Bid Killed To Tax All Church Schools

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this should not rule out cooperation for the general welfare.

These persons argue that the intent of the first amendment, as shown by history, is not to curb activities of religious groups, but to encourage them by giving all an equal opportunity.

They say that if the government, Federal, state or local, is to aid religious activities, it must carry out the program on a non-preferential basis. No one group should be given a legal preference.

This is the essence of the problem. It may look like a simple matter, but it is considered only in the beginning stages of a solution and the challenge it presents is rated by most church groups as very serious.

IN CALIFORNIA, private, non-profit schools below the collegiate level had to pay property taxes until 1951. In that year, the legislature passed a law relieving them of this burden.

The law was challenged and taken to court. Opponents said it violated church-state separation. They signaled out the exemptions given to Catholic schools, though all private schools benefited.

The case reached the California Supreme Court. Last June the court held that the exemption was constitutional, saying the law was enacted "to promote the general welfare through encouraging the education of the young."

The tribunal, in its 4 to 3 decision, said that "the principle of separation of church and state is not impaired by granting tax exemptions of religious groups generally, and it seems clear the first amendment was not intended to prohibit such exemptions."

The court added that "under any circumstances, any benefit received by religious denominations is merely incidental to the achievement of a public purpose."

The U. S. Supreme Court's action left this decision standing.

IN PENNSYLVANIA, the case involved the practice of Allegheny county, which includes the city of Pittsburgh, of helping to pay for the care of dependent children placed in church institutions by juvenile court action. Eight Catholic and two Protestant institutions were involved.

The state's Supreme Court said the program does not violate the first amendment because the payments are, in effect, for the benefit of the child and not the institution maintaining him.

The court dismissed, with the comment that "it is unnecessary to devote much time to this contention," an argument presented by the appellant that the payments constituted an "establishment of religion."

The court added that the state's constitution "does not prohibit the state or any of its agencies from doing business with denominational or sectarian institutions, nor from paying just debts to them when incurred at its direction or with its approval."

Thus, with these two decisions, two potentially severe blows to church groups were averted. But there is no doubt that challenges of such principles as these will occur in other areas in the future.

Clothes Collected At Thanksgiving Start Overseas

Hoboken, N. J. — (NC) — The first shipment of clothing collected in the 1956 Thanksgiving Clothing Drive sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of the United States has left here for Hungarian refugees in Europe.

The 500,000 pounds of wearable used clothing, blankets and shoes, with an estimated value of $625,000 is described as one of the largest shipments of relief supplies, if not the largest, yet sent from the U.S. to the victims of the Soviet tyranny in Hungary.

Archbishop Thomas A. Boland of Newark blessed the cargo as it was loaded into the American Export Line's SS Eychester here. Tracy Voorhees, recently appointed coordinator of the Hungarian relief program by President Eisenhower, represented the President.

Although there is no figure available on the amount of clothing given by Catholics in the 1956 drive, a total of some 70 million pounds was contributed in the eight previous annual campaigns.

In 1955 alone, some 11 million pounds of usable clothing, blankets and shoes were donated.

Dutch Family Needs Home

A Dutch couple and their six children are currently keeping house in one room at the Manger Rochester Hotel.

The family has come to Rochester under the sponsorship of the Catholic Family Center. They are the first of 85 families expected to come here from Holland.

"Holland is too small for a big family," according to Bernardus Rozestraten and his wife Adriana. "Wages there are low, and prices high, so we decided to come to America, but now we can't find a house to rent for our family of six children."

Mother Rozestraten holds five months old Lizbet in photo above. Children seated on hotel bed are (from left) Theodore, 8; Jane, 7; Dick, 6; Jack, 4; and Hans, 2.

Mr. Rozestraten is employed with the Rochester Poster Advertising Company.

Danger In Teen-Age Steady Dating Cited

Cincinnati — (NC) — Steady dating by high school sophomores is "a grave moral danger which parents have an obligation to stop at once," a priest active in youth work declared here.

FATHER RICHARD Klug of Holy Family Church told parents of Seton Girls' High School that "going out with the same boy, week after week, to the exclusion of all others" is morally wrong for sophomores "at all times and under all circumstances."

The practice also is "ridiculous," he told the parents, and "besides being a moral danger" is "a sign of personal and social immaturity."

Insisting that "young people aren't apt to break up these things," Father Klug warned that "it's up to your parents. If you don't break it up, you may break your girls' hearts."

The priest made it clear that parents must "face up to your responsibilities" and honestly appraise the moral dangers facing teen-agers.

AS A POSITIVE program for the parents in guiding their teen-age daughters, Father Klug suggested:

—Encourage them to attend school functions specifically planned to bring Catholic boys and girls together.

—Encourage them to join the parish youth clubs.

K of C Send Presses To Church In Bolivia

New Haven, Conn. — (RNS) — Printing presses formerly used here to turn out copies of Columbia and other publications of the Knights of Columbus were shipped to Bolivia where they will serve the Roman Catholic Church.

THE CATHOLIC fraternal organization moved into a new printing plant in another part of the city last year. Following a visit last March to K of C national headquarters here by Luis A. Siles, brother of Bolivia's President, the organization offered the old presses to Archbishop Humberto Mozzoni, Apostolic Nuncio to Bolivia.

Archbishop Mozzoni readily accepted the offer, declaring that the equipment would be a great help to the Catholic Bishops of Bolivia in their work.

THE PRESSES and auxiliary equipment weigh over 200,000 pounds and are valued at about $350,000. The $30,000 cost of dismantling the presses, crating them and delivering them to the Bolivian National Railway, was borne by the K of C.

