

# Federal School Aid Proposals Challenged Again

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By a single stroke of the pen an excessive school enrollment can be created on paper, the prelate cautions. "And in many cases the school superintendent is in a position to do this," the Archbishop says, by simply reducing the "official capacity" of a classroom from 30 pupils to 28. The result is an excessive enrollment in the nation's public schools of 2,076,000.

With regard to teachers, the Archbishop quotes Circular No. 490 of the U.S. Office of Education to the effect that "the number of teachers increased proportionately more than the number of pupils last year resulting in a reduction in the overall teacher-pupil ratio from 26.9 to 26.3."

Applying a bit of simple arithmetic to this revelation," the Archbishop comments, "we find that the reduction of six-tenths of a point in the ratio could add 600,000 pupils to the so-called 'excess load' borne by the public schools.

CONTINUING on the subject of crowded classrooms, the prelate refers to the enrollment peak of 1933-34 when the average teacher load was 31.2 pupils per teacher. "The members of congress," he continues, "who were in school in those days should be able to judge

whether they were dwarfed intellectually by having five more pupils in the classrooms than the children have today."

Deploring what he called "the jungle of guesswork," Archbishop O'Hara cited a statement in the report of the White House Conference which "repeats the stock assertion that for about 18 years, from 1930 to 1948, hardly any schools were constructed."

"Against this easy assertion," the Archbishop continues, "we have the testimony of the chief specialist in education on the staff of the Legislative Reference Service, Charles A. Quattlebaum, that during those years (1930-38) the Federal Government, through various agencies, built approximately 18,000 new schools all over the country and enlarged, improved or modernized an additional 51,000 schools.

The Archbishop stresses that a total of 69,000 schools, not classrooms, were involved in the construction program.

"Confusion reigns," Archbishop O'Hara concludes, "We see one possible good that may come of the campaign for Federal aid. The indifference to arithmetic manifested by the educational leaders of our country may arouse the public to do something about it."

## 'Cradle Catholic,' Convert Comparison Seen 'Foolish'

Lexington, Ky. (NC)—A bishop said here it seems "futile and foolish" to make comparisons between the appreciation of the Church shown by so-called "cradle Catholics" and those who became converts when adults.

SPEAKING TO some 300 delegates attending the third national convention of the Guilds of St. Paul, organizations which aid converts in their new lives in the Church, Bishop Leo A. Pursley of Fort Wayne stated:

"All these things are done according to the wisdom and will of God. It matters little whether the priest pours the saving water of baptism on the small, fuzzy head of a baby, or whether he pours the same life-giving water on a head bowed with the weight of many years and burdened un-

til then by the weight of many sins."

THE INDIANA prelate said he brought up the subject because "we sometimes hear so-called cradle Catholics say, 'How I envy the convert who finds the Church in his mature life when he is able to appreciate what he has found to realize what he has missed during all those empty years.'"

The Bishop admitted however that the convert does have the advantage of being able to encourage a potential Catholic by relating his own experiences



Fire Damaged altar rail at Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester, is inspected by Rev. W. Darcy Bolger and Battalion Chief Francis E. Fox. Blaze was touched off Tuesday by two girls, one eight and the other ten. The two also admitted a Monday's vandalism foray against the church's vigil light and pamphlet stands.

## Fire Damages Sanctuary In Immaculate Conception

Fire caused at least a \$1,000 damage in the sanctuary of Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester, early Tuesday afternoon.

The fire touched off by vandals followed a Monday episode in which the church's vigil light and pamphlet stands were wrecked.

Police quickly rounded up two girls, one aged 8 and the other 10 who admitted the vandalism done both days. The children were taken to the Children's Shelter where they are waiting Children's Court action.

POLICE INVESTIGATING the Monday damage called at the church Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

They discovered the American flag blazing and toppled onto the Communion rail. The rail was also burning but of control. Firemen had to hack the rail with hatchets to keep the fire from spreading to other parts of the Church, one of Rochester's historic third ward landmarks built in 1864.

REDECORATION OF the Church was completed in 1954. Parish pastor is Monsignor John S. Randall, managing editor of the Courier-Journal.

