

President Favors Some Aid To Private Schools

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 The President's view of the merits of aiding private education was recently emphasized by the Commissioner of Education, Francis Keppel, on a television program (Meet the Press).

"Following this broadcast," the Senator stated, "I wrote Dr. Keppel a letter to make sure I understood his position correctly. I asked if it was his view that it would be desirable in addition to aiding public education to extend Federal financial assistance to private education at all levels, using such means as are generally agreed to be constitutional. He replied, 'It is my view most certainly.'"

Sen. Ribicoff said he believed the misunderstanding about the administration's position had developed from a widespread failure to keep in mind exactly what President Kennedy has said about the subject of aiding private education.

The Senator said that at a press conference on March 8, 1961, the President expressed the view that it is unconstitutional to give church-related schools grants or loans on an "across-the-board" basis.

But his opposition to such unrestricted forms of aid should not be viewed as opposition to all forms of aid, Sen. Ribicoff stressed. "In fact, he specifically opened the door to loans or grants which are not given on an 'across-the-board' basis."

The Senator noted that President Kennedy said: "Loans and even grants to secondary education under some circumstances might be held to be constitutional."

"The distinction between across-the-board aid and all other forms of aid is a critical one that has largely been ignored," Sen. Ribicoff continued. "Many since the President's view that the Constitution does prohibit aiding a church-related school with no restriction whatever on the use of such funds. Aid in such form would support the primary religious aspect of the school. But aid that is limited to certain specified uses of aid that is extended generally but with certain specified exceptions stands on an entirely different footing."

"For example, it is one thing to give \$50,000 to St. Mary's High School and permit those funds to be used for any purposes which might include the building of a chapel; it is quite a different thing to give the same amount to the same school for the specific purpose of building a chemistry laboratory. The former is across-the-board aid; the latter is not."

"Some will argue that the difference is of little consequence since aid for a specific purpose like a chemistry lab relieves the school of the financial burden for that item thus frees other school funds for other items like chapels. But that would be true only if the school intended to spend \$50,000 for a chemistry lab whether or not it received public assistance. If it may well be that the pub-

lic funds enable the school to construct a chemistry lab it would otherwise do without. In that case there is no freeing of school funds for other purposes. Furthermore, publicly financed benefits that save a church-related school money it can use for religious purposes obviously are not all prohibited by the Constitution. For example, municipal police and fire protection save the school money which it can use for other purposes. The community could require the school to assume these responsibilities and pay their costs, but no one seriously believes the Constitution requires this."

DECLARING THAT "this distinction between across-the-board and restricted aid has been recognized by Congress," Sen. Ribicoff pointed out that Congress has never authorized funds on an across-the-board basis for church-related education.

"But under the National Defense Education Act," he said, "Congress has extended financial support to church-related schools for the specific purpose of acquiring equipment to teach math, science, and foreign language. And in the pending bill to provide funds for construction of college facilities, both the bill recommended by the administration and the version approved by the House Committee on Education and Labor specifically except facilities for sectarian instruction, religious worship or divinity schools."

This shows that there are ways of aiding private education without doing it on an across-the-board basis, the Senator said.

"I think the point is clear," he asserted. "The administration does not stand opposed to all forms of aid to church-related schools. It believes some forms of aid—especially across-the-board aid—are unconstitutional. But as the letter from the Commissioner of Education makes clear, it does support aid to private education that observes constitutional limitations."

"And, as the President has said, Congress has its responsibility, apart from executive recommendations, to consider which forms of aid to private education are both constitutional and desirable."

Sen. Ribicoff said he believed "the educational opportunities of every student must be broadened," and "this can be done by aiding public education and within constitutional limitations, aiding private education as well."

"It is of the utmost importance," he said, "that there be widespread public debate on the entire subject of financing education. But the debate must be based on facts, free of mis-understanding."

"The response I have received," he concluded, "indicates that there is a great readiness by thoughtful people throughout the country to participate in such a debate and to work constructively for reasonable solutions."



