

Speno-Lerner Bill Will Help NOW

The favorable vote in the Legislature to begin repeal of the Blaine Amendment may be a milestone in the history of religion in our state. But it won't do any immediate good for the 875,000 students who attend our non-public schools. The Legislature said in effect: "Let's start taking down the wall between state funds and religious schools — but let's not hurry even if they may have to close this June."

The full repeal of Blaine will take at least two years. Meanwhile the drift of religious schools toward closing for financial reasons will send thousands of parochial pupils into the public schools next Fall. The public school system doesn't want to see them coming and the Church regrets turning them out. But the Legislature, warned repeatedly that Catholic parishes would phase out classes and close whole schools unless the public helped them with their education work, decided an empty token vote on Blaine would cover the situation for another year.

The Blaine Amendment will not be dead until another elected legislature next year also votes for its repeal and then the voting public on Election Day '71 also agree that the 75-year-old law should be buried. Neither event is absolutely certain. And even if all that happens enabling appropriations for religious schools will then have to be passed.

But scores of state legislators who approved the repeal did so with full knowledge that their action would look like concern for granting public money at once to non-public schools, without having to spend a penny until late-1972. For the rest of this legislative session and the next they can placidly counter all appeals for school aid with the pious defense: "I voted to repeal the Blaine restriction — what more do you want?"

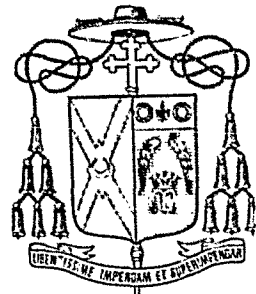
The major reason Blaine came to discussion this year, and so hurriedly, is that Albany knows the parochial schools are facing increasingly stormy times. And the public schools will be hurt by the waves. Public school authorities have warned the Legislature that if the Catholic school system dumped just one-fifth of its pupils into the public schools next September it would be financial disaster for the local taxpayers. Therefore it would be cheaper to help church schools than to let them go under. Something had to be done to look like a rescue for the parochial schools. But repealing Blaine was a phony.

The Legislature's failure to deal with education of parochial pupils honestly will soon be seen in clearer perspective when they discuss the Speno-Lerner Bill, a parent-student assistance program which could offer some sustenance to the church schools this very year. This bill authorizes partial reimbursement of tuition by cash payments directly to parents of children in nonpublic schools. The grants are tied to the parent's income and range between \$50 and \$250 annually. Constitutionally there should be no problem, such as Blaine has long offered, because the bill specifically meets part of the tuition cost of the "secular education" only which the pupil is getting in the religious school.

The Legislature has grave responsibility to respond promptly and adequately to public needs. Starting repeal of Blaine does nothing for today's problems. But passing Speno-Lerner would. Parents of parochial school children are going to be hit by new tuition charges next Fall which many of them cannot meet no matter how they wish to keep their children in religious schools. If they get no aid this year for that part of the child's learning which the law calls "secular education", a legal public purpose, they will have to move their children thus accelerating the closing of their parochial school, and the switchover of all the children there to the public system.

