

Archdiocese Fights Student Bus Fare

Philadelphia — (NC) — Proposed increases in the cost of public transportation for school pupils here were opposed by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in a brief submitted to the Public Utility Commission.

The brief, filed by attorneys Thomas B. Harper, III, and James E. Gallagher, Jr., protested the hike in school fares from 7½ cents to 12½ cents, as proposed by the Philadelphia Transportation Company.

THE BRIEF declared that the increase would cost the parochial school pupils an additional \$450,000 each year. Between 20,000 and 25,000 pupils attending diocesan schools use the PTC's facilities every day, it was stated.

The proposed hike in fares was opposed earlier by the Public Board of Education and the City of Philadelphia.

The archdiocese's brief said that "any action... adding to the financial burden of school attendance is a matter of serious concern to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, as well as to the parents of all the children so affected."

Stressing the seriousness of the proposed increase, amounting to 10 cents per day, the attorneys pointed out that "if the burden of the increased fares should become too great on children attending diocesan schools, the school system might be compelled to provide private facilities for their transportation."

THE ATTORNEYS said the PTC "enjoys a monopoly position" and "has a correlative duty

to charge a tariff that is not beyond the ability of the rider to pay.

"The children's afternoon ride is at the off-peak hour when the facilities of the Philadelphia Transportation Company are at their minimum use," it said.

Students Fight Excise Taxes On Private Schools

St. Louis, Mo. — (RNS) — A House of Representatives and will be considered at the current session of Congress by the Senate Finance Committee. Students and their parents were urged to address letters of support to the committee.

Cyril Echele, chairman of the CU of M committee, said the tax is imposed on private schools for such purchases as school buses, typewriters and supplies, but is not required of public schools and institutions.

THE CAMPAIGN is being directed by the Catholic Union of Missouri, which distributed a letter to all of the schools explaining the status of House Bill 7125 and its background.

HOUSE BILL 7125, which would eliminate the taxes, was approved in the last session by the U.S.

Pandemonium In Pulpit

Pagadian, Philippines — The pastor of this Columbian mission in Zamboanga likes to keep a pet monkey, but the assistant, Father Daniel Baragay, does not—any more.

Recently, Father Baragay was in the pulpit getting ready to read the Sunday announcements. The next thing he knew the pastor's pet monkey was on his shoulder, staring roguishly at the congregation.

Before the young Columbian could recover his wits, the monkey jumped, grabbed the announcement book out of the priest's hands and raced out of the church.



Long Way, Even By Radio

Cincinnati — (NC) — From Antarctica to Cincinnati, or vice-versa, is a long way, anyway you look at it, as Jesuit Father Edward A. Bradley, S.J., (left) Xavier University physicist, and Marist Brother Lawrence Eveslage, S.M., discover. Brother Eveslage, an amateur radio operator, will be in contact with Father Bradley via his WSVPA, while the latter is serving as chief seismologist with a Naval exploration party, measuring depth of the Antarctic ice cap in "Operation Deep Freeze." (NC Photos.)

New Church Building Sets '57 Record

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Church construction set an all-time record in 1957, with \$888,000,000 of new buildings put in place by America's churches and synagogues, the Department of Commerce and Labor reported here.

THE NEW record surpassed the old, set in 1956, by exactly \$100,000,000.

Construction by private schools and colleges, many of which are church-related, dropped three per cent in '57, but still topped half a billion dollars, the government report said. New construction by the nonpublic school system totaled \$519,000,000, compared with \$536,000,000 in 1956. In December construction totaled \$44,000,000, some \$2,000,000 less than the same month a year ago.

Operation Doorbell Enrolls Converts

Milwaukee, Wis. — (RNS) — Climaxing a statewide Catholic Census and Information Program launched by the Wisconsin Hierarchy, 665 adult converts in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee were confirmed on the same day here.

