

Religion Classes Blamed For Bitterness

Toronto — (RNS) — Canada's largest newspaper, the Toronto Daily Star, has thundered forth with a lead editorial urging that the public schools be made secular and that religious instruction on their premises be radically altered or entirely stopped.

Ontario provincial law since 1944 has permitted teachers or visiting clergy to give two half-hour periods of religious education a week, if the local board of education wants it. Children whose parents object may be excused from these periods.

No subject, said The Star, has created more bitterness and apprehension or is more questionable as a suitable subject of instruction in schools "that are supposed to be public, without distinction of race and creed."

"The common faith taught, of course, is Christianity," the editorial noted. "But critics rightly point out that this faith is not held by Jews, Unitarians, agnostics and others whose children attend the public schools. Moreover, there is no commonality even among Chris-

tians. Quakers, Seventh-day Adventists, Christian Scientists and Greek Orthodox parents are, in some cases, as bitterly opposed to the instruction as non-Christians.

"Many visiting clergymen are incompetent as teachers, some classroom teachers have puerile concepts of religion, and sectarian biases seem impossible to exclude."

Continuance of the present course, The Star warned, will lead to a demand for separate denominational schools, like the Roman Catholic system. Such a step, the paper said, would "Balkanize" education and lower its quality.

Minority rights should be respected, and not by merely allowing a child to stand in the corridor until the religious instruction is over, the editorial asserted.

"The place for religious instruction of the young," it added, "is in the home and church, not the school."



Anguana — (RNS) — In an attempt to prevent government seizure of a Roman Catholic school, these Ceylonese have reinforced the school fence with sticks and barbed wire. The scene is typical throughout the island where parents and families are occupying Catholic schools in an effort to resist government take-over. Buddhist groups are behind the government move for a unified educational system.

Bishops Bow To Schools' Takeover

Colombo — (RNS) — Ceylon's Catholic bishops, in a joint appeal issued here, urged parents to abandon their protest occupation of state-assisted Catholic schools which were to have

Radio broadcast, the bishops made their plea after consultation with Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, India, who was on a visit to Ceylon.

THE APPEAL came while some 70 of the country's 704 vernacular Catholic schools scheduled to be taken over by the state were still under protest occupation by Catholic families.

It was made at the same time that the government presented before a special meeting of the House of Representatives a bill for taking over the private schools and their property without compensation.

The bill was to have been debated on Jan. 24, but it is now expected that any discussion on it will be postponed in view of the bishops' appeal.

"It is because of the faith which His Eminence the Cardinal and the bishops have decided to place in the government," the plea said, "that they are appealing to the faithful to withdraw their occupiers in order to enable the schools to function in a normal manner."

Ontario Catholics Face Penalty In Tax Battle

Ottawa — (RNS) — Msgr. J. N. Gelineau, Vicar General of the Ottawa Roman Catholic archdiocese, warned Catholic public school trustees in the Ontario Province that the Church may deny them absolution if they insist on Catholics paying taxes to public school boards instead of to separate (Catholic) boards.

Educational officials in Ontario are investigating complaints over a mass, Church-directed switch of Catholic taxpayers from support of public to separate schools.

Some of the Catholic trustees on public school boards in Wendover and Plataganet, near Ottawa, have opposed Church directives to parents to shift their tax support. Most of the

According to a Colombo

pupils attending the public schools are Catholic.

Msgr. Gelineau declared: "It is not permissible for Catholics to pay school taxes to benefit public schools. Persons going against Directive 268 of the archdiocese will not be worthy of absolution."

In February, 1960, Msgr. Gelineau told Catholics in the two communities that failure to switch tax contributions to separate schools would be considered "aggression against the faith."

Pennies Aid School Fund

Camden — (RNS) — School children of the Camden Roman Catholic diocese have contributed more than 250,000 pennies toward a diocesan school building fund.

