

Tax Easement Eyed For Parents

By RHEA FELKNOR

Alton, Ill. — (NC) — Formation of a new independent group seeking to halt discrimination against religious schools is arousing widespread interest in some Midwest states.

The group is known as Citizens for Educational Freedom.

One aim is to promote state tuition grants directly to each child, rather than to the school district as is now the case. Parents then would spend the grants in the schools of their choice, getting what the group calls "their fair share of the taxes levied for education."

Here in Alton, retired Probate Judge Anthony W. Daly, who is counsel for the new non-denominational group, is convinced one of the basic civil rights issues of the day is the existing tax discrimination against pupils not attending public schools.

Civil rights are a big issue here in this town made famous in another century by Elijah P. Lovejoy, whose crusade against slavery cost him his life at the hands of a mob in 1837. And Judge Daly said he is convinced today that U.S. Constitutional guarantees on freedom of assembly and liberty are being violated by existing school tax laws.

THE SOLUTION proposed by Citizens for Educational Freedom: "For every child who attends a non-state school, there should be a tuition grant from the state for his fair share of the taxes levied for education."

"Put it this way," said Martin I. Duggan, news editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, another of the organizers of Citizens for Educational Freedom. "We're trying to make the child the focal point of educational freedom. And we're at-

tempting to show that schools which provide a religious education for kids are doing something mighty fine for our country — and something that is really essential if our country is going to continue as a free nation."

Mr. Duggan, father of four children, three of school age, is convinced any state system of public education denying benefits of such tax-provided education to children in independent schools is a serious rights violation.

"Such a violation also denies children the equal protection of the laws or of welfare benefits as required by the Fourteenth Amendment," Mr. Duggan said. "It also denies parents freedom of choice, as guaranteed by the First Amendment, since the state is imposing an economic penalty on the free exercise of civil rights."

"Our objective is to create the proper climate — to form the necessary public opinion — for education," Mr. Duggan said. "We are hoping more and more Americans will see that this country must protect the rights of the child — giving every child a fair share."

Jesuit, Lutherans Parley On Unity

Toledo — (NC) — Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox church members should develop better relationships by meeting together at the grass roots level, in small groups.

Such an appeal was made by Father Gustave Weigel, S.J., distinguished professor of ecclesiology at a Jesuit seminary, Woodstock (Md) College, and a foremost U.S. Catholic authority on the Protestant unity movement and its implications for Catholicism.

THE JESUIT participated here in a Lutheran-sponsored meeting called the first annual Ecumenical Institute of Toledo. The four-hour session, attended by 150 area clergymen, including 35 Catholic priests, was arranged by Dr. C. Uman Wolf, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church. It was held in a parish assembly room.

Father Weigel made no detailed elaboration of his recommendation. But between meetings, he told reporters he thought the sessions should be informal, and that theologians should be present. Laity, too, should attend, he said.

There should be frankness at such discussions, added Father Weigel. He said that in matters of religion, Christians are "too sensitive" and this is another reason why they should meet together.

"Many problems are solved by solving other problems," he said. "Usually when we come to know one another, we find things are different than we thought in the beginning."

While speaking out for new relationships that would mean an end to hostility and hate, the Jesuit also said that what had become "encrusted" cannot be cut off in one stroke, but must be worn off.

Father Weigel said that the "Una Sancta," the one Holy Church, must be seen as the "hope" of the ecumenical movement, and not as its goal. He remarked that there is a difference between the movement's "hope" and its "goal." The scope is much more modest, he said.

The 53-year-old theologian said human efforts alone will never bring about a union of churches. He said Christians should do their work of living up to the Gospel law of love and have trust that God will, in His time and in His way, bring about the fulfillment of the "hope."

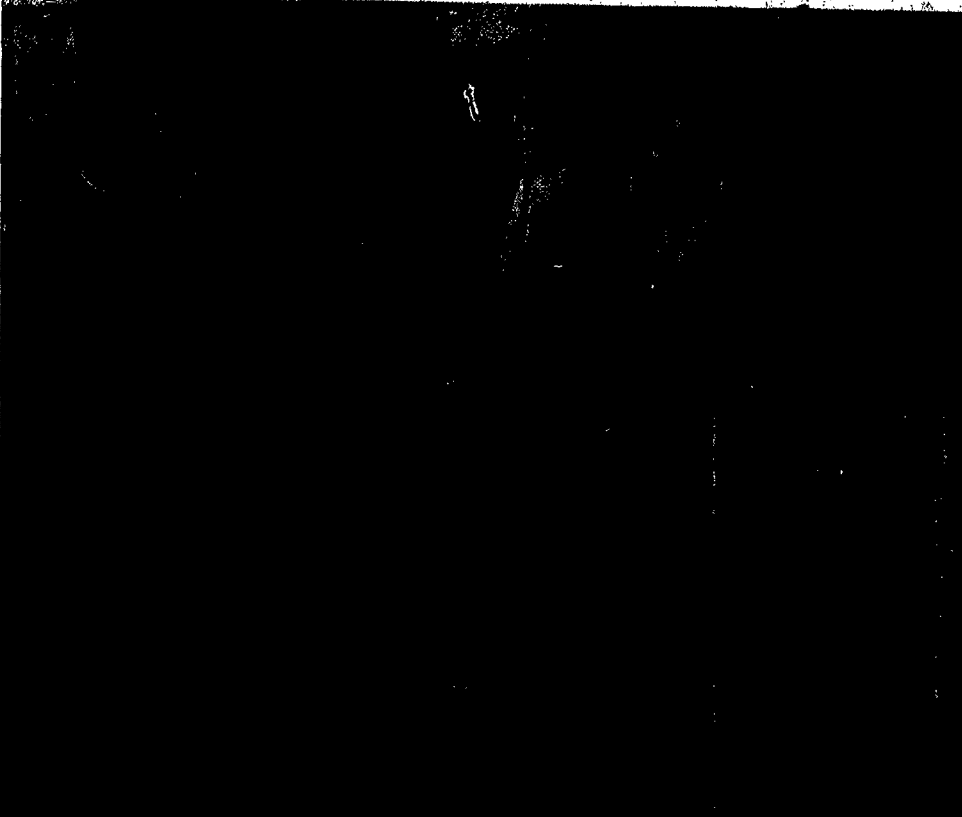
Rosary Rally In Philippines
Manila — (NC) — A million Filipinos are expected to assemble in Manila's Luneta Park on December 8 for the final rally of the Family Rosary Crusade now in progress in the Manila archdiocese.

