

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

School Prayer Loses

Prayers and Bible readings at the elementary school in Leyden, Mass., even on a voluntary basis, are unconstitutional, according to a ruling by the Massachusetts attorney general.

School officials in the small rural town on the Massachusetts-Vermont border declared that Robert H. Quinn's decision was "incredible."

In a nine-page opinion, Quinn listed several U.S. Supreme Court decisions, including one which struck down another voluntary prayer plan, to support his ruling.

"Such practice is unconstitutional under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution," Quinn's opinion stated.

Pa. School Aid Bill Pushed

Rep. Martin P. Mullen (D-Philadelphia), chairman of the Pennsylvania House Appropriations Committee, declared here that "there will be no compromise" in his efforts to get a \$23 million appropriation for Catholic and other private schools.

Current annual aid to parochial schools approximates \$4.5 million. Rep. Mullen had first asked for \$45 million, but finally cleared through the House an allocation of \$23 million. It is now stalled in the Senate pending settlement of the total state budget problem.

The Pennsylvania aid program is in the form of "purchase of educational services" in non-religious subjects taught at parochial schools.

A Cannonball of a Nun!

A peppy 67-year-old Dominican nun who has kept the Wabash Cannonball on track—at least for another year—was honored in Detroit by the United Transportation Union. They gave her a number of gifts, including an attache case and \$304 in cash. Her efforts preserved 28 union jobs.

Sister Ann Joachim was honored for bucking the Norfolk and Western Railroad last April when it sought to stop operating the storied Wabash Cannonball passenger train.

Sister Ann, a regular commuter between Detroit and Siena Heights College in Adrian, Mich., where she is chairman of the history department, interested other commuters in the fight, claiming the railroad was more interested in freight than people. Through her efforts the Interstate Commerce Commission opened an inquiry on the railroad's



A miniature copy of the statue at the United Nations world headquarters which illustrates the passage from Isaiah 2:4 "... and they shall beat their swords into plowshares ..." is presented to President Richard M. Nixon by W. Clement Stone of Chicago, national chairman of Bible Week. The statue was given in recognition of Mr. Nixon's ser-

vice as honorary chairman of National Bible Week, from Nov. 23 to 30. Looking on are, from left: Father Louis Hartman, C.S.S.R., executive director of the Catholic Biblical Association of America; Stone; Mr. Nixon; K. S. Giniger, president of the Laymen's National Bible Committee. (RNS)

claim it was losing a great deal of money with the Wabash Cannonball.

"When one of the commissioners told me I didn't have a 'snowball's chance in hell' of keeping the train running, that did it," Sister Ann Joachim said.

She bombarded the ICC with petitions, statistics, legal precedents and other evidence. The ICC was swayed to her cause and ruled the railroad would have to keep the train operating at least for another year.

News Capsules

Father Lawrence E. Lucas, a black Harlem pastor, said he is pessimistic about Catholicism's response to the black revolution. ... Pressed by growing money problems, the Maryland Catholic Conference has, for the first time asked the state to recognize the desperate financial needs of non-public schools.

Bishop Dedicates Religion School

Moravia — Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey dedicated a new parish center and school of religion Oct. 26 at St. Patrick's Church.

The school, directed by the pastor, Father Thomas C. Kane, has a faculty of 11 men and women teaching Sunday classes for grades 1-12. The rectory was remodeled to accommodate five classrooms, an office and a large meeting hall.

Prove Mettle, Get Aid; Catholic Schools Told

Washington — (NC) — Catholic schools will gain public favor they need when seeking public funds if they will show results of dealing with those considered underprivileged or handicapped, a U.S. Office of Education official told diocesan school superintendents meeting here this week.

Dr. Leon Lessinger, associate superintendent of the U.S. Office of Education, suggested that Catholic schools "say to public schools which have difficulty that we'll take the dropouts and we will produce."

"One way to impress public education," Lessinger said, "is to have a strong, energetic school system that is not a carbon copy of public education. This is the time we desperately need innovation, flexibility and new approaches—and you have these. It is within your heritage to deal with the handicapped and the disadvantaged. This is part of the Christian message."

Parents unanimously adopted a resolution which "recognizes and endorses" an earlier report which rejected attacks on certain religious textbooks now widely used in Catholic schools and identified the volumes by title and publisher.

Specifically cited as being objects of unwarranted criticism were "Our Life with Christ" series, Sadlier, "Our Faith" program, Benzinger; "Bible Life and Worship" series, Allyn and Bacon; "Come to the Father," Paulist Press; "Lord and King," Holt, Rinehart and Winston; "New Loyola Religion Series," Loyola University Press; "Roots of Faith" series, Harcourt, Brace and World; "Life and Light" series, Sadlier; "To Live is Christ," Regenery, and "Living with Christ," Christian Brothers series, St. Mary's College Press.

The books in question have been criticized as containing a "strongly Protestant" bias and of favoring "situation ethics."

The 275 school superin-

The superintendents also:

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