A Gift For The Pope

Rome — A small lamp is presented to Pope Paul VI during an audience in which he received Belgian pilgrims. The pontiff, who holds his general audiences on Saturdays, recently received 12,000 pilgrims on one day. (RNS Photo)

Southern Catholic Urged To Fight Race Hatred

Alexandria, La. — (NC) — Bishop Charles P. Greco has urged Catholics of the Alexandria diocese to help put an end to racial and other forms of discrimination in this country.

In doing so, the Bishop of Alexandria gave an answer to a question often asked: Why has the Church not taken upon itself the job of removing segregation from the South?

The Bishop said that if the Church had undertaken to remove segregation from the Southern States, her effectiveness in carrying out her fundamental spiritual mission would have been seriously hampered.

BISHOP GRECO made the statements in a pastoral letter read in all churches of the diocese (Aug. 4). He also said that "desegregation is inevitable" and that the Church has never approved of segregation as a matter of principle.

The letter made no mention of desegregation of Catholic schools in the diocese, but Bishop Greco said in a separate statement that integration of diocesan schools is not contemplated until all public schools in the diocese are desegregated.

"Certainly there can be little room for doubt at this time that desegregation is inevitable," Bishop Greco said in his pastoral letter. "The Supreme Court has declared it to be the law of the land and has reaffirmed this decision at every challenge."

"It will gradually be enforced in every part of our country. We earnestly appeal to our people to accept the inevitable with understanding and restraint, with true Christian charity and an awakened sense of justice, with good grace and characteristic American fairness."

Bishop Greco stated that in the quest for racial justice, the Negro, too, has obligations and responsibilities.

"Education is needed on the part of the Negro to elevate himself to that level of acceptance as did other people and nationalities in the course of the development of our American nation," the Bishop continued. "An example in this regard should be taken from those immigrants of the last century who, when they first came to our shores, were given worse than segregated treatment."

"Through hard work and education, however, these people and their children of the next two generations carved a high place for themselves in the American culture and won the esteem and approbation of their fellow-citizens."

"In like manner, our Negroes must work conscientiously to prepare themselves to exercise adequately not only their rights but the obligations and responsibilities that are theirs as children of God, and as loyal, respectable and law-abiding citizens."

IN RECALLING the pattern of segregation in the South, the Bishop said the white people "observed various denationalisms but in the churches, schools and universities for the Negro and were often asked to contribute to them."

"This they frequently and generously did," he continues, "and the process of it all received the deeper conviction that segregation had the blessing of the churches, and hence that of God."

