



State Schools

As Catholic Rolls Dip, Taxes Jump

More on Schools, Page 3

Albany — (NC) — A staff memorandum prepared by the New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents said there has been a decrease of nearly 60,000 Catholic school students in this state during the past five years—more than 20,000 this year alone.

It said the education of students who left Catholic schools and transferred to public schools this year is costing taxpayers some \$29,550,000. The figure is based on the National Education Association's statistics that per pupil expenditure in the state's public schools is currently \$1,140.

"For when a child leaves the Catholic school, public education is almost always his alternative," the memorandum stated. "No minor part of public education's current financial crisis is due to the immigration of large numbers of Catholic school students."

The memorandum was made public against a background of nonpublic school closings and dwindling enrollments throughout the country. The closings and curtailments have caused administrators of the financially hard pressed private schools to look increasingly to the state legislatures for help.

The State Constitution prohibits public aid to church-related schools through the so-called Blaine amendment, despite well-organized efforts over the past few years to have the restriction removed.

The largest single component in the private school sector here, as in most states, is the Catholic parochial system. Approximately 87 per cent of all nonpublic schools in New York are conducted under Catholic auspices.

The superintendents' memorandum acknowledges that a decrease of 58,416 Catholic school students in the last five years is due in part to the declining birth rate and efforts by school administrators to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio.

"But an increasing inability to meet increasing costs has caused the closing of Catholic schools with consequent serious implications for public school administrators and for the individual taxpayer," it warned.

The key to the current financial crisis in both the public and private sectors of education, the memorandum suggested, may lie in the fact that the private sector has been unable in the past five years to assume a proportionate share of the overall increase in school population.

The enrollment decrease began in Catholic schools as early as 1965-66, according to the report, but the growth in other religiously oriented and non-denominational schools was sufficient to allow an overall increase in the private sector until 1967.

"The taxpayer must be concerned with what seems to be a consistency in the rate of decreasing Catholic school enrollments," the memorandum stated. "If the decrease continues at what appears to be a predictable trend, the anticipated rate of loss in '69-70 will approximate 5 per cent, or from 35,000 to 37,000 fewer students. This transfer costs out at more than \$40 million in yet additional taxes in the year 1969-70 alone."



Page 1 Editorial

Though the Vietnam peace talks grind on in Paris they mean as little as these medals to a 3-year-old who has lost his father in the war. Byron Jones of Quincy, Ill., fights back tears as he holds medals posthumously honoring his father. Spec. Dennis Jones.

Nixon Pressed for Viet Statement

New York — (NC) — An interfaith peace group called Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam made public a letter to President Nixon demanding a "clear statement" on U.S. policy in Vietnam as soon as possible after the President's return from his trip to Europe.

The letter said the "moratorium" on criticism of the new Administration is over and added, "We fear the time is approaching. Mr. President, when we must declare your administration accountable for the continued suffering and death in Vietnam."

It claimed the government of Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi and the National Liberation Front are ready to accept a "broadly-based" government in Saigon, but this readiness cannot be tested so long as the "ruling clique" in Saigon has American support "in repressing, by torture and imprisonment, all political alternatives to itself."

The letter characterized the present Saigon government as "the chief obstacle in the way of peace."

The two-page letter was signed by the five co-chairmen of Clergy and Laymen Concerned. They are: Auxiliary Bishops James P. Shannon of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Philip Schaefer, vice president of Sheed and War, Catholic publishers; Mrs. Coretta Scott King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, vice president of Sheed and Ward, Heschel, professor of Jewish Ethics at Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Rev. Dr. John C. Bennett, president of Union Theological Seminary.

The letter to Mr. Nixon expressed hope that "you will return, especially from the consultations in Paris, to make a clear statement of your administration's intent in Vietnam."

The letter listed the following questions "needing answers":

• "What are the U.S. terms for a peaceful settlement in South Vietnam and the withdrawal of American forces?"

• "Does this administration still entertain hopes for a military resolution of the political problems in Vietnam?"

Sen. Laverne Sounds Call For Drive to End Obscenity

A call for all-out community action for decency including picketing and boycott, if necessary, was sounded this week by State Sen. Thomas Laverne as the only effective way to combat what he termed the "empire of obscenity which has enveloped us."

