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Time Factor In Repeal Of Blaine

(Special to the Courier-Journal)

Albany — Gov. Rockefeller's statement to the Legislature that help is necessary for the state's parochial schools is a hopeful step, but many of the beleaguered parochial school systems may be phased out by the seriousness of their financial distress before the three years needed to remove the restrictive Blaine Amendment.

That's how Father Patrick E. Shanahan, president of the New York State Council of Diocesan School Superintendents, commented on the governor's request for repeal of the 76-year-old law which bars state aid to nonpublic schools.

"In view of the gravity of today's financial problems for the supporters of these schools, aid two years or more away could very well be too late for many (parochial schools)," he said.

Father Shanahan noted that repeal of Blaine — reason for a bitter debate in 1967 during consideration of a new state constitution — could not be accomplished in less than two years.

Repeal of Blaine needs passage by the current legislature, approval by the next legislature, and then acceptance by a state referendum the following Fall.

Father Shanahan said the parents of more than three quarters of a million non-public school children, who represent 20 per cent of the state's enrollment, face an immediate financial crisis.

"The fiscal crisis is here now, it's not just developing for some future solution."

He called for significant legislation from the present legislative session "which would meet the requirements of both the state and federal constitutions."

Gov. Rockefeller in his 12th annual State of the State message called for repeal of Blaine and directed a State commission studying the educational system to include consideration of the plight of the non-public schools.

The governor's call for Blaine's repeal found support from one of the leading Republicans in the legislature, Sen. Majorly Leader Earl W. Brydges, who renewed his support for Blaine's repeal and suggested that attempts to provide some form of assistance to private schools may come out of the 1970 session.

An attempt was made in 1967 to repeal the Blaine Amendment. This came in a proposed revamping of the entire state constitution by a constitutional commission. The revamping called for repeal of the Blaine Amendment, but a number of other controversial issues were part of the package. In a referendum in November, 1967, the voters rejected the recommendations to revamp the constitution.

Opponents of state aid to nonpublic schools repeatedly have pointed to the 3 to 1 margin 1967 vote as a rejection of the proposal to repeal the Blaine Amendment. But supporters of aid to non-public schools just as consistently have pointed out it was not a clear-cut vote on the Blaine Amendment alone, but involved a number of other controversial issues.

Gov. Rockefeller's request for repeal came in a section of his address on education in which he proposed an increase in the ceiling on state aid to public schools from \$760 to \$900 a pupil.



Governor and the 'State of the State'.

What Rockefeller Said

... on Blaine Amendment

I recommend that, at this session, there be a first passage of a constitutional amendment to repeal the Blaine Amendment to the State Constitution and to substitute the less restrictive language of the federal Constitution on separation of church and state.

I am confident the latter provisions will amply safeguard the rights of all the people while affording greater flexibility in meeting the educational needs of all the people.

By giving first passage this year to a constitutional amendment to repeal the Blaine Amendment, you will avoid a possible three-year delay in implementing recommendations for State aid to non-public schools.

Failure to act this year would result in postponing the opportunity for the people to consider this issue until 1973, at the earliest.

... on Abortion Reform

I continue to believe very strongly that the state's archaic abortion law must be changed.

Two years ago, I appointed a panel of distinguished citizens to review the law and to make recommendations.

The special commission's report and hearings by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Problems of Public Health have contributed greatly to public understanding of the present law's harmful and often tragic consequences.

Recently, the state's law and similar statutes in other jurisdictions have come under attack in state and federal courts across the nation. I urge you to resolve the differences of the past and to give favorable action to much-needed legislation on abortion reforms.

Reaction to Message Varied Across State

Albany — Reaction to the 1970 State of the State message by New York's Gov. Rockefeller was swift and varied.

Some topics of special interest to the Catholic people of the state in the message are:

• **Universal Health Insurance** which will benefit the state because it will require every employer to have it for his employees. It will bring hundreds of thousands of additional workers under protection. It should also reduce medical costs. Those now without health insurance protection who are almost entirely dependent on Medicaid because of their low income would find their insurance covering a part of their medical bills

and reducing their claims for assistance on the state.

Both the business community and organized labor have been opposed to the plan in the past. Business because it would represent another cost to them; labor because they want greater benefits than those suggested by the program.

• **Welfare restoration** will help some. The Catholic Committee supports the governor's proposal to restore some of the welfare aid cut out by the 1969 legislature. However, this represents barely a beginning in meeting present needs. It merely

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New Role for King's Prep: Pioneer in Experimentation

By ARTHUR P. FARREN

Bishop Hogan this week proposed that "new dimensions be added" to King's Prep, a diocesan high school on Buffalo Road, to make it "an institution for pioneering in the field of educational experimentation."