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., founder of the crusade in the Philippines organizing preliminary rallies throughout the

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New York Cardinal On Stamps

Cardinal Spellman of New York received album of Nicaragua stamps honoring him, from Nicaraguan officials and U.S. firm which produced them. Left to right are: Guillermo Lang, Nicaraguan Consul General, Louis H. Healy Jr. of Eureka Specialty Printing Co., Cardinal Spellman, James H. Dunham Jr., president of Eureka, and E. Martin, director of Philatelic of Eureka. Inset shows one of the stamps.

Apathy To Papal Teachings Church 'Paralyzed' In U.S.

New York — (NC) — A layman charged here that too many Catholics in this country are apathetic to the papal social encyclicals and that this has tended to "paralyze the force of the Teaching Church in modern American society."

Percy H. Steele, Jr., executive director of the San Diego, Calif., Urban League, made the statement at the annual presentation of the New York Catholic Interracial Council's James J. Hoey Awards for contributions to interracial justice.

The awardee by Mr. Steele, the Negro recipient this year, was made during his acceptance speech in which he reflected on his participation in a series of discussions sponsored by the Interracial Council on the topic, "An Interracial Hearing on the American Negro and the Papal Encyclicals."

Hoey awards, named for the first president of the interracial council here, were established in 1942 and are presented each year on the Feast of Christ the King (Oct. 15) to a "white and Negro Catholic layman judged to have made outstanding contributions to the cause of racial harmony."

Mr. Steele, a 38-year-old native of Gulfport, Miss., and onetime assistant district attorney in New Orleans, La., called in his acceptance speech for Catholics to provide leadership in race relations.

"Will the Church in the South, will the Church in the United States, fail to meet the challenge, to take advantage of perhaps the most promising opportunity in its history?"

"We will be able to give an affirmative answer when, the schools, the pulpit, the press, the clergy and laity, working together, set up to and apply principles to the hard-bitten, harsh realities of the concrete situation," he said.

'Too Complicated' Cancels Bus Rides For Pupils
Chardon, O. — (RNS) — The Chardon School Board this week turned down requested bus rides for 46 children attending the Notre Dame Sisters new school here — even though their parents had offered to pay any extra costs involved.

T. J. Thayer, president, said the board felt that providing the transportation would be too complicated. Thayer said the vote was unanimous. Four other members are on the board.

ALL THE CHILDREN are from St. Mary's parish, Chardon. The school is on a 300-acre tract where the Notre Dame Sisters are building an educational center.

The request for bus rides was made by Attorney David Erdley, representing the parents. He told the board that the parents were willing to pay in advance any extra expenses. He also volunteered to work out with board members any routing of buses that seemed necessary, or other complications.

Questioned about the refusal, Mr. Thayer acknowledged he hadn't studied the "complications" but said: "It didn't look like good sense to provide the transportation."

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Church Picks No Favorites

St. Paul — (RNS) — The Catholic Church, as a Church, will not support any candidate in the 1960 United States Presidential election, according to Pope John's personal representative in this country.

Archbishop Vagnozzi recalled that when he was stationed in the Philippines as Papal Nuncio "we collaborated with President (Eduardo) Magway to fight off Communism."

"The Catholic Church is not in the political business," Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States said at a news conference on his arrival here for a two-day visit.

"Catholics are left free to support any candidate," he emphasized, while discounting a suggestion that a Catholic president might owe primary allegiance to the Pope.

A Catholic president would never be asked to do anything against his conscience, Archbishop Vagnozzi declared.

He said the Catholic Church goes into politics actively in Europe "only where there is a moral question of survival, as when birth control is essentially immoral."

Archbishop Vagnozzi, an Italian who served in the Apostolic Delegation in Washington as a secretary from 1932 to 1942, said he believes there is a better knowledge of Communism in this country today than there was 20 years ago.

He said he had observed a deeper religious feeling among some Americans, but at the same time a stronger secularism which holds that religion should be eliminated from public life.

The board's pronouncement (Oct. 30) said the possibility of one or more Catholic candidates for President and Vice President is "raising a serious issue for many of our people."

"It is common knowledge that this church requires supreme allegiance to itself, even in matters political," the bishop's statement charged.

The board called upon members of the sect to "exercise their franchise and to elect to the high offices of our nation persons who will serve the United States of America as loyal and devoted servants."

The national board of bishops is said to represent 800,000 members of the Evangelical United Brethren church.

Refugee Problems
Geneva — (RNS) — The International Catholic Migration Commission has published a special 98-page volume here entitled, "World Refugee Year," which documents refugee problems everywhere.

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