## School Official Hits Atheistic Teachers

Miami, Fla. (RNS) Atheistic teachers will have no place in the Dade County school system if a policy proposed by Mrs. Helen J. Volson, school board member, is adopted.

"I want our schools taught by people who believe in God and if this requirement is not included in our teacher application it should be," she said.

"I have no interest in the religious denomination of any teacher, but both Christians and Jews do believe in God and I think anyone applying for a teacher position in our schools should have this belief."

## Lay People Role Seen Growing In Catholic Hospitals

Cleveland — (RNS) — Lay people are playing a growing administrative role in Catholic hospitals. It was noted at a Hospital Sisters meeting here. Speakers said this trend could be an important contribution to the expansion of Catholic hospitals.

The meeting was held during the 42nd convention of the Ohio Hospital Association and affiliated groups.

The Rev. John J. Flanagan, S.J., of St. Louis, executive director of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, pointed out that lay persons are now being used as assistant administrators, business managers, personnel directors and purchasing agents.

"These men and women have made a definite contribution to the administration of our Catholic hospitals and are enabling religious to give more time to the direct care of the patient," he said.

They also represent the hospital in outside activities where it would be inconvenient for sister-administrators to attend. This trend is being watched with great interest in the field of hospital administration.

One of the things laymen in administrative positions can do is help alleviate the severe shortage of sisters and brothers who staff the hospitals, the priest said.

This shortage, he said in an interview later, is the chief stumbling block to a faster growth of Catholic hospitals in the U.S.

## My Wife Wears Herself Out In Dozens Of Church Affairs

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J., Assistant Professor of Sociology at St. Louis University.

My wife wears herself out in Church affairs. She manages to get involved in just about everything. If there's a drive, she's sure to head it. If it's serving hot lunches to the kids, she'll be there. Are we going to have a bazaar? She'll head one of the committees. I tell her other women can do something for a change why must the same few do all the work?



WELL, BILL, have you ever attended a regular meeting of the Knights of Columbus, the Eagles, the local labor union, or of any other voluntary organization? If you have, I think you know the answer.

Studies show that only five per cent of the members attend the business meetings regularly and consequently do most of the work.

The other members are what we call "pork-barrelers" in the labor movement. They come in for the gain, the entertainment, or because it's the thing to do, but they make little contribution in terms of personal effort and sacrifice.

It tends to be the same story in Church affairs. In almost every parish one finds a little nucleus of faithful workers ready to volunteer whenever any work comes up. The remainder are like the guests invited to the wedding feast in Our Lord's parable — they all have good excuses for not coming.

Of course, some really have, and I suppose all think that they do. Come to think of it though, it's strange that the same people always have a "good" excuse, while others who are just as busy somehow always seem to find time to cooperate.

It is interesting to note that this pattern first shows up while these people are still in school. The students who are "pork-barrelers" grow up true to form. Maybe they just had a head start on others in learning to make good excuses

very contemptuous to the present either.

In regard to your wife, then, you have only one question to ask. Does her outside activity keep her from doing a good job as wife and mother at home?

There are a few mistakenly pious souls who get themselves so involved in outside activities that they don't find time to first fulfill their primary obligations in the home. This is apparently not your problem. Rather, you feel that your wife is being imposed upon.

Perhaps I have been a little hard on the "pork-barrelers." Some of them may feel timid and insecure, fearing to put themselves forward. Some may be new arrivals, waiting to be asked.

At the same time, the workers are not without their immediate rewards. Generally, they are the type that really enjoy doing things for others. They appear happiest when they are busiest. At any rate, Bill, thank God you have married a generous wife.

## Market To Become Shoppers Chapel

Springfield, Mass. — (RNS) — The Catholic Diocese of Springfield has acquired a downtown grocery store building that will be converted into a chapel to serve shoppers and office workers.

Bishop Christopher J. Weldon of Springfield announced the purchase of the Mohican Market for \$150,000. The store has been a landmark in the business area for 30 years.

Conversion of the building will be completed within a year, the bishop said.

Before Mohican Market Inc. acquired the property it was the site of Trinity Methodist Church which in 1929 constructed a new house of worship in a residential area.

Mohican Market, the only grocery store in the city's business area, plans to relocate in a suburban shopping center.

the news you've been waiting for

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