Presenting his suggestion at a meeting of high school principals of the diocese Tuesday afternoon at Cardinal Mooney High School in Greece, he asked the principals to study his proposal and to give him reactions.

In effect, the Bishop's proposal would remove King's Prep from the diocesan seminary structure. It would be supported in part from other diocesan funds than the seminaries' budget.

Presently the school, although co-educational, is financially part of the seminary structure with Becket Hall and St. Bernard's Seminary.

Could not King's Prep, he asked, "serve as a catalytic agent in the educational community? Could it not be

a pilot project, an experimental lab, an educational test-tube where new student and teacher techniques and programs might be prudently but boldly attempted to the ultimate benefit of Catholic secondary education in the Diocese of Rochester?"

Could it not, he continued, "serve in the role of educational leadership? This would not be a reversal of roles for the school. It would not be a departure from the original purpose of training for Catholic leadership — that purpose still would prevail."

Bishop Hogan's proposal was the second major step he has undertaken in the educational field since his ordination Nov. 23 as seventh Bishop of Rochester. The first was the recent appointment of Sister Patricia Donovan, RSM, former principal of Notre Dame High School in Elmira, to conduct a six-month, intensive survey of the entire diocesan school system.

Terming himself "an optimist who would like to declare a moratorium on the downgrading of our Catholic school system," the Bishop noted that he has placed Catholic education high on his list of priorities, and stressed that "I truly believe we offer a priceless education — a plus in character formation and religious training which cannot have a price tag placed on it."

In essence, Bishop Hogan's proposal for King's Prep was that it be a co-ed high school experimenting with innovations in both teacher and student concepts expanding from "the personal to the institutional level."

In asking for the principals' counsel, he said:

"I would like to see King's Prep as a joint effort, capitalizing on the corporate wisdom of all our diocesan secondary school personnel. I would like to see it viewed by all our high



BISHOP HOGAN
... eyes on education

schools as a laboratory in which they might test and try any programs and projects which ultimately might redound to the benefit of our entire secondary educational system.

"There are a number of programs which could be tested," he suggested:

"There could be curriculum programs such as teaching courses in less time, adding completely new ones, following a different school year, getting students more involved with the world outside through field-service courses, using a more interdisciplinary approach to the teaching of theology to get the message of Christ's teaching to today's teenager."

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Catholics Urged To Take Part In Unity Week

Washington — (NC) — The country's Catholics were urged to join with other Christians "in the holy task of restoring the unity of the followers of the Lord."

The call was issued by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in heralding the 1970 observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from Jan. 18 to 25.

Acting through its Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, the NCCB reminded that the Second Vatican Council mapped four major routes on the path toward unity. They are:

• "Through the work of dialogue whereby everyone gains a truer knowledge and more just appreciation of the religious life of the different Christian communions.

• "Through cooperation between Christians in the duties demanded by the Christian conscience for the common good of humanity.

• "Through prayer in common with one another.

• "Through undertaking with vigor that task of renewal and reform of which the Church is always in need and without which there can be no ecumenism worthy of the name."

The NCCB said since the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism was issued five years ago, great strides have been made in the work toward Christian unity.

"In all this our goal remains that of which the Decree on Ecumenism, namely, that little by little, as the obstacles to perfect ecclesiastical communion are overcome, all Christians will be gathered in a common celebration of the Eucharist in that unity which from the beginning Christ has willed for His Church," the NCCB statement said.

Bp. Hogan Emphasizes New Changes in Liturgy

By ALEX MacDONALD

Thorough instruction of the entire diocese in the purpose and form of the latest revisions in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration is the purpose of seven regional meetings arranged by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission which Bishop Hogan will address this week and next.

Three sections of the Mass, untouched in previous renewals of the liturgy, have been revised by Vatican directive and will be used in all parishes of the diocese beginning Sunday, March 22.

Discussion meetings for laity and for clergy, instructional leaflets distributed at Masses, special homilies to be preached on the Sundays in Lent and publicity in news media of the diocese will prepare the parishes for the changeover, according to Msgr. William H. Shannon, of Nazareth College, diocesan director of the Liturgical Commission.

Bishop Hogan met with the Liturgy Committees of the Southern Tier in Elmira last Sunday evening, spoke to similar parish committees at three places in the Rochester area this week and will visit Auburn next Sunday evening and Geneva on Monday night for other area discussions.

In a letter sent to all priests last week the Bishop gave "full endorsement" to the work of the Liturgical Commission. He said he was "anxious to spend every effort to bring to reality in this diocese what Vatican II envisioned in liturgical reform:

the full and active participation by all the people."