—Fr. Richard Tormey

Bishop Hogan's Appointments For March



- 1—Rochester Post Office Holy Name Communion Mass and Breakfast at St. Joseph's Church, 7 a.m.
- 1—St. John's, Greece, Mass and homily, 11 a.m.; homily — 12:15 p.m.
- 2—Shrine Lunch Club address, Eddie's Chop House, 12 noon.
- 2—Visitation, Ithaca College Newman Center, 5 p.m.
- 2—Visitation, Cornell University Newman Center, 8 p.m.
- 3—Meeting with Campus Religious Leaders, Cornell University, 9:30 a.m.
- 3—Christian Foundation Board, Southern Tier, 4 p.m. at St. Mary Our Mother School, Horseheads.
- 3—Priorities meeting for Southern Tier, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at St. Mary Our Mother School, Horseheads.
- 3—Mass and homily, St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, 12 noon.
- 4—Board of Consultants meeting—11 a.m.
- 4—WSAY—Rosary program—7 p.m., address.
- 5—Church of Ascension, Rochester—12 noon address.
- 6—St. Mary's Hospital—Mass and homily—12 noon.
- 6—WSAY—Rosary program, 7 p.m., Lenten message.
- 7—Preside and concelebrate Mass—Sacred Heart Cathedral, 50th anniversary Mass of Basilian Fathers—11 a.m.
- 8—Knights of St. John and Ladies Auxiliary, Mass and homily, St. Joseph's Church, 9 a.m.
- 8—Auburn K. of C. Communion Supper—6 p.m., Mass at St. Alphonsus Church.
- 9—Aberdeen Nursing Home, Mass and homily, 4 p.m.
- 9—WSAY—Rosary program—7 p.m., Lenten message.
- 10—Personnel Board meeting—10 a.m.
- 10—Board of Trustees meeting, Columbus Civic Center, 4 p.m.
- 10—Guardian Angels Rosary Society, 8:45 p.m.
- 12—Board of Trustees meeting, Aquinas Institute, 3:30 p.m.
- 13—CD meeting, Trenchholm East Inn, 1 p.m.
- 13—Confirmation, St. James Church, Rochester, 7:45 p.m.
- 15—Jesuit Alumni Communion Breakfast, McQuaid Jesuit High School, 10 a.m.
- 15—National Guard, 209th Artillery Group, Armory, Mass and homily—3 p.m.
- 16—Board of Trustees, St. Ann's Home, 11:30 a.m.
- 16—Annual Jesuit Mission Dinner, Flagship Hotel—7 p.m.
- 17—St. Patrick's Day Mass, Corpus Christi, 12 noon.
- 17—St. Patrick's Day Mass, St. Patrick's Church, Victor—8 p.m.
- 18—Administrative Council meeting—2 p.m.
- 19—St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, Episcopal Ordination—11 a.m.
- 20—Confirmation, St. Leo's, Hilton, 7:45 p.m.
- 22—Sacred Heart Cathedral, Palm Sunday liturgy, 10:15 a.m.
- 23—Confirmation, St. Louis, Pittsford, 7:45 p.m.
- 24—WSAY, Rosary program, 7 p.m.—Lenten message.
- 26—Sacred Heart Cathedral, Chrism Mass, 12 noon.
- 26—Sacred Heart Cathedral—Holy Thursday Mass of Eucharist, 7:30 p.m.
- 27—Good Friday liturgy, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 1:30 p.m.
- 28—Easter Vigil Service, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 7:30 p.m.
- 28—Mass of the Resurrection, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 10:15 a.m.
- 30—Visitation to South American Missions, March 31—Uberlandia, Brazil—Sisters of St. Joseph.

The Bishop will be out of the diocese the first three weeks in April, first visiting diocesan missionaries in South America and attending the Spring meeting of U.S. bishops in San Francisco.

Quiz Yourself on Catholic Schools

Question 1: Approximately one out of every 10 children in elementary and secondary schools in New York State is in a Catholic school. True or False.

Question 2: Dedicated Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests represent over 90 per cent of the total teaching staff of the Catholic Schools in New York. True or False.

Question 3: Enrollment in Catholic schools in New York has been increasing steadily through the 1960s. True or False.

Question 4: Educating children in Catholic Schools saves the taxpayers of the state millions of dollars each year. True or False.

Question 5: Graduates of Catholic schools have their credits accepted by the state right alongside their public school counterparts. True or False.

Only numbers 4 and 5 are true. How did you do? Here's a question-by-question review.

Number 1: False. Actually twice as many children, more than 700,000, or one out of every five pupils are educated under Catholic auspices. That represents 20 per cent of the elementary and secondary students in the state.

Number 2: Also false. Sisters, Brothers, Priests do not represent more than 90 per cent of the total teaching staff of the Catholic Schools. In fact the number of lay teachers has been climbing steadily from 3 out of 10 lay teachers in the early 1960s to 5 out of 10 lay teachers today. Thus the major low-cost item in Catholic schools (dedicated Religious at a \$1,500 or less annual salary) is becoming less and less a factor in education costs. If

education trends continue down, soon lay teachers will represent a majority of teachers in Catholic schools in the state.

Number 3: Another false one. Enrollment in Catholic schools in New York has not been increasing steadily through the last decade. Actually enrollment reached a peak in 1964 when more than 798,440 children were enrolled. But it's been dropping since that time—due to many factors: increased tuition, smaller classes, school closings and consolidations, shortage of Religious teachers, etc. There's been an 11 per cent drop in enrollment since 1964. Present statistics show 707,714 enrolled this year; 20 per cent of the students in the state.

Number 4: True. Educating children in Catholic schools does save the taxpayers of the state millions of dollars per year, Gov. Rockefeller

recently stated the average cost of educating a student in New York is \$1,100 per year. Educating children in the Catholic schools then saves the taxpayers three quarters of a billion dollars every year. That's why Catholic educators maintain that continuing the Catholic School is an excellent bargain for the state, the local school district and every taxpayer.

