

Inside WASHINGTON

MARCH OF EVENTS

THE GOP CANDIDATES CANT DUCK VIETNAM

By HENRY CATHCART
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WASHINGTON—Republican political theorists contend that their potential candidates for public office, at all levels up to president and vice president, can benefit most from the war issue of Vietnam by remaining as uncommitted as they can to any particular course of action, whether "dove" or "hawk."

Their rationale is that, given the division on the issue, the Democratic candidates cannot help but lose votes because the administration represents their political party and it has taken a firm stand by its actions. Thus, the unhappy hawk is unhappy with the Democratic administration for not prosecuting the war more vigorously while the doves are unhappy because it is being prosecuted too vigorously. Republican candidates can best attract the votes of these unhappy people by not alienating either faction.

It sounds like a beautiful theory, particularly for those not engaged in getting elected to public office, but it falls short of practicality. It is virtually impossible for an office seeker not to take some kind of stand, regardless of how muddled, on the Vietnam war. To try to duck the issue and talk about other things creates the kind of insistence from the press, his political opponents, and rivals within his own party, that cannot be ignored.

And, having been pressured into taking a stand on the issue, the potential candidate thereafter faces the necessity of justifying and defending the stand. Further, as circumstances and public attitudes shift, he must be able to lean with the political winds without appearing to be uncertain or vacillating.

GOP presidential hopeful George Romney took a position on Vietnam in April. He took a position defined as a shift just recently. The net effect has been to dull his political luster somewhat.

SHOCKING REJECTION—It was something like Miss America being disqualified from a beauty contest for not meeting minimum standards, or Arnold Palmer being barred from a golf tournament for the same reason.

Washington has a Fine Arts Commission, dedicated to preserving and improving the architectural quality of the Capital City. Washington is also the headquarters of the American Institute of Architecture, which currently is in need of a new building.

The AIA selected one of its most outstanding members, Romaldo Giurgola, chairman of Columbia University's Architecture School, to design the new structure. You know, something that would represent the absolute finest in architecture for the organization that represents the nation's architects.

Well, Prof. Giurgola submitted his design to the Fine Arts Commission, as all architects must when dealing with structures in downtown Washington. It was turned down by a vote of 6 to 1. The Commission took the position that:

"The design concept is totally out of scale with the existing buildings in the site. This new building would make the existing buildings and garden look like a top. It doesn't belong in this place."

And a commission member capped it all by adding, "Of all groups, the AIA should be sensitive to preserving the value of Washington architecture."

So, it's back to the drawing board for the AIA.

Copts, Orthodox See Differences Overcome

Bridal — (RNS) — Nineteen theologians and clergymen from ten Eastern and Oriental (Coptic) Orthodox Churches — separated since the 5th century — expressed their conviction here that the theological differences between the two groups could be "overcome."

In a joint statement issued at the end of a four-day consultation, the representatives declared that despite centuries of separate development, "the two families of Churches seem to have followed a common tradition and the same basic intuitions" in Christological, liturgical and spiritual matters.

The statement emphasized that "theological differences between these Churches today do not appear to be of such a nature as cannot be overcome with patient study and the growth of mutual understanding."

The consultation was held in England in connection with sessions of the World Council of Churches' Commission on Faith and Order, and was a follow-up to a similar meeting held when the WCC commission convened in Aarhus, Denmark, in 1964.

In Bristol, the theologians discussed the "Christological dispute of the 5th Century which led to the breaking of communion" between the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches.

These church groups broke relations when the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon in 451 condemned the belief which held that Christ had only one nature — the Divine — and which denied the humanity of Jesus.

The Chalcedon Council's position was opposed by the Oriental Churches which accepted as authoritative only the first three Ecumenical Councils (Nicea, 325; Constantinople, 381; and Ephesus, 431).

Pupils' Needs Prior Question

New York — (RNS) — Article XI, Section 3 of the New York State Constitution — the so-called Blaine Amendment which prohibits direct or indirect support to parochial schools — should be replaced with the wording of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, according to Christianity and Crisis magazine, published here.

In an editorial for the Aug. 7 issue of the periodical, the controversial topic is discussed by Arthur J. Moore, a member of the editorial board.

Mr. Moore, also editor of World Outlook magazine, claimed that mere repeal of the Blaine Amendment by the New York Constitutional Convention, now sitting in Albany, would not solve the problems of education.

Replacing the present statute outlawing any state aid to schools operated or directed by churches with a passage from the U.S. Constitution would, he said, "allow a slightly more flexible framework in which the hard questions can be raised."

The needs of education, the statement continued, is the "prior question," and that priority is being overlooked in "the clash of pressure groups and stale orthodoxies" debating the issue.

At the time Christianity and Crisis released its editorial, a proposal to repeal the Blaine Amendment, endorsed by a working committee, had reached the floor of New York's Constitutional Convention.

Mr. Moore's article did not directly assert that government funds should be given to church-related educational institutions.

It noted that "those partisans who conjure up visions of glor-

orious or dire, depending upon the point of view) of an open pipeline from the public treasury to the parochial school through which gold pours upon demand are in for a severe disappointment from the federal courts unless there is a radical reversal of the judiciary's position to date."

"The need, the editorial declared, is for a hard look at the whole context of education, public and private, in our society. The problems of education are deeper and more serious than money alone can cure, Mr. Moore said.

"The influx of minority group children into the public schools," he continued, "and the flight of the white middle class into private or religious schools is a growing threat to our society and must be dealt with."

In the present crisis which, Mr. Moore said, suffers from what civil rights leader Bayard Rustin has called "poverty of imagination," "it does not seem reasonable to have a more rigid article in the State Constitution than in the Federal Constitution."