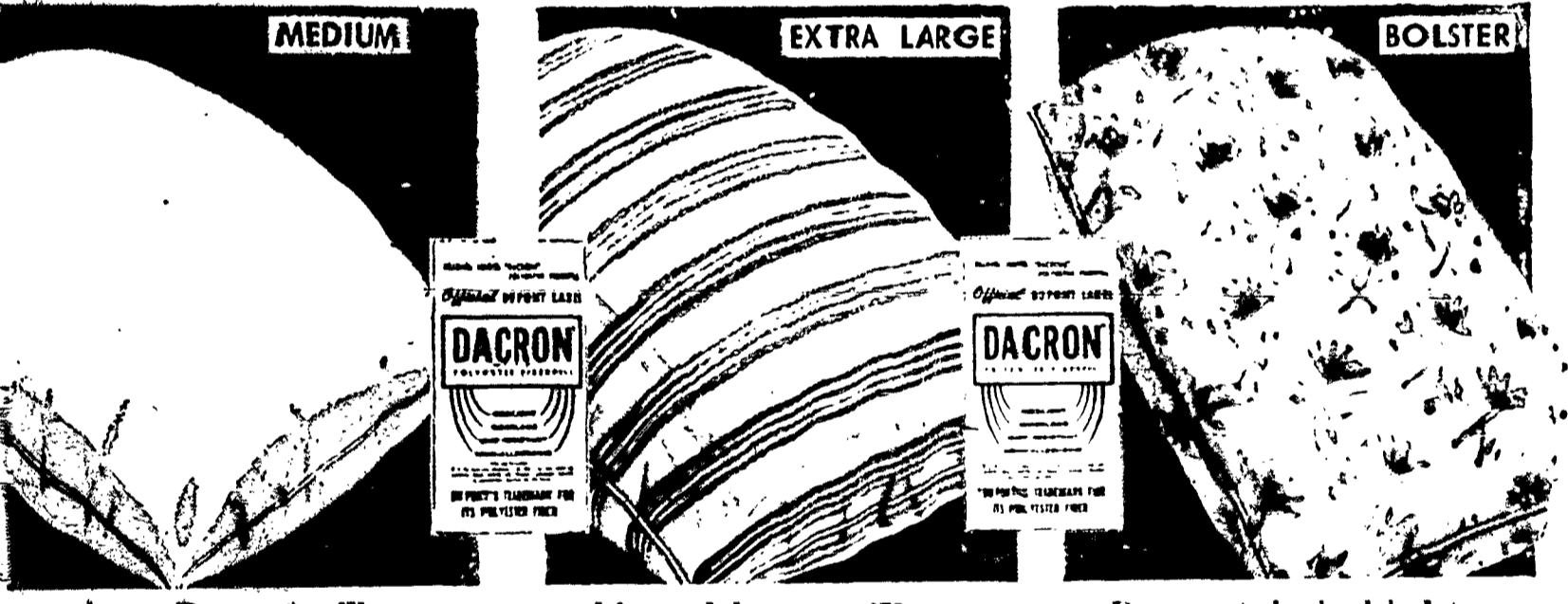
"Furthermore, our Catholic people, particularly in the South, witnessed archbishops, bishops, clergy and religious—and I myself—were among them—building separate churches, schools and a university for Negroes. They were also aware

that during the past decades lawfulness of segregation. They there were no Negro students concluded that if the Church in our better known Catholic colleges and universities (throughout the country until recently, they were also aware that there were no Negro priests; it must be made clear that the Church did not approve segregation as a matter of principle, is though the color of a man's skin should determine his value in the eyes of God or his equality as to the morality before the law of the land."



AUGUST WHITE SALE

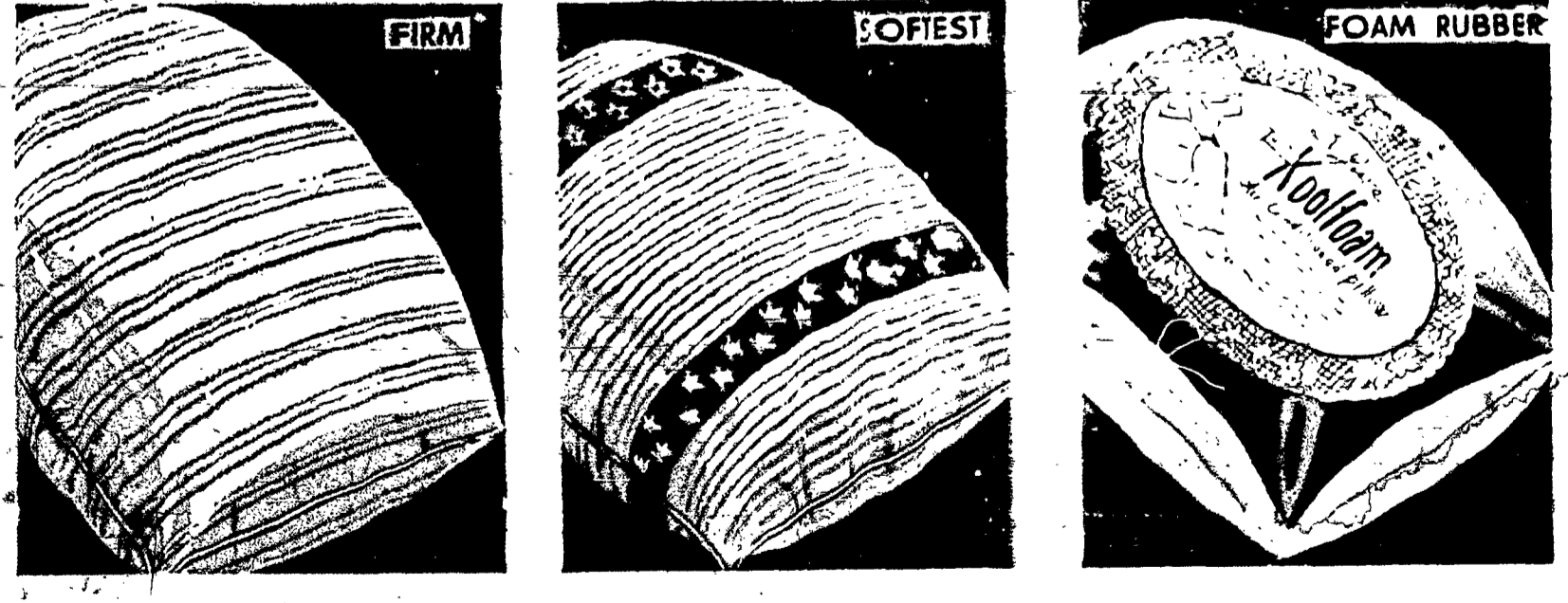
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Discuss Council Plans

