Finances the Crux

The Case for State Aid

The Catholic School Crisis... It's Nationwide

Some Victims Already

City announced St. Mary of the Plains High School here will close next June and that plans to build a new Catholic

high school in this area have been abandoned.

financial feasibility of operating the high school.

intendent's office announced here.

and St. Pius, both in Chicago.

as primary reasons.

state or local governments.

Dodge City. Kan.—(RNS)—Bishop F. Forst of Dodge

Bishop Forst made the decision after receiving a

With the decision by Bishop Forst, Catholic secondary

Chicago—(RNS)—Four Roman Catholic high schools

Three will close in June. They are St. George High

Cardinal Stritch High School of Chicago next year

The reduction will bring the number of Catholic

St. Louis—(RNS)—Archbishop John J. Carberry can-

In explaining the move to area parishioners, he

The new high school was to have been located on a

celled plans for a new \$1 million high school here, citing

financial difficulties and a decline in religous vocations

offered "new hope" if aid were to come from federal,

30-acre tract in the southwest part of Washington, Mo.,

to serve 21 parishes in three counties and adjoining St.

Louis County. The area is heavily Catholic in population.

Land was purchased in 1966 and plans were announced

then for a new high school calling for an enrollment of 600

Webster, Mass.—(NC)—Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan Worcester reaffirmed before an assembly of irate

Bishop Flanagan said efforts by the parish to keep

parents his decision to close a parish high school. He

rejected a suggestion the matter be put to a parish vote.

the school operating have resulted in a "great imbalance"

in the use of parish funds. He said the parish is spending.

in the high school and is "literally spending peanuts" in

educating parish children not attending Catholic schools.

The meeting between Bishop Flanagan and a parents' committee, which charged the decision to close St. Louis

High School next June was "unfair," took place in the

Father John R. Gilbert, St.

Paul and Minneapolis archdiocesan superintendent of

schools, said the \$10 million

is the estimated cost for "tui-

tion reimbursement to par-

ents for costs to church-re-

lated schools for secular edu-

According to the brochure,

operating expenses of church-

liament) on Jan. 21,, 1919.

The first Dail was assembled

'thousands of dollars' to educate some 100 parish children

report from an interparochial committee which surveyed

education in Dodge City will cease with the close of this

in the Chicago archdiocese are closing, the school super-

School in Evanston, operated by the Christian Brothers;

and two commercial high schools for girls, St. Columbkille

will operate only with classes for the 86 girls who are

now juniors and will graduate in June 1970

high schools in the archdiocese from 90 to 86.

"Catholic schools are in a fight for survival." Msgr. William Roche, diocesan superintendent of schools. warned recently in comment—constitutions—still—based—on ing on the plight of Catholic schools here.

Msgr. Roche cautioned that if circumstances forced the closing of parochial schools, the resulting burden on all taxpayers would be enormous.

Sheen, in a pastoral letter, declared that Catholic schools must continue "for the good of the nation" as well as for

CHICAGO

Michael J. Howlett, Illinois

auditor of public accounts,

said here he favors granting

state aid to students of pri-

vate and parochial schools in

He specifically endorsed

the proposal of giving finan-

cial aid to parents and stu-

dents for use in paying edu-

Howlett said state aid to

non-public school students "is

absolutely necessary now."

He cited the growing number

of non-public schools closing

throughout the state and said,

in light of these closings,

state aid "is the most eco-

nomical method" of averting

greater financial problems

for the state while providing

equal educational opportuni-

ties for all students in Illi-

Howlett was asked about

the frequent argument that

such aid is unconstitutional

because it violates the sep-

aration of Church and State

"This is a baseless argu-

ment," Howlett replied. "If it

were true, then you could

effectively argue that Cath-

olics should not have been

entitled to the GI Bill of

hts after World War II.

we should remove all the pub-

driveways in front of private

MICHIGAN

mittee has recommended

passage of a bill to provide

up to \$40 million in indirect

state aid for Michigan's near-

The House-Senate commit-

tee said it will cost the state

less money to provide state

aid now than to educate non-

public school students in pub-

State Sen. Anthony Stamm

of Kalamazoo, chairman of

the joint legislative commit-

tee on non-public schools, re-

leased a summary of the committee's findings and

In addition to recommend-

ing the aid, the committee

outlined elements which

should be included in legis

lation that would allow the

state to purchase certain

educational services provid-

The committee recommend-

ed that no state funds be

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ed by non-public schools.

ic schools later.

recommendations.

ly 1,000 non-public schools.

special legislative com-

licly financed sidewal

and parochial schools.

