

Law Expert OKs Aid To Schools

New York — (NC) — A lawyer experienced in the constitutional questions of aiding children in nonpublic schools holds that Federal aid to private and parochial schools would be permissible.

He is Richard Joyce Smith of the firm of Whitman, Ransom and Coulson here. Mr. Smith resides in suburban Fairfield, Conn., and was the originator in Connecticut of the successful 1956 movement to authorize tax paid bus transportation for all school children.

He served as a member of the

State Board of Education from 1951 to 1957 and previously had served ten years as chairman of the Board of Education of Fairfield. For six years he was a member of the National Citizens Committee for Public Schools.

MR. SMITH SAID in a statement for the N.C.W.C. News Service that the basic question of the constitutionality of Federal aid to parochial schools does not seem to be answered in the recent brief from the Federal administration.

That brief held it would be unconstitutional to give any kind of across-the-board aid to church-related schools, either by a program of outright grants or by loans.

Mr. Joyce said the question to be decided is one of fact. "It has been recognized that facts and not theory should govern the application of constitutional doctrine to the complexities of modern America," he said.

Two facts that are clear, he declared, are that parochial schools in many communities are "important and indispensable agencies" for education and that they are "primarily schools and not churches."

The curricula offered in parochial schools, he noted, meet the standards of public authorities and their graduates rank equally with public school graduates in achievement and competence tests.

"It is unrealistic to ignore this primary function of the parochial school and to hold that the added ingredient of incidental religious instruction transforms the school into a mysterious church-related institution which should be isolated from other types of American schools," he said.

THE CONTRIBUTION of these schools and their essential character of institutions of learning, he added, lead him to believe that "an act of Congress extending aid to the education activities of these schools would not violate the First Amendment of the Constitution."

Mr. Smith is a 1924 graduate of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He holds a bachelor of laws degree from Yale University, where he taught law for several years.

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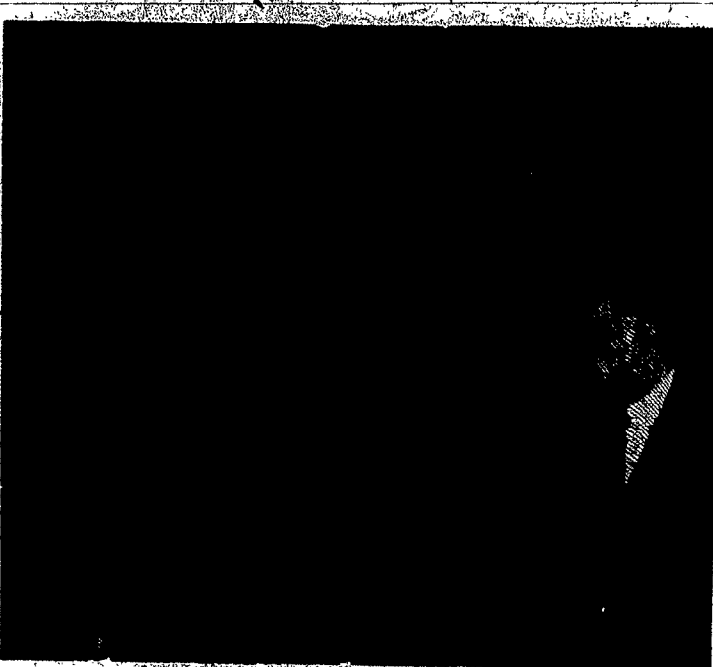
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'Convent Day' Mapped

Nazareth Academy PTA members going over final plans for "Convent Day" are William Malley, General Chairman, seated center, his assistants Robert Polli (left), and Howard Baker, and Max Wheelahan, President of the PTA, standing.

This festival is an annual event at Nazareth and funds raised are used to reduce the debt on the convent recently built for the Sisters who teach at the Academy. The public is invited.

Pope Backs Aid For Farmers

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope John told farmers here that they have a right to assistance from society, but urged them to rely mainly on their own initiative and cooperative efforts.

POPE JOHN urged farmers to "cultivate a deep sense of solidarity and of mutual assistance, reciprocally passing on efforts and successes, organizing themselves into cooperatives and associations, and placing themselves at the level of the basic demands of today's social and economic life, which (is summed up) in union and collaboration for a greater assured value of the fruits of one's own labor."

Telling farmers to have confidence in society, the Pope noted that governments must provide impartially for all classes of citizens. He stated: "Through society you must expect those laws and provisions which you cannot achieve from your own efforts alone. This applies to timely subsidies, to different types of insurance and pensions, to the granting of family allowances. . . . These concessions, already granted to other social groups, are owed to you as a duty of justice."

He said that they must have confidence in God, the Church, themselves and society.

He urged them to have "first and above all, confidence in God, without whose help nothing prosperous and lasting can be achieved even in material life."

"HAVE CONFIDENCE, beloved sons and daughters," he added, "the Church is with you, it understands you and encourages you."

Farmers, the Pope continued, must have confidence in themselves, "in the admirable energies given to every man by God to develop his personality in the form of life he chooses." The farmer, he went on, must have "confidence in his own inventive and productive capabilities and in his own strength, created by God for the purpose of subduing the earth."

The Pontiff cautioned farmers against looking to outside sources for aid. He said:

"When a nation or a part of it becomes used to expecting everything from abroad and is more inclined to accuse others than to stimulate itself, there is reason to fear for its freedom and for the nation's very life."

"O yes, the help and the work of society are necessary and sometimes irreplaceable, but they cannot replace personal initiative, the keen diligence of each person who thinks always of bettering himself by drawing on his resources of talent, capability and thriftiness."

