

# Apathy Threatens Forfeit of Schools

## Federal Aid Plans Violate Civil Rights, Says Jesuit

Philadelphia — (NC) — A priest-political scientist charged here that future historians will hold today's Catholic laity responsible if the nation's church-related schools are lost.

Father Virgil C. Blum, S.J., a Marquette University political scientist, speaking in a Convent of the Sacred Heart lecture series here, scored the passivity of American Catholics.

"Their refusal to organize with Protestants and Jews for participation in the democratic processes may well make the collapse of religious education inevitable," the Jesuit educator stated Sunday, Feb. 18.

Any program of federal aid for public schools only would violate the basic civil rights which the Constitution defends, Father Blum said.

"The crisis is not so much in classroom shortages and low teachers' salaries, as in the resolution of the question: who shall control the minds of our children?" Father Blum said.

"In America we see that parents in increasing numbers are being forced to surrender the control of their children's education," he said. "The cost of education has increased more than 700 per cent since 1940. As the cost of government increases and the cost of education skyrockets, an increasing proportion of parents will be compelled to surrender control over the minds of their children to the state.

"There is every indication," Father Blum said, "that this parental surrender will become a rout in the event the federal government, through discriminatory legislation, imposes further penalties on the nation's seven million independent school children. In fact there can be little doubt that such federal penalties on religiously minded children will mark the beginning of the end of religious education in America.

Freedom in education is the essence of a free society, and the best measure of a nation's commitment to freedom, Father Blum stated. Great liberal thinkers abhorred the possibility of state monopoly in education.

"So incompatible with freedom is state thought control that the United States Supreme Court unanimously struck down an Oregon law (in 1925) that was designated to impose it upon the children of the state," he said. "When a nation restricts freedom of education by either direct or indirect means, it is engaging in thought control."

Father Blum said the fifth and fourteenth amendments of the Constitution require that federal and state governments treat every citizen alike.

"No person may be discriminated against because of his race, color, or religious belief," he said. "All the needy aged, to use an obvious example, must be treated alike regardless of their religious beliefs."

"It is fundamental in constitutional law that the right to share in welfare benefits is vested in the individual person. It is not vested in institutions, educational or otherwise," he added. "Under the Constitution

the right to equality of treatment is a personal right.

"For example, the individual needy aged person has a personal right to share in the benefits provided by the Old Age Assistance Act. So, also, the individual school child has a personal right to share equally in all welfare benefits provided by government to school children. The individual child, therefore, has a claim under the Constitution to an equal share in all federal educational benefits.

"To speak of federal education aid to public or independent schools is as much a distortion of constitutional principles as to speak of federal aid assistance to the Milwaukee Home for Aged Lutherans," Father Blum said.

"Neither public schools nor independent schools have any right to share in federal educational benefits; only the individual American child has that right under constitutional law. Schools whether public or independent are merely instrumental to achieving the education of the nation's children.

"The refusal of the Catholic laity to accept democracy in any meaningful sense, and to play an active role in the democratic processes to determine educational policy, effectively turns policy-making in educational matters over to the secularists who are determined to destroy all church-related schools in America," Father Blum added.

Quoting the English Catholic historian, Christopher Dawson, Father Blum noted that the secularization of western culture on the continent was due to the failure and passivity of the Catholic laity, who allowed the case for Christianity to go by default and abandoned the field of higher education to the secularists.

It is Father Blum's contention that the entire church-related school system in America will "collapse through economic strangulation" unless parents of independent school children organize.

"There exists no pressure group that effectively represents the interests of the nation's independent school children," he said, although a parents' group, Citizens for Educational Freedom, is beginning to exert a considerable influence.

Citizens for Educational Freedom, founded in St. Louis, Mo., now has some 22,000 members. It is a lay organization of Catholics and Protestants.

## Why Morals Are At Low Ebb

# God 'Ostracized' From Classrooms

St. Louis — (NC) — Americans, in their determination to completely separate Church and State, have shut off any opportunity for the moral education of their youth, Father Paul C. Reinert, S.J., president of St. Louis University, said here.

Speaking before a group of business men Feb. 12 at Washington University, Father Reinert said the growth in immorality in America should be of serious concern to the entire nation.

"THIS IS something quite new," he said. "In the past there have always been men who for various reasons have denied the existence of God. But the present atheism is different. Now not only do many act and live as if there were no God to whom they are responsible, but a steadily increasing number proclaim the nonexistence of God to be a scientifically established fact."

Some of the men who do so have great influence, he said. It is not surprising that American morals have fallen to such low ebb, he added.

He noted the U.S. Catholic Bishops, in their statement last November, pointed to the "great numbers of young people almost completely devoid of religious belief and moral guidance."

One reason for this is that religion is prohibited in tax-supported schools which the majority of youth attend, he noted. "In a sincere effort to rigidly enforce our American freedom of religion, the Constitution

tion, we have in fact been guilty of misreading the Constitution and weakening our traditions," he said. "We have thrown out the baby with the bath."

"Our American heritage is based upon a belief in God, yet we have ostracized God from our classrooms. And by so doing we have precluded the teaching of moral standards. For without God, there are no moral standards," Father Reinert said.

Father Reinert said polls made of high school and college students in fact indicated the thing they found lacking most in their education was the inculcation of a sense of values. "It is too easy to say we should leave this to the church and to the home," he said. "Our schools are responsible for the education of youth. To attempt to give them an understanding of history or biology or literature or law or economics or any other discipline while ignoring God's place in them is to consciously limit their students in their search for truth and knowledge."