"It would also mean that

the state.

cational costs.

nois.

The crisis is created by the burgeoning costs of education versus the present bans on aid to private education in state the separation of church and

In New York State, voters in 1967 overwhelmingly defeated a proposed new constitution which would have scrapped the Blaine Amend-ment. This amendment for-Earlier, Bishop Fulton J. blds state aid to churchrelated schools.

> This state, however, has a textbook law which requires local public school authorities

given directly to a non-pub-

Instead, the committee

urged, funds should be ab-

propriated to intermediate

school districts which would

use them to purchase educa-

tional services performed by

state - certified non-public

school personnel - teachers.

librarians and other instruc-

ARIZONA

Tax relief for parents is

needed to meet the pressing

financial problems of Cath-

olic schools, Bishop Francis

Green of Tucson said here.

The bishop spoke at a meet-

ing of clergy, teachers and parents at which the finan-

cial difficulties of five Cath-

olic high schools in the

metropolitan Phoenix area

He said abandoning Cath-

olie_schools and relying on

Confraternity of Christian

"To say that CCD classes

Doctrine classes for their stu-

are the equivalent of a paro-

chial school education is

whistling in the dark," Bish-

op Green said. "Students

won't always attend the

extra CCD classes after

school, and when they do

they don't feel they need to

But, the bishop added, sup-

porting Catholic high schools

is a major burden for Cath-

olic parents "when they have

"The problem is that there's

not even enough money in

the state to support public

MISSOURI

The Catholic bishops of

<u> Missouri have warned that</u>

private schools cannot be ex-

pected to continue without

outside financial assistance

and called for "cooperative

arrangements" between the

state and private agencies in

which both would share the

They offered to help the

Missouri General Assembly

develop legislation which

would permit such a program.

In a statement on private

schools issued through the

Missouri Catholic Conference,

the bishops noted that Cath-

olic schools now enroll 16

per cent of school-age chil-

dren in this state, providing

them with secular education

as well as religious formation.

Since these schools receive

no financial assistance from

the state, "the Catholic

"With mounting needs, in-

creased expenditures, and a

the private agency finds that

100% funding of the pro-

of the students," the bishops

MINNESOTA

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Minnesota Catholic

69," they said.

to borrow money to do it."

tional personnel.

were discussed.

dents is no answer.

pay attention."

schools," he said.

cost of education.

chial schools.

The law was challenged last year and in a landmark decision the U.S. Supreme Court

But the general school crisis continues in the state and across the nation.

Some legislative leaders, such as in Illinois and Michigan, have joined with church leaders in decrying the situation and calling for state aid.

The few-school closings

school year.

to loan certain texts to all mentioned below are merely students in grades 7 through representative of many more 12, including those in paroforced to shut down across the United States. Just this week the closing of schools in Marquette, Mich., Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and Schenectady, N.Y., was announced:

> Not all of the problem is financial. Also contributing to the problem is the lack of religious teachers as convents are hard-hit by the lack of vocations. Further complicating the issue is the fact that seminaries themselves are also caught up in the financial

F. Dearden is considering closing Sacred Heart Archdiocesan Seminary (high school) in Detroit because of lack of funds. The seminary might be the perfect example of the problem

Six years ago it had 564 students. Now it has 280. The tuition has gone from \$100 The Courier-Journal feels in 1963 to \$300 for day stuthat the accompanying stories dents and from \$300 to \$600 for boarders.

There are those who feel that the parochial system is anyway. Many see the Confra- passing quilt.

Right now, Archbishop John ternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) programs as the future base for religious education, both for youngsters and

> The predominant feeling, however, is that the parochial school system should be saved.

The Courier-Journal feels merely reflect the general tenor of the school problem

but by joining such patches the reader may be able to see doomed and not worth saving the problem as an all-encom-

been allotted for campaign expenses. Malone opened in 1957 as Canton's first degree-granting institution. It previously had been konwn as Cleveland

tions of higher education.

institution.

