

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

Schools' Desegregation Pace Too Slow

Washington—The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights charged the Nixon administration with making a "major retreat" on school desegregation by changing enforcement methods and granting unneeded delays.

The commission released a 100-page study which claimed that school segregation "continues as a pattern and not the exception in education in many states."

Commission chairman Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president of the University of Notre Dame, issued a personal statement criticizing new school desegregation policies of the Departments of Justice and Health, Education, and Welfare.

Money Appropriated for Black "Churchmen"

New York City—The policy-making general board of the National Council of Churches responded to the demands of the Black Manifesto with a promise to raise \$500,000 from its member denominations for use by two black church-related organizations.

The extensive statement of response, adopted at the board's meeting here, carefully avoided any mention of the idea of reparations.

Money allocated by the general board's action would go to the National Committee of Black Churchmen, an inter-denominational organization whose membership includes widely respected black leaders from predominantly white denominations as well as all-Negro bodies, and to the inter-religious foundation for community organization.

Clevelanders Quarrel Over School Books

Cleveland—The Cleveland diocesan superintendent of schools issued a statement appealing to priests, religious, and lay persons "to work together... to mend and repair and if necessary, to replace the torn fabric of the Church" in the wake of a controversy over modern religion textbooks used in Cleveland diocesan schools.

Msr. William S. Novicky said he had arranged for a panel of three pastors and three others to be appointed by

the diocesan department of religious education "to sit down to the serious scholarly re-analysis of the textbooks, not in the light of patented objections but in the hope that a fair and well-founded appraisal" would be made.

Milwaukee Has Inner City Bills

Milwaukee—(NC)—The Milwaukee archdiocese has allotted \$406,000 to nine inner city grade schools to assure operations for the current academic year. The schools include seven which have severed parish ties to become community centered and two which are considering the plan.

The community school concept involves operation independent of the parish, separate incorporation and administrative control by the board of parents, educators and consultants. Religious instruction is provided through the parish. The schools have 4,200 pupils.

Closing Schools Costs \$90 Million

Detroit—Taxpayers here have paid some \$90 million in four years to educate 50,041 pupils squeezed out of Detroit-area Catholic schools, Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit stated. "And that," he added, "is only a hint of what the final bill may be."

"In the last two years, approximately 54 Detroit-area Catholic schools have either closed, been consolidated or had classes curtailed," Bishop Gumbleton stated. "But in this year alone, over 70 schools are in danger of closing at the end of the school year, or possibly before. Besides these, 25 to 35 additional Catholic schools are running deficit operations and, consequently, face eventual closing."

Bishops Get New Information Director

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—Russell Shaw, public relations director for the National Catholic Educational Association, has been named director of the Division of Information of the United States Catholic Conference.

Mr. Shaw, who has been with the NCEA since 1966, has been editor of the association's magazine, "The NCEA Bulletin," and other publications in addition to his direction of its public information program.

A native of Washington, the 34-year-old journalist holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgetown University. He worked for the Washington Daily News and The Catholic Standard, the newspaper for the Washington archdiocese.

Graham Questions News Story

Billy Graham says The New York Times "exaggerated a little bit" when it described him as "the closest thing we have to a White House chaplain."

A confidant of the last four presidents, the 50-year-old evangelist has been to California three times in the past three weeks, spending some of his time with President Nixon at the "western White House" in San Clemente. While in California, Mr. Graham:

- Attended the Los Angeles dinner honoring the moon astronauts. (He and James Cardinal McIntyre, Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, were the only two clergymen invited by the President.)

- Flew on Air Force One with President and Mrs. Nixon and former President and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson to the Redlands dedication honoring Mrs. Johnson.

- Took part in a meeting of the Richard Nixon Foundation, of which he is a member.

- Golfed "a couple times" with Mr. Nixon. Over the years, the two have played golf together probably 50 times, Mr. Graham said. They usually don't keep score, he said, because "we're too busy talking."

Quakers Mourn Ho's Death

Officials of the American Friends Service Committee sent a cable expressing condolences to the people of North Vietnam on the death of Ho Chi Minh.

Signed by Gilbert F. White, committee chairman, and Bronson P. Clark, executive secretary, the message was addressed to North Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Dong. The American Friends Service Committee has long opposed U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

The cable said:

"We wish to express our condolences to the people of your country in this moment of your national sorrow on the occasion of the death of your esteemed president, Ho Chi Minh. Both friends and foes must recognize that this remarkable man selflessly devoted his life to the causes of national independence and social reconstruction. His integrity and commitment have won the admiration and respect of the people of the world."