Speaking before a special hearing of the Rochester City Council Laverne urged Council members to take personal leadership in mobilizing community action. He called on them to draw the leaders of this community together to map plans for a concerted drive against the promoters and peddlers who "blatantly disregard our moral standards."

Mr. Laverne's speech followed a month of intensive activity by an organization called "Citizens for a Decent Community" formed to combat "nudie" films in Rochester.

The CDC came into action with a picket line at the Coronet Theater, on Thurston Road, after the Monroe County district attorney, John C. Little Jr., upon a citizen's complaint, confiscated the theater's film "Brand of Shame" and hailed its owner into court on Jan. 16.



Pickets walked in the cold night air for six more evenings as the theater showed two more allegedly indecent movies.

At a public meeting the next week several hundred residents of the neighborhood around the theater and other parts of the city met to hear evidence of the films' evils and prepare petitions to legislators of Rochester and Monroe County.

Within a few days Councilman William Legg, representing the troubled neighborhood of the 19th Ward, presented a resolution to Rochester's City Council asking for review of the existing obscenity laws and urging that "all possible steps be taken to combat the flow of smut into our community."

County Legislator Edward B.

Mogenhan, whose district includes the neighborhood of the theater, presented a local law against obscene films to the Monroe County Legislature on Feb. 4.

His proposed law would prohibit the advertising, selling and showing of obscene films and photographs. Under rules of the legislature the proposal was referred to committee for study.

Meanwhile the county grand jury viewed the confiscated film and indicted the theater chain owner Herbert Nitke, president of the DEB Theater Corp. of New York City. His trial is now pending on the charges of "possession and promotion of an obscene film."

Michael Macaluso, Chili Avenue, Rochester, and Mrs. Robert Mulhern, Post Avenue, co-chairmen of CDC, who testified with Sen. Laverne at the hearing of the Law Committee of the Rochester City Council, reported that "more than 3,000 signatures from all sections of the county" had been collected on some 500 petitions circulated by the CDC.

The petitions called on the legislative bodies of the county and city to enact and enforce laws "to stop

the showing of obscene and immoral motion pictures in this "community."

The petitions stated that "the showing of such films may arouse perverted individuals to commit unlawful acts". They pleaded that the movies "create a dangerous climate in the community, endangering children and adults alike.

Mrs. Mulhern said that the CDC ignited a neighborhood protest on nude movies which began to ferment last October.

The posters outside the theater where all passing children could see them bothered many mothers, she said. Another concern was the type of undesirable persons the films were attracting to the neighborhood in the afternoon when the children were out.

"With each new movie I saw a very unhealthy situation developing at the Coronet," she recalled. "They had a policy of saturation in sex and no diversion from this type of film."

Sen. Laverne stated that constitutional interpretation of attempts to place control over the flood of ob-

(Continued on Page 2)

Horton Proposes Law Against Obscene Mail

Washington, D.C. — New and effective congressional action is imperative to halt the flood of unsolicited obscene mail into homes, particularly those with children, Rep. Frank Horton (R-N.Y.) has said.

Horton said that the number of complaints he receives from constituents in Monroe and Wayne Counties of New York State has jumped considerably.

"Last week," Horton said, "after a long and careful study of this problem I introduced legislation carefully defining obscene mail, and absolutely prohibiting unsolicited mailing of smut into homes with children under 16."

"The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized the importance of protecting young people from material that has no socially redeeming value, and

which is designed solely to arouse prurient interest.

"The Court has held that obscenity is not within the area of Constitutional protection speech where children are concerned.

"My bill punishes the unsolicited mailing of the material with heavy fines and imprisonment.

"In fiscal 1968, the Post Office Department received 185,000 complaints from citizens about smut mail. Half way through this fiscal year, they have already received almost 130,000.

"Parents, churches and schools spend years of painstaking effort to educate our youngsters in the moral values of our society. Now the Congress has an opportunity to help parents, and put a stop to the activities of those who seek profit from the sale of immoral trash to minors."

Nixon - Pope Visit Schedule Announced

Rome — (NC) — The U.S. Embassy here gave the following schedule for President Nixon's visit to Pope Paul on Sunday, March 2.

The President will arrive from Paris about 4 p.m. There will be no honors at the airport.