Walsh, operated by the Catholic Brothers of Christian

Ecumenical Events

Catholic, Quaker Colleges Join in Drive

Canton, Ohio—(RNS)—Two-small_liberal_arts_colleges. here, one Quaker and one Catholic, will combine forces in February in a community campaign to raise \$2,250,000

Plans were announced by Brother Thomas S. Farrell.

They said the combined campaign may be the first

Each college will receive \$1.1 million of the goal. Each

The drive will be conducted Feb. 5-20 by 300 volunteer

president of Walsh College, the Catholic school, and R. Everett L. Catiell, president of Malone College, a Quaker

such interdenominational approach in the nation's institu-

plans to supplement this with federal and other funds for

workers, without recourse to any professional fund-raising

organization. Only 2.2 per cent, or \$50,000, of the goal has

building programs scheduled to begin this Spring.

Instruction, accepted its first students in 1960. Catholics Foreseen in WCC

Detroit—(RNS)—Dr. John Coventry Smith, one of the World Council of Churches' six presidents, said he expects to see the Roman Catholic Church become a member of the international ecumenical body within the next decade.

Dr. Smith, who is moderator of the United Presbyterian Church, based his forecast on conversations with Catholic spokesmen in Rome and at the WCC Fourth Assembly

Dr. Smith said that in recent conversations with "official spokesmen" in Rome, he had been told not to be "pessimistic" over the possibility of Roman Catholic membership in the World Council of Churches. He added that Catholic spokesmen at the Uppsala assembly last Summer had told WCC leaders to "prepare a structure for some type of Roman Catholic membership in the Council."

Ecumenical Paper Planned

Indianapolis, Ind.—(RNS)—The publication of an ecumenical newspaper serving the religious community of the Central Indiana area neared reality when Catholic and Protestant leaders approved a tentative proposal.

The board of directors of the Criterion Press, Inc., publishers of the Catholic weekly, the Criterion, and the Denominational Concerns Commission of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis have authorized the drafting of final plans for the publication.

The newspaper, to be published monthly, would be the first in the nation published as a cooperative venture between Catholics and Protestants, sponsors said.

Plans now are centered around securing widespread support, with 8,000 to 10,000 \$2-a-year subscriptions or the equivalent financial guarantee of support, and the ironing out of details.

St. Louis Diocese Plans Wide Study

St. Louis—(RNS)—A yearlong comprehensive research study of the Roman Catholic school system in the St. Louis archdiocese has been ordered by Archbishop John J. Car-

Authorized to measure the assets of the present and chart a course for the future, the study was announced shortly after the state's four bishops issued a statement evaluating the status of Missouri private education and announcing they would seek" aid for "secular" courses taught in private schools.

The \$100,000 three-part study will be directed by Dr. Robert Hassenger, 32, of Notre Dame.

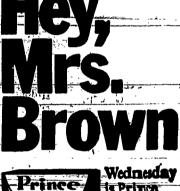
The study will be under the general control of a special 22-member commission appointed by Archbishop Carberry. On the commissoin are priest educators, pastors, teaching nuns and Brothers from the high school, elementary and college levels and laymen and laywomen.

The study will focus on the structure and the operation of the Catholic schools in three major areas:

• Finances: Data will be gathered and analyzed on the archdiocesan level, concerning high schools and elementary schools, operational and other costs, plus financial data from individual parishes on the costs of their individual schools. Financial aid from other sources both private and governmental, will be included where appropri-

 The parish: Opinions, attitudes and characteristics of parents will be gathered on the parish level, to learn their views and expectations. Also surveyed will be teachers, administrators and students. Sociological and demoraphic data, such as populaion, and distribution of the administrative structure of the parish school will be reported, as will the role_played the Parish Schools of Re-

• The future: Alternatives and variations in the format Catholic schools will be sketched, based on data gath-



ARCHBISHOP CARBERRY

ered. Such structures might

include district schools, con-

solidated grade schools, jun-

ior high schools, or other pos-

sibilities. There will also be

projections of what the en-

tire school system will be like

in five years.

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yakia. He reported

immolation in that

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J. Edgar Hoover, S

ard Nixon.