Number of Priests Drops in Holland

Amsterdam, The Netherlands — (NC) — Priests leaving the ministry in Holland have jumped 400 per cent in five years, according to a report written at the request of the Pastoral Institute of the Netherlands' Church Province.

Between 1958 and 1964, the average annual number of priests who left the ministry was 15. In 1965, the number who left was 44; in 1966, 79; in 1967, 151; and in 1968, 196. All those who left the ministry had been ordained since 1945.

The reasons priests gave for leaving the ministry include: rigid Church structures, authoritarianism among the bishops, uncertainty about the effectiveness of the priestly office, obsolete ideology, secularization and the increasing number of persons who find the Church unconvincing.

Since 1957 there has been a decline in ordinations. In 1946, 367 priests were ordained, and in 1957, there were 421 ordinations. However, there were only 306 in 1961; 227 in 1966; and 145 in 1968.

Newman Apostolate Issues Film Book

Washington — (NC) — A booklet, "Films to Challenge You," has been issued here by the National Newman Apostolate as an aid to meeting problems such as drug addiction, war, hunger, racism and youth.

New Jersey Clergymen Join to Fight Drug Abuse

New Brunswick, N.J. — (NC)—Some 90 New Jersey clergymen of all faiths have formed a permanent committee here to work on the problem of drug abuse in the state.

The group will work in cooperation with state and other agencies dealing with the problem. It was given a mandate to expand and broaden its own base for operation on a state-wide and regional basis.

Although half the drug addicts in America are in New York, California, Illinois, and New Jersey are close behind, according to Richard J. Russo, director of the New Jersey Bureau of Narcotic Addiction. A rough estimate of narcotics addicts in New Jersey would be about 30,000, he said.

State Police Detective Frank R. Lacitra told the clergymen that no legislation will ever cure this problem of drug abuse.

"This is one of the biggest faults of this great country of ours," Lacitra declared. "We think we can cure anything with legislation—even civil rights. What we really need here is education, a preventative measure."

Lacitra said the addict manages for the most part to support his habit through crime. "In Newark alone," he said, "better than 50 per cent of all the crimes committed are related to... narcotics."

Marijuana, Lacitra declared, is the biggest problem. "Don't be fooled by these people who will come out and tell you there's nothing wrong with marijuana," he said. "Do not be taken in. Marijuana leads consistently to LSD and eventually to heroin."

In the thousands of cases of children involved with drugs, Lacitra said, one com-

Father Leo Trese, Author, Retires

Detroit — (NC) — Author, columnist, scholar, Father Leo J. Trese has retired from the active ministry in the Detroit archdiocese for health reasons.

The 67-year-old author of "Vessel of Clay," and "Parent and Child," and former Michigan Catholic columnist, said he is retiring as chaplain of St. Elizabeth Briarbank home for the aged, because of "chronic heart failure and deterioration in the hip which I broke about three years ago." He will retire to Pompano Beach, Fla.

Father Trese had contributed to Commonweal magazine, Emmanuel, the Young Catholic Messenger, the Catholic Boy and the Catholic Miss. But he has not done any writing for publication for the past three years.



Dr. Helmut Fischer, 37-year-old lawyer, will take the role of Christ, and Beatrix Lang, 21-year-old school teacher will play the Virgin Mary in the Oberammergau Passion Play. (RNS)

No Major Changes At Oberammergau

Oberammergau, Germany—(NC)—Preparations for the 1970 performances of this village's famed and now controversial Passion Play are under way without any substantial changes in the script, which has been attacked as anti-Semitic.

Some references considered offensive to Jews, however, have been cut — expressions such as "damned synagogue" and "generation of vipers" — and the play has been shortened by one hour to last about 6½ hours.

Worldwide pressure for changes in the text of the present version, used for the play since the 1630s, followed the Second Vatican Council's

declaration absolving the Jewish people of guilt in the death of Jesus.

Debate over changing the text split this mountain village. But in preparing for the 1970 performances the town elders decided that time was too short and the townspeople's devotion to the play too deep to permit a replacement of the text or any far-reaching changes. In doing so they rejected a new version worked out by a Benedictine priest of the Ettal monastery, Father Stefan Schaller.

Most of the 550,000 tickets for the 98 performances next year have been sold and officials said they may have to turn down more than a million requests for tickets.

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