Librarians Role Told

St. Louis — (RNS) — Catholic librarians play a key role in the effort to strengthen our national purpose against Communism, delegates to the Catholic Library Association conference were told here by their new president, the Rev. Francis X. Canfield.

Father Canfield, former vice president of the C.L.A. and a literary columnist for the Detroit Michigan Catholic, also said the Catholic Librarian plays an important part in "keeping vigorously alive the concept of the whole man."

Convention Theme
Washington — (NC) — Theme of the 34th annual Catholic Association for International Peace conference to be held here, October 27 to 29, will be "Religion and Foreign Policy." The sessions will be held in the Sheraton-Park Hotel.

Cairo College

Moslem's Mission Seminary

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR
Society of St. Columban

Cairo — (NC) — A grey-walled mosque in a crowded section of Cairo is the chief center of Moslem teaching in the world.

It is called Al Azhar (The Most Bright) and was founded about a thousand years ago. Its students, sitting in groups on the floor while noted sheikhs and "imams" expound Moslem doctrines, represent many lands. It trains Moslem missionaries for Africa and Asia as well as specialists in the Arabic language and Islamic lore.

"It has been one of the main factors in holding Islam and the Arabs together," according to Dr. Abdo El Kholy, recently back from the U.S. with a Ph.D. in sociology. He is one of the younger men attached to ultra-conservative Al Azhar and one of the few with Western as well as Moslem education.

AL AZHAR is an exclusively Moslem university. According to the latest available figures (1959), about 8,000 students attend its courses. As well, it maintains 24 elementary and secondary "institutes" attended by some 28,000 boys in various parts of the country. There are also 17 other institutes supervised but not maintained by Al Azhar and attended by 4,500 pupils.

Thus every year more than 40,000 boys and young men imbibe the Moslem teachings of Al Azhar. No women students are allowed at any stage.

Of the university's 8,000 students, about 3,000 are foreigners from some 42 countries. The countries represented range from the Sudan to South Africa and from Morocco to the Philippines.

The largest numbers of foreign students come from the Sudan (859), Libya (260), Eritrea (184), Senegal (148), Palestine (142), Jordan (130) and Indonesia (111).

The university has three main faculties — Arabic language, Islamic law and theology — and some special sections including one for Islamic missions. More students are enrolled for the Arabic course than for the other two faculties combined. The theology course has the smallest enrollment. To qualify for the courses, the highest marks are required for Islamic law, the lowest for Islamic theology.

More than half of the foreign students are listed in the Islamic missions section.

Before entering Al Azhar a student must know the Koran by heart. His college course lasts for four years. If he wishes to specialize, he must study for another two years.

"From enlightened graduates Al Azhar chooses missionaries to be sent abroad," Muhsin El Biall of the Islamic Cultural Section told me. The government takes part in the choosing. These missionary graduates are citizens of the United Arab Republic, as distinct from the

Everything is free to the Al Azhar student — tuition, board and lodging — and he is given a monthly allowance as well. If he can make his way to Cairo, he has no expenses for the next four years. A student from any African country can come to Cairo without a passport and without making arrangements in advance and be sure of a free place in Al Azhar.

The foreign students live in a settlement of more than 40 two-story houses. President Gamal Abdel Nasser's U.A.R. government intends to enlarge this settlement to accommodate 5,000 foreign students.

"We are very rich," a member of the Al Azhar administrative staff told me frankly, explaining all this outlay. The government budget for the current year assigns 2,700,000 Egyptian pounds (about \$6,250,000) to Al Azhar. This allocation is 400,000 pounds larger than last year's.

I visited the rector of Al Azhar, Sheikh Mahmoud Shaltout, aged 66. Called "His Eminence" by his followers, he is regarded as one of the highest religious authorities in the Moslem world.

He held my hand, said that we must "fight imperialism" and quoted verses from the Koran about the brotherhood of man.

Sheikh Shaltout was named rector of Al Azhar by President Nasser in 1958. The President has extended his term of office for two years beyond the retirement age of 65.

Jersey Town Turns Down Land Sale For School

Plainfield — (NC) — The Plainfield Planning Board has denied a request from the Newark archdiocese that it be allowed to purchase city-owned land for a new high school.

The high school would be institutional and would have facilities for 1,500 students. It is one of eight new schools planned by the archdiocese.

Msgr. Charles B. Murphy, pastor of St. Bernard's church here, made the request on behalf of the archdiocese. He said the request now will be taken to the city's Common Council. However, in view of the planning board action, it will take an 8-3 vote by the council to approve the request.

In turning down the land purchase offer, the planning board said it wants to stand by the city's master plan, which allots the land in question for "public schools and/or parks."

The tract of land consists of 34 acres, most of which are undeveloped. About 29 acres would be required for the school.

Bishop Enthroned
Chonju — (NC) — Catholics from all parts of Korea packed Sacred Heart Cathedral here for the enthronement of Bishop Peter Han as Apostolic Vicar of Chonju.

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When we mailed our 1960 Annual Report to our security holders, we followed the practice of the past few years by enclosing with it a little directory called "How to Address Your Congressman." This includes the names of all the United States Senators and all the members of the House of Representatives together with their committee assignments. And along with it we also enclosed a four-page supplement dealing with matters about which we believe our shareholders are concerned. This year we took as its theme something President Kennedy said in his inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

The investor-owned electric utilities of the United States, which serve four-fifths of all the electric customers and pay well over two billion dollars in taxes, heartily endorse this suggestion of our President. On the other hand, the remaining one-fifth of the country's electric users buy their power from government and cooperative power projects which pay no federal taxes at all.

Surely, those who benefit from federal power with its tax-free subsidy might well give some thought to President Kennedy's challenge.

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