What Mu

By Father P. Da

tions" among the di our cities is hitting

officials hard these d militant lay groups glacial-like Chancery token responses to

Frustrated, angry, ten to pleas for gradi ence from ecclesiast these groups are a lines appear in the d distressing fro City Priests Charge Racism (Newark) Ca cese Charged with

ington) Two Clevela pended. Whatever our own ing the advisability it would be foolish to

creasingly sophistica being made by these A recent diocese-sp of Baltimore inner ci

pared by the Strategi poration, a professi firm, includes most o voiced in the other c more survey, carried month period, involv in poor areas and ov nterviews of clergy

The overall demand both professionals an brutally clear: "Eitl make dramatic char about the church in altogether."

VALU

Building

By Father Jame

The basic compone in most human endea edge and experience cumulates information

terprets and refines of experimentation. for marriage and far cept that most of the to derive knowledge experience. Despite advances in education done in any systema pare young people for family life. In less complex soc

ditions did not cha and dramatically, I marriage was often s ents. To some degree, munity took a part i young, evidence of wh in the commonly acc

Our society has org cational process, ma and the school coope But the old adage one's responsibility be responsibility" — see curate characterization pattern of marriage our country.

The American Bish to this situation in th toral letter, commit pastors to increase 1 this important area a is admittedly an amb However, the Bisho acknowledge that the and those of the price

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Church alone will subsidize education in Missouri to the Deaths extent of \$75 million in 1968-

for \$10 million."

school gymnasium

Conference - organization of

the state's Catholic bishops

- has published a brochure

designating the state's non-

public schools as a "partner" in Minnesota's education,

stating that "a partner that can save \$65 million is a partner worth having."

The brochure, entitled

"Partners in Education," in-

ended for statewide distri-

bution, said "the cost of edu-

cating 145,000 students in

Minnesota for one year is

at least \$75 million. Church-

related schools are asking

decrease in personnel available to contribute services, Fr. Gratian Feltz

it is no longer able to provide Father Gratian Feltz, O.F.M. grams it operates and still re-

missionary in China and Japan for many years, died Jan. Votive Mass of the Holy Ghost spond adequately to the needs 22 in Butler, N.J. The funeral in the Catholic pro-cathedral took place there last Tuesday of Dublin, a commemorative

Father Gratian was a native of Penfield. He attended Pittsford High School and St. Andrew's before entering the Franciscan order in 1925. He attended Pittsford High School and St. Andrew's before entering the Franciscan order in 1925. He attended Road Synagogue. Franciscan order, in 1925. He was ordained in 1932.

following the 1918 national He served in China from 1933 Party won 73 seats as compared until his expulsion by the com- to 26 won by Unionists who munists in 1948. He was in favored continuing ties with Japan 1955-57, then served for England. 10 years as chaplain of St. Anthony's Hospital, "Warwick. Last land's independence from Engsummer he was transferred to land, asserted its claim to be the friary where he died.

Father Gratian leaves five withdrawal of English troops. prothers: Charles, William and John, of Penfield: Joseph of Milburn, N.J., and-Anthony of Churchman Hits. Attica. Three sisters also sur vive, two of whom are Sisters Use of Violence of the Good Shepherd in Buffalo and the third, a Sister of Mercy in Rochester. Another abroad will continue so long O.F.M., died in 1945.

E. J. Fritsch

Brockton, Mass. — (RNS) brother, Father Firmin Feltz, as nations spend their resources on arms instead of on improving the human situation. Dr. Joseph H. Evans asserted here: The Negro minister, national

secretary of the United Church of Christ, warned an ecumenical audience in St. Patrick's Cathoa World War I veteran, was lic Church that unless Catholics held Jan 21 at St. Augustine's and Protestants try to end the Mr. Fritsch is survived by one world's "useless reliance on vio-sister, Mrs. Tessie O'Brien, and lence, the churches will die, several nieces and nephews, and they will deserve to die.

for public schools, \$439,165,746. Irish Parliament Notes Anniversary

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related schools in the state, based on 1967-88 public school figures, were \$77,458,797, and Dublin - (RNS) - Religious services in Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish houses f worship here marked the 50th anniversary of the first meeting of the Irish Dail (Par-

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