

Survey Breaks Down Aid by States

St. Louis — (RNS) — The secretary of schools for the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church has published a survey in the Lutheran Witness Reporter here which indicates state aid to non-public schools is expanding.

William A. Kramer collected his information from a questionnaire sent to the "chief state school officers" in the 50 states during December and January.

"The United States Congress and state legislatures," Kramer said, "will be wrestling increasingly with the problems of church-related schools in constitutional and practical terms."

Kramer lists 30 states which provide no aid to church-related schools or provide such a limited form of assistance that "essentially they offer no aid."

Thus, he explained, "Maryland provides bus transportation for handicapped chil-

dren only" and Montana permits school bus transportation to non-public school pupils who must pay for it.

Other states which provide "essentially no aid" according to Kramer are Arizona, Maine, North Dakota, South Dakota and Vermont.

In 23 of the states even minimal services are denied to church-related schools. These are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Seven states provide bus transportation in various forms but no other form of aid.

They are Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, New Jersey and Oregon.

Thirteen states provide

more extensive aid programs to the pupils of church-related schools. They are:

• Connecticut, where local school districts may provide bus transportation under certain conditions. The state also provides health and welfare services when the "majority of children attending such schools are from such municipality."

• Hawaii allows busing of grades K-12 within the public school area and for special education classes even beyond the normal school year. It also allows church-related schools to use curriculum materials of the public schools.

• Louisiana uses money from the state general fund, state sales tax refunds and the state property tax to provide bus transportation for church-related school pupils. It also provides textbooks, library books, school lunches, school supplies, paper and pencils.

• Michigan provides bus service but not across school district lines except for the mentally or physically handicapped and for special education students. The services of itinerant education personnel (psychologists, nurses, speech therapists, etc.) are also provided to non-public schools.

• Massachusetts provides transportation "to the same extent as for public school students." It also provides "school lunch reimbursement for meals served."

• Mississippi provides no transportation but it does purchase books which are loaned to the church-related schools and supplies driver education and lunchrooms.

• New Hampshire allows the school district to provide transportation along its regular routes and to grant use of the gymnasium. The state supplies school nurse and school lunch aid.

• New Mexico permits

transportation but any additional cost involved must be provided for by the county commissioners of the county involved. Textbooks paid for by state funds for public education are provided to parochial school pupils.

• New York provides transportation up to 10 miles; also, textbook loans in secular subjects and health services.

• Ohio allows transportation for not more than 30 minutes of travel time — or payment to parent-guardian in lieu of transportation. It also provides materials and services up to \$26 per pupil.

• Pennsylvania provides transportation along public school routes. It also provides the most extensive aid program in the country under a "purchase of services" arrangement — contracts for salaries of teachers, textbooks and other instructional materials in physical sciences.

math, foreign languages and physical education, using a racetrack tax to finance the aid.

• Rhode Island law requires the school committee of any town to provide the same rights and privileges of transportation to church-related school pupils as given those in public schools. The state also provides textbook loans.

• Wisconsin policy on transportation is determined at the local level. The state's Department of Public Instruction provides consultative services on request to non-public schools.

Eleven states will probably consider a bill for state aid during the present legislative session.

They are: Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Vermont and West Virginia.



Turtle Necks for Altar Boys

Nehru-style jackets and turtle-neck shirts are now an optional form of dress for altar boys at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Louisville, Ky. In the new attire are John Mullins, left, and Glenn Carr. Father Vernon Robertson, the pastor, rear, said that the traditional cassock and surplice is available for who wish. The new dark blue jackets and the white shirt are proving extremely popular with boys because they claim they are more comfortable than the traditional attire.

Rocky Praises Parish Parents

Watertown — (NC) — Gov. Rockefeller of New York told a "Town Meeting" here that parents who have both paid taxes and supported non-public schools "have done a fantastic job."

Replying to a statement by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana of Ogdensburg on the need for public financial aid for church-related schools, Gov. Rockefeller said: "This is a common problem because our responsibility is for all the children that they should get the best education. I think the figures run that if the parochial schools were not there and all the children... were in public schools the cost would be between \$600 million and \$800 million more per year."

Rockefeller said his administration, in conjunction with the State Board of Regents, has agreed to appoint a commission to study "the quality, cost and financing of public and private primary and secondary school education in New York State."

An Editorial

Editorial comment on the parochial schools' problems and their impact on the local taxpayer is increasing as dioceses around the country announce plans to close schools or eliminate grades.

The following editorial from the Elmira Star-Gazette, 2/22/69, points up public concern in the Southern Tier over trends in area parochial schools.

Is the Catholic school system on its last legs?