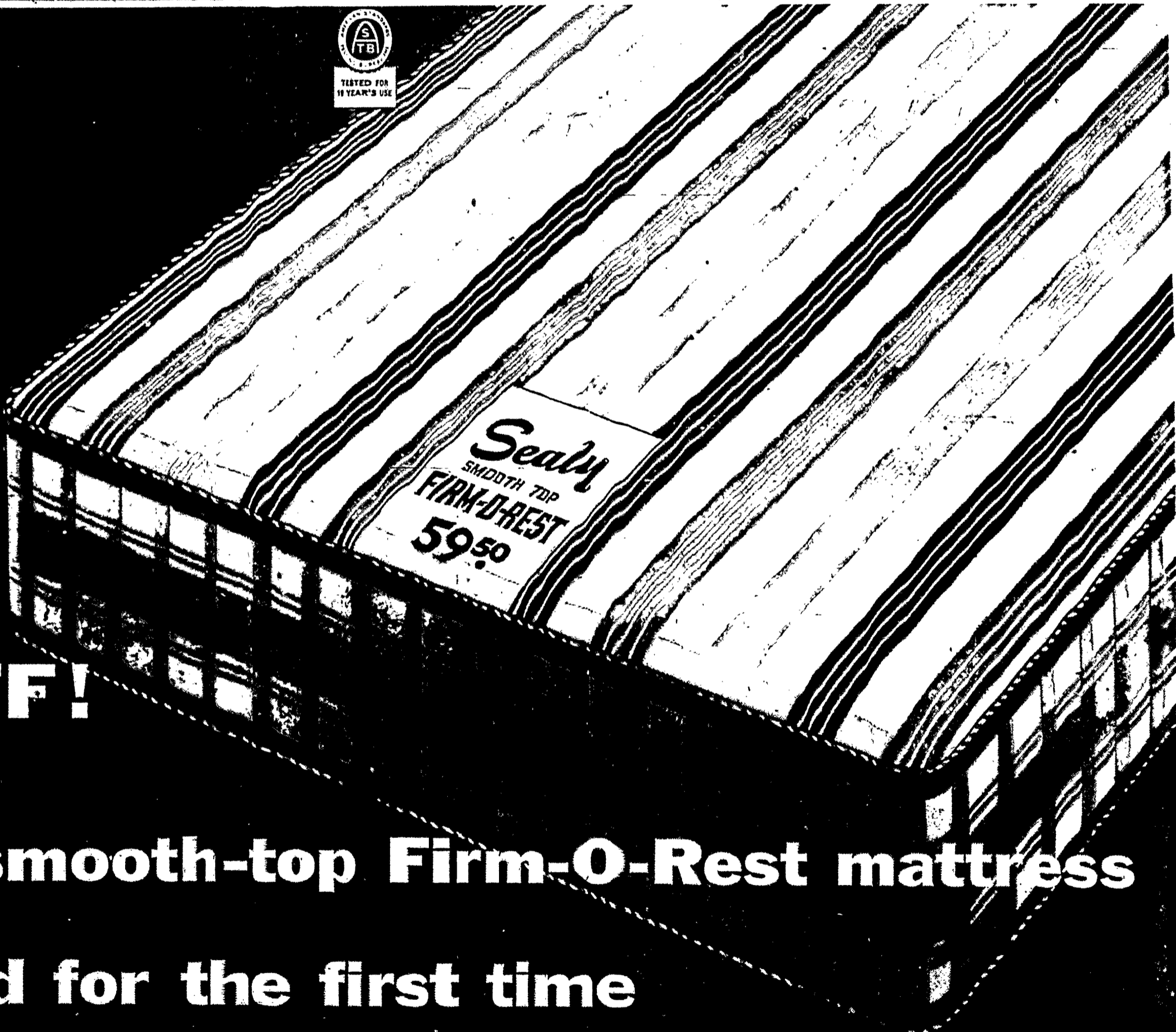
A TOTAL of 406 converts and their sponsors filled St. John's Cathedral when the sacrament of Confirmation was administered by Archbishop Albert G. Meyer. In another ceremony at Old St. Mary's church, Auxiliary Bishop Roman Atkieski confirmed an additional 259 adults recently received into the Church.

The conversions were attributed by Archdiocesan authorities to the mammoth census program, which was dubbed "Operation Doorbell." The Rev. John A. O'Brien, research professor at the University of Notre Dame and a leader in the convert movement, assisted the Wisconsin prelates in planning the campaign during which 31,000 Catholic lay canvassers called on a total of 819,875 homes in the "Badger State."



Winner

Altoona, Pa. — (NC) — Miss Patricia Dyezko of Altoona, Pa., is a winner of a \$500 scholarship in a nationwide essay contest for eighth graders conducted by the Child Development Institute, publishers of the Wonderland of Knowledge Encyclopedia. Her subject was "Why a Catholic Education is Important To Me." Miss Dyezko is now a freshman at Altoona Catholic High School, a graduate of St. Leo's School, Altoona.



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