Nixon will then take a helicopter to a site near the Vatican palace and will proceed by car to San Damaso courtyard. He is expected to talk with the Pope about 35 minutes in his private library.

He is expected back at Fiumicino airport at 6 p.m. and to take off at 6:20 p.m. for the return trip to Washington.



NO DISCRIMINATING EATERS HERE—These Biafran children, victims of the Nigerian civil war, were among those receiving drastically needed foods, thanks to the Catholic Relief Services mercy airlift. Annual collection for American Catholic Overseas Aid Fund is slated March 16.

March 16

Overseas Aid Drive Due

Collections for the 23rd annual American Catholic Overseas Aid Fund, sponsored by the U.S. Bishops, are scheduled in diocesan parishes on Laetare Sunday, March 16.

Proceeds from the appeal help support emergency relief, social welfare and self-help programs in 70 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Catholic Relief Services was among the first agencies to organize a mercy

airlift into blockaded Biafra when hundreds of thousands of children were facing starvation because of the civil war in Nigeria. From July to December, 1968, nearly \$2 million of food, medicines and other supplies were dispatched by the American Catholic agency to the stricken area.

The national goal of the 1969 appeal has been set at \$10 million, the amount required to maintain the worldwide Catholic Relief Services programs.

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For \$25 You Can Buy a Man

By OTTO ENGEL
(NC News Service)

Rio de Janeiro — If you are a farm owner in Brazil you will pay something like \$2,500 for a man. However, a farm worker can be "bought" for \$25, all rights included, in the central and southern regions of Brazil, including the nation's capital, Brasilia.

A modern version of slavery has existed in Brazil since 1958, when President Juscelino Kubitschek initiated the construction of the new capital.

In general, here's how this peonage system works:

Daily, 60 young men—only healthy and strong ones—from 20 to 30 years old, in the impoverished northeast region of Brazil are offered as farm hands for about \$25. They are selected from among 25 million inhabitants of that underprivileged region. When the \$25 is paid for them they begin their new "life."

They must work for about four years without compensation, because their purchaser must be repaid for underwriting the costs of getting the worker, such as the travel expenses from the north, the meals during the 10-day trip, and for the maintenance of the worker on the farm. All these "expenses" are fixed by the owner as remuneration for work and interest on the "debt."

However, that is not what the workers are told by the recruiters in their home regions. They are told:

"Everything is better in the south. You'll make \$1.50 a day and have a place to sleep and food to eat. After a while, your wives and children can come."

On arrival at their destination the workers are told something different. Such as: "You must work first to pay for your trip. You are not allowed to leave the farm. No drinks or women. You will work from sunrise to sunset. You will be informed when your debt is paid."

Unofficially, it has been estimated that about 4 million "nordestinos" have been "sold" under this procedure in the past dozen or so years.

Brazil's northeast is vastly poorer than the more industrialized and progressive parts of the south. Many plans have been made to develop the northeast, but funds for doing so invariably have been diverted to the south.

An authority for the Development of the Northeast (SUDENE) was created by the government at the urging of the Brazilian bishops, led by Archbishop Helder Pessoa Camara of Olinda and Recife. Although an improvement over previous programs, SUDENE has so far been incapable of solving the problems of underdevelopment in the northeast.

Slums in all of Brazil's larger cities

are preponderantly populated by persons from the northeast. Women, when they see that their emigrating husbands will not return, sell what they have—mostly their bodies—to go south. When they arrive they continue to do the only thing they can. They become prostitutes.

In the state of Goias a landowner told a reporter:

"If the government should in fact try to stop the traffic in 'slaves' from the northeast for exploitation in the south, the price of a sack of rice would be four times higher."

Juarez Bezerra, a 17-year-old boy newly arrived from the northeast, said: "I know that anything can happen to me here. But I'm glad to be here. In my region, I know that my future would be black. Here at least there is a possibility."

This reasoning enables the recruiters—usually truck drivers who bring the young men down south—to do a fine job. One of these recruiters said: "I could bring as many people as the truck will hold. The only difficulty is choosing the men in the best health."

This form of bondage is one of the grounds on which the Church in Brazil, through such leaders as Archbishop Camara, is strongly clamoring for basic social reforms in this country. Other groups claim that these calls for reform just pave the way to communism.