Asking for the leadership of the priests in teaching parishioners about the liturgical modifications to come in March, the Bishop declared: "This will require a wholehearted support of the changes, a thorough understanding and an enthusiastic presentation of them."

Use of the new modifications, he told the priests "calls for a greater flexibility in the ordering of the liturgy and a willingness to use the many options which the revised rites make possible."

The new structure of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission divides all the parishes of the Auburn area into three groups, all the Elmira area into five groups and the Rochester area into seven groups.

These 15 groups have been holding monthly "area meetings" where priests and laity from every parish have been learning about the forthcoming revisions in the liturgy of the Mass, Baptism, Matrimony and Christian Burial.

The monthly discussions, usually running for two hours, have given priests and laity interested in the parish liturgy opportunity to learn the liturgical developments and the reasons which have prompted them.

Msgr. Shannon, explained the depth of the instructions, said: "We have been aiming at an extensive catechesis of all the people through

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Pope Pleads for Mercy to Biafra

By PATRICK RILEY
(NC News Service)

Vatican City — While Nigerian federal troops tightened the noose around the expiring Republic of Biafra, Pope Paul VI moved on several fronts to forestall anything like the slaughter Biafrans have declared would follow their defeat as night follows day.

Shortly after speaking publicly of "the terror-filled possibility of reprisals and slaughter," the Pope dispatched his apostolic nuncio in West Africa back to the Nigerian capital with a personal message to Gen. Yakubu Gowon, head of federal Nigeria's military government.

The nuncio, Archbishop Amelio Poggi, flew out of Rome for Lagos Jan. 12 with the Pope's message. It was not revealed what the message contained, but the Pope's publicly expressed fears and the swiftness of his action indicated that it was an appeal to Gowon, as a Christian, to do all in his power to prevent the feared massacre of Ibos. Ibo tribesmen constituted the vast majority of the Biafran population.

Tribal hatreds and economic rivalries between the Ibos and other sections of the Nigerian population, especially the Hausas of the Northern Region, played a principal role in the decision of Ibos of Nigeria's Eastern Region to declare the independent Republic of Biafra on May 30, 1967.

The very day Archbishop Poggi carried the Pope's message to Lagos, Pope Paul addressed another appeal to diplomats accredited to the Holy See. He asked them to urge their

governments to send observers to the battle-devastated region.

He made it clear that he hoped the presence of such official observers would act as a deterrent to possible excesses on the part of the conquering troops.

To the crowds gathered the previous day Jan. 11 in St. Peter's Square for his Sunday blessing, Pope Paul said the war in Africa "seems to be reaching its conclusion, with the terror-filled possibility of reprisals and slaughter of a defenseless population worn out by hardships, by hunger and by the loss of everything."

"But a fear torments public opinion that the victory of arms may bring with it the killing of innumerable persons. Some fear even a species of genocide, although we want to exclude such a horrible hypothesis for the honor of the African people and of the authorities who themselves have ruled it out with many explicit assurances."

A spokeswoman for Caritas Internationalis, the international Catholic relief organization that has been one of the principal suppliers of food and other necessities to the people of Biafra, described the situation there as "an apocalypse."

She said that 1.5 million civilians had died in Biafra from starvation and bombings, "and it is sure that a great many more will starve now."

She said all communications had been broken between Biafra and Joint Church Aid, the interchurch relief organization that includes Caritas Internationalis, when Biafra surrendered.

"But even if we succeed in re-estab-

lishing an airbridge and a food distribution system, the people will stay in hiding in the bush. We would be unable to get the food to them. Many will starve rather than expose themselves to what they think is sure slaughter."

One of the missionaries who flew out on that flight said there was "little immediate danger" for the missionaries still inside. He added: "But it could be a long time before communications are reopened."

Italy Takes Action On Rome Slums After Papal Plea

Rome — (RNS) — Shanty towns and slums in Rome's outskirts, recently brought to public attention by a Christmas visit from Pope Paul, will receive \$100 million worth of construction aid from the Italian Public Works Ministry.

According to Italian Radio, the ministry set aside the funds to rid Rome of its dilapidated shack areas. They are inhabited by about 70,000 poor people from rural areas who, over the past few years, have occupied empty empty buildings.

The Pope also received a New Year's delegation from the Rome slum area and made a strong plea that something be done for the shanty town dwellers.

The pontiff reportedly met with Rome's mayor and city council, urging them to do something for the slum dwellers.



A Visit with the Mayor

Rochester Mayor Stephen May discusses such problems as the inner city and schools in an article by Courier-Journal staffer John Dash. (Story is on Page 7.)