The priest said public schools had committed something crucial in American life in their failure to teach religion.



## Legacy Of Hope

New York — (RNS) — Father John LaFarge, S.J., one of the leading pioneer-founders of the Catholic Interracial movement in this country, poses with Father Philip Hurley, S.J. (right), his successor as chairman of the Catholic Interracial Council of New York, parent body of almost 50 similar councils in the U.S. Father LaFarge, an editor of America, Jesuit magazine, was honored along with George K. Hunton, retiring executive secretary of the New York Council, at the group's annual membership meeting and Communion breakfast. In his farewell address, Father LaFarge told the local CIC members that he wished to leave "a solid rationally grounded hope as a legacy" for his efforts in the cause of interracial justice.

## Near Sighted Irish Monks Artists of Book of Kells

Dublin — (RNS) — Were 8th Century Irish monks nearsighted? This rather startling question was posed by G. F. Mitchell, a faculty member at Trinity College, a Protestant institution here, while he addressed members of the Photographic Society of Ireland.

Commented Mr. Mitchell: "The use of photography in the study of the priceless Book of Kells — housed in Trinity College — and the Book of Durrow has revealed details so minute that their production by the monks without the aid of any form of magnification almost passes belief."

The works under study are illustrated manuscripts dealing with the Scriptures and penned by monks in early times in Ireland.

Mr. Mitchell said optical instruments or devices of the 8th Century could be ruled out, leaving the probability that the monks were nearsighted.

## Why Send Daughter To College

(Continued from Page 1)

I believe that the utmost encouragement should be given to those who show promise.

Too often, the talented and intelligent 17 or 18-year-old does not really know what she wants to do with her life.

Even many of those who enter college with fixed career plans radically alter their programs as their higher education opens new doors to them.

Today's better positions have become so competitive that it behooves a girl who plans a career to obtain a college education, even though her chosen field may not require an academic degree.

And, of course, so many who never expect to be commercially employed find themselves in later years, through either desire or necessity, seeking employment, only to learn that they are unqualified for the positions they want, or, if qualified, that they are passed over in favor of applicants with wider educational backgrounds.

So far, I have referred to a college education largely in terms of employment. However, I certainly do not feel that it is ever "wasted" on those who do not "use" it in terms of monetary gain. Surely the exposure to ideas, art, languages, history and science, and the consequent discovery that there can be great joy in learning, must lead to a richer and fuller life and to a better understanding of our fellow man—his problems, fears and hopes. When has understanding been more important than it is in today's ever-shrinking world?

## Radio Schools In Salvador

San Salvador — (NC) — The Church's radio schools in this country of only 42 per cent literacy were so successful in their first courses that 5,000 new receivers have been ordered and the transmitting station will double its power.

Using 1,000 receiving sets in the first six-month courses just concluded, nearly 10,000 pupils undertook instruction in geography, ethics, arithmetic, spelling, and problems of agriculture, urban life, and domestic care. Government agricultural experts assisted in the broadcasts, and auxiliary teachers, both priests and laymen, supplemented the instruction at the receiving end.

## Don't Forget Your Overshoes!

# Silent Men, Nagging Wives

St. Louis — (NC) — One of the primary reasons for so many serious marital disagreements is that both husband and wife forget that their spouse is a grown person of the opposite sex, a priest expert on marriage problems said here.

"Men don't make a sufficient effort to understand their wives," said Father John Maguire, a St. Louis archdiocesan priest who has spent years in marriage counseling. "And women, too often, treat the husband as just another one of the children."

"We should be acutely aware that so many marriages end up in disaster," he said. "In St. Louis, there is one divorce for every three marriages. We should ask ourselves why. One reason is that men are 'too much men' and women are 'too much women.'"

BOTH SHOULD understand there are basic differences between the sexes, he told 300 couples attending the sixth annual Family Life Day sponsored by the St. Louis Archdiocesan Councils of Catholic Men and Women at Maryville College of the Sacred Heart. Men are by nature not greatly interested in details; women are. When these characteristics become exaggerated the husband can grow to ignore his wife and her problems.

lems, the woman can become a nagging wife, he said.

"Most men do not make sufficient efforts to understand their wives," the priest said. "Men who are engaged in selling things all day will come home and make no attempt to

sell themselves. And yet a good salesman, at his work is constantly looking for better methods, constantly looking for defects in his approach."

"The idea of a nagging wife is not something someone merely invented," Father Maguire said. "It's in the nature of the woman. Details are very important to her. She is not aware of the fact that her husband is not interested in details. And too often she treats the husband just like one of the children—'Don't forget your overshoes.' 'Did you eat all your meat?' 'Remember to get your shoes.'"

"These remarks are all well and good—but not twice a day, seven days a week, for five, ten, 15 or 20 years of marriage."

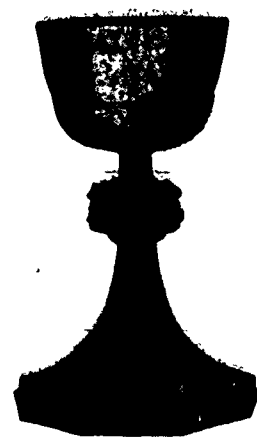
## Faith Talks At Yale

New Haven — (RNS)—Yale University is launching a series of annual lectures in the field of Roman Catholicism, which will bring to the school distinguished speakers in theology, philosophy, history and the Scriptures.

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