You could get that impression from the increasing transfer rate out of parochial schools into public schools. Yet it probably isn't really accurate.

What we can expect to see is a continuing cutback in Catholic education almost to the bone and a continuing rise in cost for laymen who support it.

With these will come louder and more urgent calls for public money to keep the schools open.

Somehow, that hardly seems likely, with New York State saying it can't pay any more money for public education.

More and more youngsters are leaving

Catholic schools in the seventh grade and transferring to public schools. About 200 are expected to shift in the Elmira School District in 1969-70.

Others will be left out as parochial schools try to cut class sizes.

That places an additional financial burden on the already beleaguered Elmira taxpayer — but that's the way things go. Catholic parents have been paying double for many years to support both school systems, so a non-Catholic taxpayer has no squawk coming.

One avenue for the parochial schools is consolidation, but few are taking it. Transportation factors, parish pride and differing policies cannot seem to be resolved, at least in Chemung County.

Those who point with pride at the low expenditure per pupil in Catholic schools are only kidding themselves, though. Catholic educators agree that they don't have all the facilities or equipment they'd like and that they need more money to do a better job with their pupils.

Elmira School District administrators now know how that feels — and you have to wonder where it will all end.

Crisis in Brooklyn

Brooklyn — (RNS) — Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn cannot maintain their present educational level for more than five to seven years without government aid, Msgr. Eugene J. Molloy, secretary for education, said at a meeting with the diocesan Priests Senate.

Also addressing the meeting was Father Franklin Fitzpatrick, superintendent of the 212,797-pupil school system. He cited the decline in the number of religious teachers staffing the schools and the increasing salaries of lay teachers as major factors in the financial crisis facing Catholic education.

There are 202 parochial elementary schools in the diocese but these depend on local parishes for financing and no central budget figures exist for them, Father Fitzpatrick told RNS.

However, for the nine diocesan high schools, he said, the operational deficit is about \$2.1 million a year.

He told the Priests Senate there is every indication that

Big School Outlay

St. Paul, Minn. — (RNS) — More than 60 per cent of the \$3.5 million being sought in the Archbishop's Appeal of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis will go to the elementary and secondary schools of the Archdiocese, it was announced here.

Richard G. Donovan, chairman of the lay board, said the largest portion of this allotment will be used to meet costs arising from lay teachers' salaries.

2 Faiths Appeal

Fort Wayne, Ind. — (RNS) — Private schools should receive public financial support, Catholic and Lutheran educators told 5,000 persons attending a rally sponsored by the Fort Wayne Committee on Non-Public Schools.

Dr. John Choltz, former director of Lutheran schools in Detroit, said public appropriations to private schools would contribute to a healthy competition between the two types of schools.

"The customer gets a better deal at a lower cost, and if parents have a choice in schools, they end up having a greater say in the education program in the community," he said.

6 Schools Closed

Salina, Kans. — (NC) — Bishop Cyril J. Vogel of Salina announced that five elementary schools and one high school in the diocese will close after the current school year.

Declining enrollment, rising costs and the decreasing availability of religious and lay teachers were cited as prime reasons for the closings.

State Aid Transfusion Seen Needed Now

By WILLIAM RYAN (NC News Service) — Washington — A consensus has developed among Catholic officials that school closings, consolidations, grade cutbacks and a host of other measures now in use represent a "band-aid" approach to the critical financial problems of the parochial school system.

Many believe that state aid is the only tourniquet which will stop the massive leakage of Catholic school students into the nation's crowded and overburdened public schools.

The leakage has been dramatized with increasing frequency in recent weeks as diocese after diocese announced what is generally termed a "reorganization" of its school system. The "reorganization" usually means that a dozen or so of the schools in the diocese will close this year, and that perhaps half that number, or in some cases more, will be merged into single units.

Diocesan officials try hard to find places in other Catholic schools for the students affected by closings and consolidations, but frequently their success is not spectacular. "Our experience indicates that at least half will probably end up in already strained public schools," said Father John B. Zwiers, Detroit archdiocesan superintendent of schools.

Father Zwiers said between 20 and 40 school mergers and closings are expected in the Detroit archdiocese next year, including some affecting inner-city schools. The archdiocese, which runs one of the larger parochial school systems in the nation, has suffered a loss of more than 15,000 students in the past two years.

In company with virtually all Catholic officials asked about school closings, Father Zwiers said "there is no question the reason is financial — tied, of course, to the shortage of teaching Sisters" who

must be replaced by more expensive lay teachers.

"We have come to the end of our financial rope," said J. Alan Davitt, executive secretary, New York State Council, Catholic School Superintendents.