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 tion conducted by Archbishop Hallinan of Atlanta.

In reply to a question by Archbishop Hallinan, in which it was stated that many Americans are "anxious" for a "more accurate and modern definition of religious liberty," Cardinal Bea said this desire "is shared by Catholics and non-Catholics of many other countries."

The Cardinal said the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity had concerned itself with the subject and had submitted to the Council's Central Preparatory Commission a schema dealing with religious liberty.

Cardinal Bea said this schema "upheld the necessity of recognizing a man's right to follow the dictates of his own conscience in matters of religion."

He said it emphasized "the duties of civil society, in all its forms, including the state, to respect in practice the citizen's inalienable rights to religious liberty."

In this connection Cardinal Bea quoted a passage from the late Pope John XXIII's encyclical Pacem in Terris in which the Pope said: "Every human being has the right to honor God according to the dictates of an upright conscience, and therefore the right to worship God privately and publicly."

A leading U.S. Protestant scholar said last May that an "explicit conciliar statement on religious liberty" would do much to reduce tensions between Catholics and non-Catholics.

THIS POINT was made in an address at Stanford (Calif.) University by the Rev. Robert McAfee Brown, a Presbyterian theologian who attended the ecumenical council's first session as an observer.

'Catholic Harvard' Efforts Educator Calls Mistake

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — Efforts to create "Catholic Harvards" are a mistake, a priest-educator said here.

Catholic education "must grow from its own tradition and its own strength," declared Father Charles W. Harris, C.S.C., assistant physics professor at Notre Dame University.

"Those who would make our universities Catholic Harvards are mistaking imitation for creation," Father Harris said.

HE PREACHED at a baccalaureate Mass (Aug. 3) offered by Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Notre Dame president, before the university's summer commencement exercises.

Father Harris said in his sermon that the growth of an educational institution may be slow. "We must not be impatient nor yield to the temptation of seeing the status and prestige of intellectual achievement rather than achievement itself."

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Nun At Nuclear Institute

A nun studies at the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies at Oak Ridge, Tenn. Mother M. de l'Enfant, R.S.H.M., of Marymount College, Tarrytown, N.Y., is attending a four-week special program on "Isotope Technology" at the institute. An assistant professor of chemistry, Mother de l'Enfant is one of 12 U.S. science teachers participating in the program under a National Science Foundation grant. She has won degrees from Marymount, Catholic University of America, the University of London, and Tufts University. (GNS Photo)

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