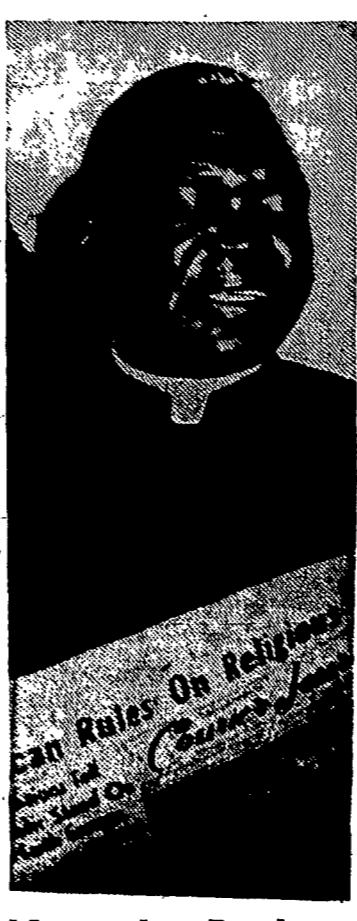
Their contribution was represented by a check for \$2,556.16 presented to Archbishop Celestine J. Damiano by the diocesan Parent Teachers Association. The capital funds goal of \$5 million has been pledged and nearly \$700,000 paid in cash since the drive began last September.

Road Still Opened

Vatican City — (RNS) — Vatican circles were unofficially reported as stating that they expected Dr. Arthur Michael Ramsey, newly-named Archbishop of Canterbury, to follow the road opened by Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, the retiring Anglican Primate, who made a historic visit to Pope John XXIII last December.

"Now patience and goodwill are needed. More frequent contacts between Catholic and Anglican churchmen through the Secretariat for Christian Unity working on preparing the Council, will no doubt take place."

Secretary of the secretariat is Dutch-born Msgr. Jash Wilibrands, who knows Dr. Ramsey very well. The president of the secretariat is Augustin Cardinal Bea, sole Jesuit member of the College of Cardinals.



Uganda Prelate

Bishop Joseph Kiwanuka, who became modern Africa's first Negro bishop in 1939, is the new Archbishop of Rubaga and head of the Catholic Church in Uganda. He visited Rochester in 1950.

Tribesman

Nairobi — (RNS) — The second Catholic African priest from the Kamba tribe was ordained by Irish-born Archbishop John J. McCarthy of Nairobi. He is Father Urbanus Kioko from the Kilungu location in the Machakos district of Kenya.

Not Enough Schools

Ideal Going Down Drain

Prelate Charges Contract Breach In School Row

Georgetown — (NC) — Bishop Richard Gully, S.J., of Georgetown has sued the British Guiana government for breach of contract in reply to its effort to nationalize three Catholic schools.

He has also asked the court to issue a declaration that the government must leave the management of the threatened schools in Catholic hands.

The bishop filed his suit the day debate began (Dec. 15) in the Legislative Council on a government bill to nationalize 50 denominational primary schools rebuilt with government funds on church lands. These include the three Catholic schools.

The bill — also opposed by Protestant leaders — was introduced by Balram Singh Rai, Minister of Education in the Marxist-oriented People's Progressive party government headed by Cheddi Jagan. It is part of the government's attempt to end the present "dual control" school system in British Guiana, which provides education along denominational lines.

Bishop Gully has also protested against Mr. Rai's efforts to gain control over the admission policies of Catholic secondary schools. These could be flooded by non-Christian students to the detriment of Catholic students if the Education Minister's effort succeeds, the Bishop warned.

Alumni Groups To Be Studied

Vatican City — (NC) — The Second Vatican Council will study the organization of Catholic alumni groups throughout the world.

The preparatory commission for the lay apostolate has established a committee to survey religious orders throughout the world to collect information on alumni programs and projects connected with graduates of their high schools and colleges.

Peoria — (NC) — If present trends continue, some two-thirds of the nation's Catholic children will be in public schools in 20 years, an editor said here.

"Either we put on a tremendous economic splurge in the education field or we are going down the drain as far as the ideal of the Church is concerned, which is a Catholic student in a Catholic school," Thomas Klise said.

Klise, editor of Scope, a national weekly religion instruction publication for high school students, said population trends indicate U.S. Catholics may number 80 million by the turn of the century.

At the university level, he said in a lecture, the number of Catholics in public institutions of higher education is expected to swell to one million by 1970, compared with 450,000 now. Proportionate increases are predicted all the way down the line.

While the Catholic student population has been growing, the number of vocations to the teaching sisterhoods has been dropping, he noted.

"In the past seven years the increase has fallen off by 60 per cent," Klise said. New Sisters, who used to total 3,000 annually, now number 1,900 per year.



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