The editorial noted that in New York the existing law has been amended already to allow public transportation for students in parochial schools, and that the State Court of Appeals ruled in rather confusing language that aid to children in religious schools was not illegal.

The gravity of the educational situation requires an approach, the editorial concluded, "in which the values of both a strong public school system and responsible pluralism can be creatively utilized." This is advocated over fighting "outmoded battles."

Under the new regulations, a founding left at a house of worship will be assigned to that particular religion. But children found in hospitals or other institutions operated by religious organizations will not necessarily take those religions.

(The city's only founding hospital, the Catholic-operated New York Foundling Hospital, according to the Department of Social Services, will continue to be assigned children left there.)

Mr. Ginsberg, in announcing the changes, said rotating the assignment of foundlings on the basis of religion had caused "an element of inflexibility" and had delayed adoption placement for some.

Each time a child is found abandoned in the city, police make a thorough attempt to find the parents. In case the police fail, and if there are no identifying religious symbols or notes on the child, he is declared a foundling and the city begins to look for a home for him.

Blaine Law's Doom in Sight

Stage Set For Show Down

Albany — (RNS) — The stage has been set for a full-scale floor debate at the New York Constitutional Convention on whether the so-called Blaine amendment should be repealed.

This was accomplished when the convention's Committee on Bill of Rights and Suffrage voted out a proposition which calls for repeal of Article XI, Section 3 of the current constitution which prohibits the use of state funds "directly or indirectly" for church-related schools.

The committee's proposals, sent to the floor with a recommendation that the full convention approve them, encountered last-minute opposition.

An effort was made by some committee members to attach a rider to the proposition which would recommend how it should be presented to the voters.

Opposition members sought to have the section of the proposed constitution presented to the voters separately apart from the full document. Under this setup, the voters would be able to express their opinions on the

tution is to be submitted to the voters on Nov. 8.

A spokesman for Mr. Travis said that he and leaders of both parties are confident that the deadline will be met.

As the convention committee was moving the school aid problem along its way to the ballot, added support was given to efforts to repeal Article XI, Section 3.

Charles H. Silver, former president of the New York City Board of Education, in endorsing repeal, said:

"I feel that the state has a responsibility for the education of every child and, at the same time, must preserve the parent's basic right to send his child to an accredited school of his own choosing."

Holding that New York City saves almost \$500 million a year because church schools accommodate 450,000 students in almost 500 buildings, Mr. Silver said he hoped the convention would "withstand the false arguments of those to whom separation of church and state has become an emotionally-laden abstract slogan instead of the strictly limited provision of the federal Constitution our forefathers intended it to be."



Blessing for Better Pictures

Monsignor Richard M. Quinn, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Rochester, blesses new airplane for Wahi's Photographic Service of Pittsford. Martin Wahi said the new plane which replaces one of 20-year vintage will enable him to provide service more promptly and at greater distances. He has done extensive aerial photography for several industries, newspapers, including the Courier, and government agencies.

N.Y. City Adoptions To By-Pass Religion

New York — (RNS) — New York City cares for an average of 20 to 25 foundlings each year. These children are abandoned by anonymous parents in subway trains, on park benches, in churches, on the doorsteps of hospitals, even, on at least one occasion, in an ash-can.

Until now, these foundlings have been assigned, in rotation, to Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish homes.

Now the Commissioner of Social Services, Mitchell J. Ginsberg, has announced a new policy — that the prospective parent will be chosen without regard to religious affiliation.

"Hereafter," he said, "the ultimate test will be what is best for the child, not the religion of the home into which he is going."

The commissioner also announced that in the case of parents who want to give up their children for adoption, and who profess no religious preference,

Justification Churches Topic

Auckland — (RNS) — The annual meeting of the New Zealand National Council of Churches here was highlighted by a joint Roman Catholic and Protestant announcement of a conference this Fall to discuss "justification by faith."

The conference will also consider ways Catholics and Protestants can work together.

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Factors to Love

Mexico City — (RNS) Roman Catholic Church ready to confront the racial turmoil in the States with "love and standing for all," according to the newly appointed A Delegate to the U. S.

Archbishop Luigi Riboldi who will take up his Washington in September Religious News Service interview here that he dismays by the race problems that may await him in position.

The veteran Vatican diplomat, who spent five years as an assistant in the Delegation in Washington between 1942 and 1947, assigned to many counting race problems.

His previous foreign assignments for the have been to Guatemala, Washington, and later New Delhi, and here a toll Delegate to Mexico

"I visited many Negroes," he said of his Washington service, "shall hope to do so again."

"The Negroes are a religious people and if I think that they cherish their own traditions as a well. In the problems that I shall humbly hope to help," he said.

"The problem is not a problem that afflicts heart and spiritual well-being of the people of the Church, which I shall humbly hope to help," he said.

"The present ecumenism, growing and strength in the world, all of us who endeavor great affection and pat help in resolving the problems," the prelate said.

Archbishop Raimondi greatly impressed by the qualities of the people during his stay in Delhi.

"They live for religion, and they respect priests as men of God."

As Apostolic Delegate to Mexico, he found great qualities in the Mexican who are "extremely and responsive, full of fervor, and deeply grateful for anything done for them."

When he arrived in nearly eight years ago bishop Raimondi had standing tasks to complete.

"The first was to reorganize the hierarchy," he needed to regroup and dioceses and appoint separate new bishops. It now twice as many bishops as there were arrived.

"The second task, urgent on the first, was in our indigenous brother many Indian communities isolated and without food. During my eight Mexico, I visited all 11 towns I could. I mystic created the bishop to humaras," the prelate said.

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