May A Fifteen Year Girl Date Contrary To Parents' Wishes?

France Votes Aid To Schools

Paris — (RNS) — After a 12-hour debate, marked by heated anti-clerical protests, the French National Assembly approved by a 427-71 vote a government-sponsored bill providing state financial aid to the nation's hard-pressed private schools, most of which are Roman Catholic.

The bill, next year alone, will grant these institutions some 000,000,000 in aid.

Passage of the bill, in which an amendment was adopted guaranteeing freedom of instruction for the church schools, represented a potentially costly victory for Premier Michel Debre, who had staked the life of his government on the vote.

The thorny nature of the problem of state aid for the private schools — one that has beset the country ever since the Revolution — was underscored when Minister of Education Andre Boulloche announced his resignation in the wake of the Assembly's action.

M. Boulloche, a nominal Socialist, although no longer a member of the Socialist Party, had agreed to the principle of aid to Catholic schools. However he had insisted that in return for such aid the state should exercise control over the instruction given in the private schools to ensure that it was in line with that offered in the public schools.

He apparently saw in the amendment adopted by the Chamber an unwarranted concession to Catholic opposition to "interference" with the curricula of their schools.

To make matters worse, the passionate battle between clericals and anticlericals was sharpened by the success of the bill. Its passage came after the anticlericals staged a Day of Defense of the Secular School as part of a well-orchestrated attack on the measure during which children in the state schools sang songs "in honor and glory to the secular school where we have learned to think freely and to defend and cherish the Republic."

Catholic critics had branded such protests as an infringement of liberty of thought and education by the anti-clericals, even though the latter had opposed the church schools chiefly on the ground of lack of neutrality.

The Catholics, furthermore, had demanded state aid as a right, strong in the knowledge that they educate 15 per cent of elementary school pupils, 40 per cent of those in secondary school establishments and universities and 18 per cent of technical school students.

Bus Rides Disputed

St. Paul—(NC)—Whether or not to provide free bus rides for nonpublic school pupils was argued long and vigorously at a crowded legislative commission hearing in the Minnesota State Capitol.

The exchange of views came during hearings on proposed changes in laws governing state aid to school transportation. The hearings were conducted by the Interim Commission on Education.

A recommendation of the State Department of Education being considered contains the provision that "a pupil to be eligible in the determination of bus capacity for state aid must attend a public school."

If the provision were to become law, it would be the first time Minnesota statutes would specifically restrict transportation aid to public school pupils...

Stamp Honors St. Casimir

Vatican City — (RNS) — ... issued by the Vatican Post Office to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Casimir, patron saint of Poland and Lithuania. ... in green and a 50 lire ...

Catechism Marks Rate In Sweden

Stockholm ...

Get Rid Of Those Idols!

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — The Pittsburgh Area Protestant Council of Churches has asked authorities that religious emblems and statues be removed from all city and county government-owned automobiles.

A spokesman of the Council said that "numerous complaints ... about such displays on publicly-owned vehicles" had been received from "ministers and laymen."

The Council has drafted a letter to Mayor Joseph Barr and the county commissioners asking for cooperation with regard to their vehicles.

The Council said that the principle of separation of Church and State was involved.

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Vatican Story Bleeds Fast

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$44.00
$46.00
$66.00
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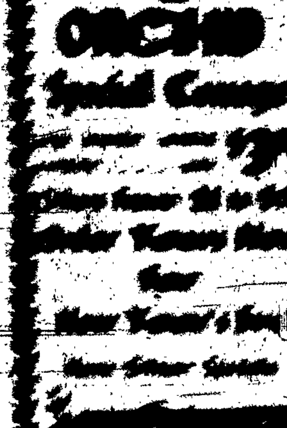

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