Officials of the Grace Line said the presses comprised the largest single shipment it had ever transported to South America.

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Vatican To Issue Yearbook, Jan. 18

Vatican City — (NC) — The first copy of the new 1957 edition of the Annuario, Pontificio, the official Vatican Yearbook, will be presented to Pope Pius XII, as it is done every year, on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, January 18.

The official Vatican Yearbook, will undergo major changes within the next two years.

One will have to do with its international character, the other with its format. The 1957 edition of the Annuario will be published with the introductory notes to its main sections in six languages: Italian, French, English, German, Spanish and Portuguese. They formerly appeared only in Italian.

Plans are further being made to change the format of the Annuario. Up to now it has been a fat, squat little book. By 1958 it is expected to be streamlined into a larger, thinner, more legible volume.

On Disaster Scene

Brooklyn — (NC) — Father Thomas Smith administers the last rites to the covered body of a dock worker who was victim in the Luckenbach Steamship Company pier disaster, Brooklyn. Victim's hat rests on coat. Damage was estimated at 10 million dollars.

Red Role Exposed By Refugees Here

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teacher, also refused to sign up with the Reds. He lost his job but managed to get another one in a school outside the capital city. Now he would like to find a position again as a teacher. He taught history, and served as athletic director for the suburban high school near Budapest.

HANDSOME, 24 - year - old Stephen Lajos also stood with the Budapest crowd on that eventful October Tuesday when Hungary's ancient love of liberty erupted into its tragic week of bloodshed.

As the freedom fighters stalked the detested AVH security police and tossed their "cocktails" (bottles of benzine with a cotton fuse) at the Russian tanks, Stephen worked on one of the barricades built to obstruct the tanks.

About 20 people — men, women and children — ripped up the paving stones of Lenin Blvd., tore up trolley tracks, and heaped their barricade with tree limbs and trash cans.

Whenever a tank would bear down on them, its guns blazing, the unarmed citizens fled to the safety of nearby buildings.

"Up in the windows of the apartments and private homes, freedom fighters who were lucky enough to have weapons, pumped their fire at the Russian troops," Lajos said.

A WEEK after the fighting started, Russian tanks and troops started to leave the city.

That day "tears of joy" were mixed with "tears of fear," Lajos recalled. "Everybody knew that the Rusians still occupied the airport and that their troops surrounded the city," he said.

"Sunday morning (Nov. 4), gunfire woke me up," he recalls.

"We hoped the United Nations would find some way to help us, but by Thursday I know the situation was hopeless, so I walked to the outskirts of the city — all I had was a canvas bag with a few personal items — and I hitch-hiked a ride with a family."

"The family drove me to about three miles from the Austrian border. Eight times patrols stopped us, and the driver told them we were headed to whatever was the next nearest town. That way we were permitted to keep going.

"I got out at a farm house — and the farmer showed me a way to get across the border at a spot that wasn't guarded. And here I am," he smiled.

AND IT seemed strange to see him smile — how could a man be happy when all his hopes lie shattered behind him? He was an electrical technician, a draftsman in Budapest. Now he's out of work. His parents and his two sisters back in the battled city are perhaps dead, certainly impoverished, probably hungry and cold. The smile perhaps is not so much a badge of satisfaction, but it's a boast of courage.

"Now I want to work — to earn my own way — to live in freedom," Lajos said.

Want to go back someday?

He shrugged his shoulders — "America has taken me in. I want to stay and do something for this country. Maybe someday if Hungary is free again I might go back for a visit — but America is my home now."

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Poland Promises Church Freedom

(Continued from Page 1)

must be organized by the Church with the support of school authorities. Both sides guarantee full liberty and tolerance for believers as well as for non-believers. Both will oppose all attempts against freedom of conscience.

- Agreement was reached concerning religious assistance in hospitals and homes for the aged.
- The position of prison chaplains and religious assistance in prisons was likewise agreed on.
- The government agreed to the return of Sisters removed in 1953 from the former German-held areas of western Poland. If they are not Poles, they are free to leave the country if they choose. Moreover, priests removed last year from parishes in the former German territories are now allowed to return to their parishes.
- The five ordinaries named to head the Sees which were formerly under German administration are allowed to assume their posts.

Some of these clauses — in particular, those concerning the 1953 Church appointments decree, the return of priests and Sisters to the old German territories, and the accord on the five western ordinaries — had apparently gone into effect prior to the communique announcing the accord.

ACCORDING TO informed sources here, the joint Church-State commission is preparing further statements concerning other facets of Polish life. These sources said nothing specific was mentioned about freedom for Catholic organizations despite the fact that there have been negotiations on the subject. It was understood that the Polish government views the topic as especially difficult under the present circumstances.

During the Stalinist era, the Catholic welfare organization, Caritas, and similar groups were suppressed and communist-front groups raised in their stead.

Mr. Gomulka has stated explicitly that there can be no Catholic political party, and it is believed that some agreement is being sought whereby Catholic organizations will be allowed to function with assurances that they will not enter the political arena.

Literature Law Hits Magazine Distributor

Gary, Ind. — (RNS) — A magazine distributor was fined $100 and costs by City Judge A. Marvin Katz for violating an Indiana law forbidding the sale of "pernicious" literature. The law defines pernicious as "highly injurious or destructive in character, deadly, fatal; intending or doing evil."

Judge Katz waived a jail sentence but warned Lloyd L. Henderson, a partner in the K & H News Service, that for "another offense I won't be so lenient."

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