejudices."

"In Genesis we read that God made one man and one woman. The Old Testament and the New Testament are without discrimination. In the second place, Christ did not die for one race, one group. He died for all men. The kingdom of Heaven is available to all."



ABP. RUMMEL 'segregation sinful'

Laymen Lead Faith Crusade In Indiana

Indianapolis, Ind.—(NC)—Some 30,000 laymen will fan out across the length and breadth of this State on Sunday, Feb. 26, to begin a week-long Catholic Census and Information Program.

Armed with Catholic literature and questionnaires, the volunteer workers will visit more than 1,200,000 households to carry out their three-fold function: to count the number of Catholic families; to give "fallen-away" Catholics an opportunity to return to the Church and to invite those professing no religious affiliation to attend Catholic Information Forums.

THE PROJECT was announced in a joint pastoral letter some time ago by the four Ordinaries in Indiana: Archbishop Paul C. Schulte of Indianapolis, Bishop Leo A. Purley, Apostolic Administrator of Fort Wayne, Bishop Henry J. Grimmelmann of Evansville and Bishop John G. Bennett of Lafayette.

At a series of briefing meetings, the speaker was Father John A. O'Brien, who has participated in similar projects in almost a dozen States. Father O'Brien is a noted convert worker and author-in-residence at the University of Notre Dame.

Lawmakers Face Censure By Church

New Orleans—(RNS)—A group of Catholic legislators who are seeking to enact laws in Louisiana that would prevent racial integration in private schools were warned here by a church paper that they might be incurring automatic excommunication.

Catholic Action of the South also directed the same warning at any Catholic who might vote for such legislation and any others who might be instrumental in carrying out the provisions of such laws. The paper is the official organ of the New Orleans Archdiocese.

THE WARNING came on the heels of a pastoral letter by Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans denouncing racial segregation as "morally wrong and sinful," and indicating that he planned to go ahead with plans to desegregate parochial schools in his archdiocese.

The editorial, signed by M. F. Everett, editor of Catholic Action of the South, said:

"As the great majority of private schools in Louisiana are Catholic, the proposed laws in effect would be an entering wedge for the control of Catholic education by political leaders."

Whether by design or not, Mr. Everett added, the laws would directly interfere with the jurisdiction of the Church "in its pre-eminent mission of education."

"The precedent is most dangerous," he declared, "for, if political leaders can dictate to the Church on one matter under its jurisdiction the way is open for them to dictate in others. The end result could well be complete state control of religion."

THE EDITORIAL then warned that "the issue is so grave that under certain conditions the offenders automatically incur excommunication."

It cited Canon 2334 of Church Law which reads: "The following incur an excommunication latae sententiae (automatic) specially reserved to the Holy See: 1. Those who issue laws, mandates or decrees contrary to the freedom of rights of the Church; 2. Those who directly or indirectly impede the exercise of ecclesiastical jurisdiction either of the internal or of the external forum, and for this purpose have recourse to any lay authority."

The proposed legislation, the editorial said, "would certainly impede the exercise of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, in this instance the operation of Catholic schools."

"If the laws were enacted," the editorial continued, "automatic excommunication would be incurred by those who worked for and voted for their passage and by those who appealed to lay authority for their application, such as persons who brought sheriffs, chiefs of police or courts to put provisions of the laws into effect."

Boston Prelate Hits Color-Bar

Boston—(NC)—Boston's Archbishop Richard J. Cushing declared here that "any Catholic who reviles or wrongs a brother because of the color of his skin" ceases to be "a Catholic and an American."

The prelate made a strong appeal for brotherhood as he was presented with the "Man of the Year" award by the Benjamin S. Fossamer Lodge of B'nai B'rith of Lowell, Mass. The Archbishop emphasized that "no Catholic can despise a fellow man and remain a true follower of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and an obedient son of His Church."

The prelate declared that any Catholic who harbors ill will toward another because of color, race or religion is a "disobedient son of Mother Church and a disloyal citizen of these United States."

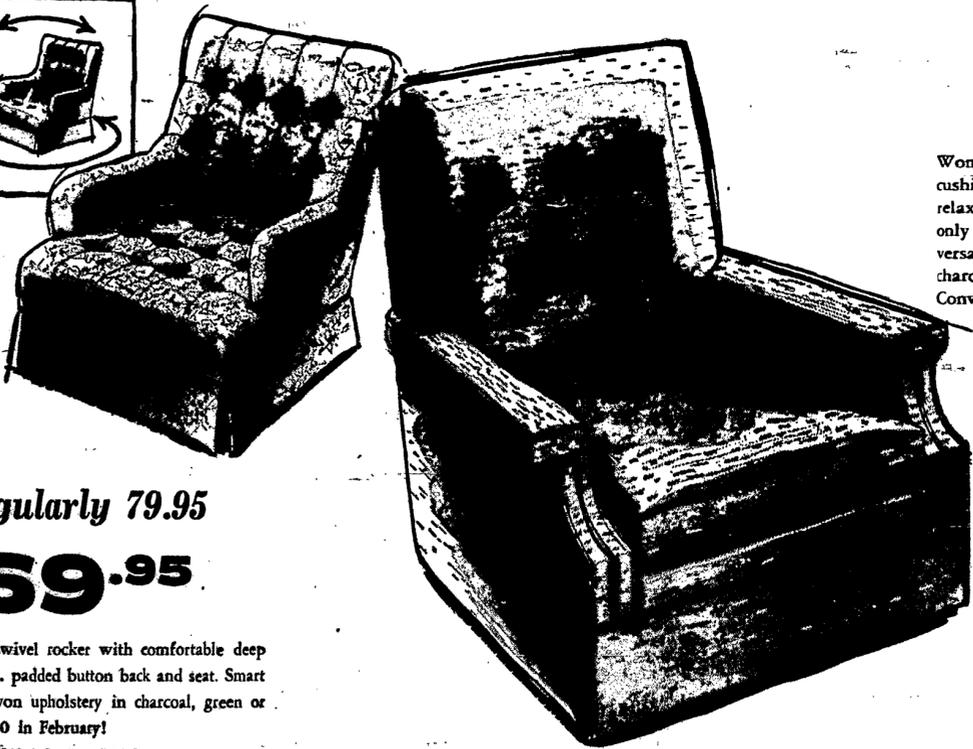
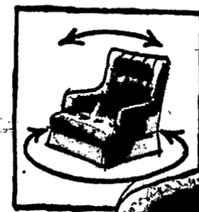
Help For Schools

Leeds, England—(NC)—Bishop John C. Heenan of Leeds has asked all Catholics in his diocese who are without families to contribute a tenth of their wages each week to help provide money for Catholic schools.



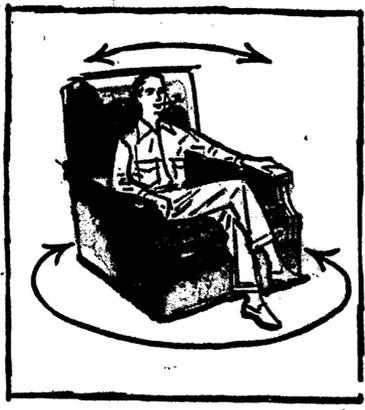
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