

Oregon Governor Charges Bigotry In Free Textbook Fight

Salem, Ore. — (NC) — Gov. Robert D. Holmes of Oregon said here that opposition to a state law providing free textbooks to private and parochial school children is "based on religious prejudice."

Gov. Holmes declared that the opponents are "taking a bigoted view." He asserted that supplying free textbooks to students in parochial and private schools does not violate church-state separation. He pointed out that to deprive students of textbooks would be to discriminate against them.

At issue is a 1937 amendment to a 14-year-old law, which set up certain standards for schools receiving free books.

The standards included specifications concerning the number of pupils per teacher, and the playground space. It was estimated that about 52 per cent of all public schools in the state and 60 per cent of all parochial schools were unable to meet the classroom and playground provisions and thus were denied free books.

The 1937 amendment in question removed the classroom and playground specifications as tests for receiving free textbooks.

STATE SENATOR Svedahl, chairman of the Senate education committee which gave unanimous approval to the amendment before passage by the state legislature last year, declared that "the real purpose of most of those against the law is to abolish the private and parochial school."

GOV. HOLMES SAID he had received many letters protesting the textbook law. He said, however, that he believes "they are based on religious prejudices, although they claim that they believe the free books for the private and parochial schools vio-

late the principle of separation of church and state."

"It doesn't violate that principle at all," he continued. "To deprive those schools of their free books would be discriminating against youngsters in those schools."

"I think those protesting the law are taking a bigoted view. We have less bigotry than most other states, and I want to see it continue that way."

An Oregon chapter was recently set up by an organization which calls itself Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State. One announced goal of the organization is to bring the Oregon textbook program to an end.

Japanese Nuns Plan Convent In Germany

Yokohama — (NC) — Eight Sisters of the Japanese Congregation of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart (Seishin Aishi Kai) left here to open a convent in Germany, the first foreign foundation of any Japanese religious community.

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Catholic School Wins Court Case

Philadelphia — (RNS) — Construction of diocesan high school in suburban Wynnton has been started by the Philadelphia Roman Catholic Archdiocese after a delay of more than three years due to court injunctions based on residential zoning regulations.

The 1,500-pupil coed school on an 18-acre site will be named in honor of Bishop Philip R. Devitt, who served as archdiocesan superintendent of schools from 1893 until he was named head of the Harrisburg See in 1916. He died in 1935.

In April, 1937, the state Supreme Court reversed decisions of the Cheltenham township zoning board and the Montgomery County Court denying the archdiocese a building permit.

These restraints had been based on complaints of residents and township officials, that the contemplated large size of the

Truck Drivers Patron Honored

Mexico City — (RNS) — Truck drivers and operators of other types of vehicles all over Mexico flocked to churches for special rites in honor of their patron, Blessed Sebastian, a 19th century Franciscan whose incorrupt remains are preserved in a Pueblo monastery.

The drivers had their cars blessed, as well as medals bearing the image of the beatus.

Blessed Sebastian made a fortune in business after coming to Mexico from his native Spain, but he gave it all away when he entered the Franciscan Order. He dedicated himself to the humble task of bringing supplies from Veracruz to Pueblo in a cart hitched to a yoke of oxen.

Another Sebastian single-handedly paved the muddy roads with stones to make the journey easier for his beasts. Even today, miles of narrow stone roads made by the beatus are used in country districts.

Australian Bishops

Melbourne — (RNS) — The Australian Catholic Bishops' Committee on Immigration denounced "prejudices and anti-pathies" which create opposition to migrants and migration.

My Family Wrecks Every Chance I Have For A Happy Marriage

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.

What does a girl do when her family criticizes every young man with whom she goes? "I'm already twenty and feel I'm old enough to marry, but my family acts as if none of the boys in our neighborhood are good enough for me. Dad doesn't say much; it's mother and my two brothers who do all the talking. Although I want to follow my parents' advice, how am I ever going to get married at this rate?"



You know, Betty, your letter puts me on the spot a bit! I have always insisted that parents are obliged to exercise watchfulness and care in helping their children select suitable companions, since friendship leads to love and marriage.

Likewise, I have stressed the serious obligation of children to obey their parents and to follow their reasonable advice. When applying these principles to your case, emphasis must be placed on the term reasonable.

IT IS A FACT of experience that many parents, and mothers in particular, tend to regard the future chances of their children with a jaundiced eye. I suppose few women feel that another woman could raise someone who would be quite worthy of their own cherished "pride and joy." This is perhaps a necessary consequence of parenthood.

All parents nourish glowing hopes for the future of the infants they bear, and long years of loving care frequently contribute little to bring these hopes into focus with reality.

Perhaps an added factor in parental opposition is the unconscious fear of loss.

Marriage does take children out of the home and consequently narrows the family circle.

Particularly when fathers and mothers have not grown closely together as husbands and wives, they tend to center their interest and affection on their children. The possibility of the child's marriage then appears as a threat to this type of parent-child relationship and will be opposed in various ways.

Opposition arising from this cause is all the more difficult to deal with because its source is seldom recognized or admitted. Rather, parents rationalize it as an honest effort to seek the child's best interests.

UNDER THESE circumstances, criticism of a possible prospective mate becomes the usual procedure. It is such a subtle, devastating weapon because it gradually destroys respect for the person, whereas true love can be fortified and developed only on the basis of mutual respect.

I gather from your letter, Betty, that past criticism has caused you to drop several young men from your list. You wonder how long this is going to keep up. Well, if the criticism stems from some of the factors I have mentioned, it will continue no matter what kind of man you meet.

What should you do? In the first place, you're old enough to know your own mind and to stand on your own feet. You can't go on picking your friends according to the likes or dislikes of your family. Above all, in selecting your future partner, remember it will be you and not your mother or brothers who will share married life with him.

Second, you know the qualities to look for in a mate. Does he understand and appreciate his faith? Does he have an adequate sense of responsibility, that is, can he hold a job, and is he capable of supporting a family? Is he emotionally balanced and mature, that is, has he grown up yet? Does he respect you and your sense of values? etc., etc.

Third, although common sense tells you to weigh carefully what your parents say, you should not let your judgment of others be swayed by that shallow, carping criticism which belittles everyone outside the family circle.

No young man is perfect, but then, neither are you!

WHAT WILL happen if you do ignore family opposition?

Fortunately, Betty, although studies show that a good percentage of future brides or grooms were originally not wholly acceptable to their partners' parents, parental coolness proved temporary in the majority of cases.

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