"There are three possibilities," he stated. "Perhaps we can improve our own financing to make better use of the dollars we now have, through such measures as centralized accounting, any type of centralized purchasing, and centralized financing; then, too, the laity, in general, may sacrifice a little more — but how far can we ask them to go? State aid is the only possibility which has not been thoroughly explored."

But despite the convictions of Davitt, Father Zwiers and other officials, a variety of approaches are being tried.

Some approaches are closing some primary grades; replacing elementary schools in some locales with religious

education centers; tuition in private day camps, day care, day schools, etc.; and support for the efforts of Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF) and other grass roots organizations which are behind drives for state aid to private education.

"These are all alternatives which many of us have explored," said Msgr. Martin B. Hitchcock, superintendent of schools in the Bridgeport, Conn., diocese. But the priest said none of the alternatives have proven fully satisfactory.

Virginia Kendall, director of the Institute for Catholic Education in New York, said CEF's efforts there have largely subsided since the unsuccessful drive two years ago to overcome the restrictive "Blaine amendment" in the state constitution.

Miss Kendall said the financial situation is acute in many New York dioceses, particularly in the upstate area.

"But the last thing officials want to do is increase tuition because they think it is forcing many parents out — and in many places it is already as high as the population can bear," she observed.

She also spoke of a general reluctance among many schools officials to close elementary grades because of a "feeling that the elementary level has the edge in importance for the children."

"Legislation comes from the people," Father Genereaux said. "As the community becomes more involved in a meaningful way, through school boards, advisory committees, curriculum committees, and parents, I think the community will speak for legislation through these people."

Catholic Hospital Meeting Scheduled

Minneapolis — (NC) — The Catholic Hospital Association, representing the nation's Catholic-sponsored voluntary health care facilities, will hold its 1969 annual convention here June 10 to 13.

More than 5,000 health services personnel from Catholic hospitals, nursing homes and affiliated organizations throughout the United States and Canada are expected to attend.

Those Opposed

here in a resolution adopted unanimously by the Greater Milwaukee Council of Churches' board of directors.

The board affirmed its belief in the public school system and opposed "any legislation which subverts public interest in public education or which uses public funds to support and/or encourage

attendance at non-public schools."

Board members adopted a committee report which asserted that grants to parents of non-public school children would strengthen private schools and lead to "a proliferation of new schools representing, perhaps, special points of view — religious, economic, social, political."

What Bishops Are Doing, Saying

DRIVE LAUNCHED St. Paul, Minn. — (RNS) — Coadjutor Archbishop Leo C. Byrne of St. Paul-Minneapolis said here that a \$3.5 million appeal will be conducted under the direction of laymen interested in the needs of education and the poor.

A prime factor in the decision to launch the appeal is "the desperate financial condition" faced by the archdiocesan parochial school system, the archbishop said.

A major cause of the increased cost of parochial schools, he said, was "a decline in the number of Sisters, Brothers and priests teaching" in the schools.

He reported that the archdiocese had to subsidize the school system this year for the first time and that an \$800,000 subsidy was estimated for the current school year.

"As salary costs rise, this need will increase in the years ahead," he said, explaining that "70 to 75 per cent

of the total operating costs is for salaries."

A BIT OF HELP

Detroit — (RNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit said here that giving non-public schools "a bit of help" now is the best way to keep taxes down and the quality of public schools up.

He noted that the decrease of enrollments in private and parochial schools is "snowballing" in Michigan — from 4,000 students four years ago to 18,000 last year. Transfer of these pupils to public schools was a major item in increased school taxes, the bishop held.

Closing of all non-public schools in Michigan, Bishop Gumbleton said, would add \$15,000 pupils to the "already overcrowded and understaffed public schools."

Such an increase in enrollment could not only mean a large increase in school taxes, the prelate said, but would also greatly lower the educa-

tional standards of the entire school system as a result of crowded classrooms and inadequate staff and facilities.

If there were some form of financial support from the state, he said, non-public schools could continue to operate and the taxpayer would only have to pay a part of the cost rather than the total cost of education for these children.

ASIAN EDUCATORS URGED TO ECUMENISM

Hong Kong — (RNS) — Catholic educators in Asia were told here to increase their ecumenical contacts and collaboration with educators of other churches.

The vicar general of the Hong Kong diocese, Msgr. E. E. Einaudi, addressed delegates from 13 Asian countries attending the 4th Regional Conference of the International Office of Catholic Education. He warned against remaining in religious isolation from other Christian and non-Christian traditions of their countries.

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Milwaukee — (RNS) — A proposal that Wisconsin issue state grants to parents of private and parochial school children was opposed