Question 5: True also. Graduates of Catholic schools do have their credits accepted by the state right alongside their public school counterparts. Not only that, they take state Regents exams, are eligible for state scholarships and fulfill all the requirements of the state law in education. The main difference for the student in the Catholic school is that in addition to the training in secular subjects and good citizenship, he receives the moral and spiritual training that only the Catholic school offers.

LETTERS to the editor



Private School Aid Not Unconstitutional

Editor: There are three basic principles which are fundamental to a reasonable discussion of the whole issue of financial aid to children in non-public schools:

1. The need for quality education for all children. In deciding the N.Y. textbook loan case the U.S. Supreme Court said:

"Americans care about the quality of the secular education available to their children. They have considered high quality education to be an indispensable ingredient for achieving the kind of nation, and the kind of citizenry, that they have desired to create."

The just complaints of the black community with respect to education emphasize that the public school system does not satisfy many parents. This has long been the stand of Citizens for Educational Freedom.

2. All citizens have an obligation to support the secular education of all children. Parents who send their children to God-centered academic schools have long borne their fair share of the costs of the 3Rs for children in public schools. In addition, they have borne the cost of the 3Rs in nonpublic schools with practically no help from parents who choose public schools.

If these children are transferred to the public school system, those who currently contribute almost nothing for the 3Rs of nonpublic school children will be compelled by law to support the 3Rs for all children, which they are not now doing. This will be a financial disaster, especially for the Big Six cities.

3. Separation of Church and State can be maintained while supporting the secular education of children in nonpublic schools. In deciding the textbook loan case the N.Y. Court of Appeals said that the purpose of the legislation was:

"To bestow a public benefit upon all school children, regardless of their school affiliations. . . . No one in the last third of the 20th century can doubt that a program aimed at improving the quality of education in all schools is a matter of legitimate state concern."

In deciding the same case, the Supreme Court said:

"This court has long recognized that religious schools pursue two goals, religious instruction and secular education. . . . parochial schools are performing, in addition to their sectarian function, the task of secular education."

The court also noted that aiding secular education (the 3Rs) in God-centered schools is not instrumental in aiding religion.

Let your local assemblymen and state senators know that you would like their support for repeal of the Blaine Amendment, and for passage of the Speno-Lerner Parent-Student Assistance Program.

—J. K. O'Loane, 331 Seneca Pkwy., Rochester

Why Does Peace Need Arguing?

Editor: It seems odd that today we have to justify peace instead of war. War is the last socially-accepted outlet for a barbarian species which is not willing to be civilized. It is even stranger that those who speak for peace have to spend so much time and energy to justify peace while war is considered the "natural way things are done. Does the act of cessation of killing require more defense than slaughter?"

Isn't it about time we stop compromising the Gospel message with our own just war theories, etc? We have to take Christ's message more seriously. Does what happens in our own individual life comply with His message when He says: "Love your enemy, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. Forgive your brother not seven, I tell you, but seventy times seven. . . . (after Peter cut off the servant's ear during Christ's arrest. . . . Put your sword back for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father who will promptly send more than twelve legions of angels to my defense. And touching the man's ear, He healed him. . . . You have heard how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say to you: Offer the wicked man no resistance."

Christ would not return violence with more violence. He stopped the cycle of violence and responded with love. Even after being mocked, spit on and crucified, he said to his accusers, before his last breath: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing." Is He asking any less of us?

—James Hewes, St. Bernard's Seminary

Courier Criticized On School Issue

Editor: Many times on the radio opinion program and at the school board meeting at Monroe High School, the question was asked "What are the ministers and priests and Sisters doing?"

Word for Sunday

Renewal Begins in the Heart

By Father Albert Shamon

In every textbook on the spiritual life there is generally a chapter on discernment of spirits. Since the devil can parade as an angel of light, those advancing in holiness want to know whether or not the inspirations to do certain things come from God or Beelzebub.

In Sunday's Gospel when Christ casts out a devil, the bad-willed said He did this by the power of the devil; others demanded a sign from heaven. Christ gave such a sign: "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters."

In this day of renewal, more than ever, we need this sign. In January, for instance, the Dutch Church met in Pastoral Council for the fifth time. Pope Paul studied the project reports accepted by the Dutch Bishops as the basis for their discussions. He was so perplexed by these reports that he wrote directly to Cardinal Alfrink. He warned the Dutch Church especially on the subject of the priesthood. In substance he said: "You must not consider the priesthood as an office conferred by the Christian community. You must not consider it as open to women. You must not propose that the priesthood and celibacy be disassociated" (Dec. 24, 1969).

Who is right — the Dutch Bishops or Paul, the Bishop of Rome? Paul is Christ speaking. "He who is not with me (now Paul) is against me." It is as simple as that.

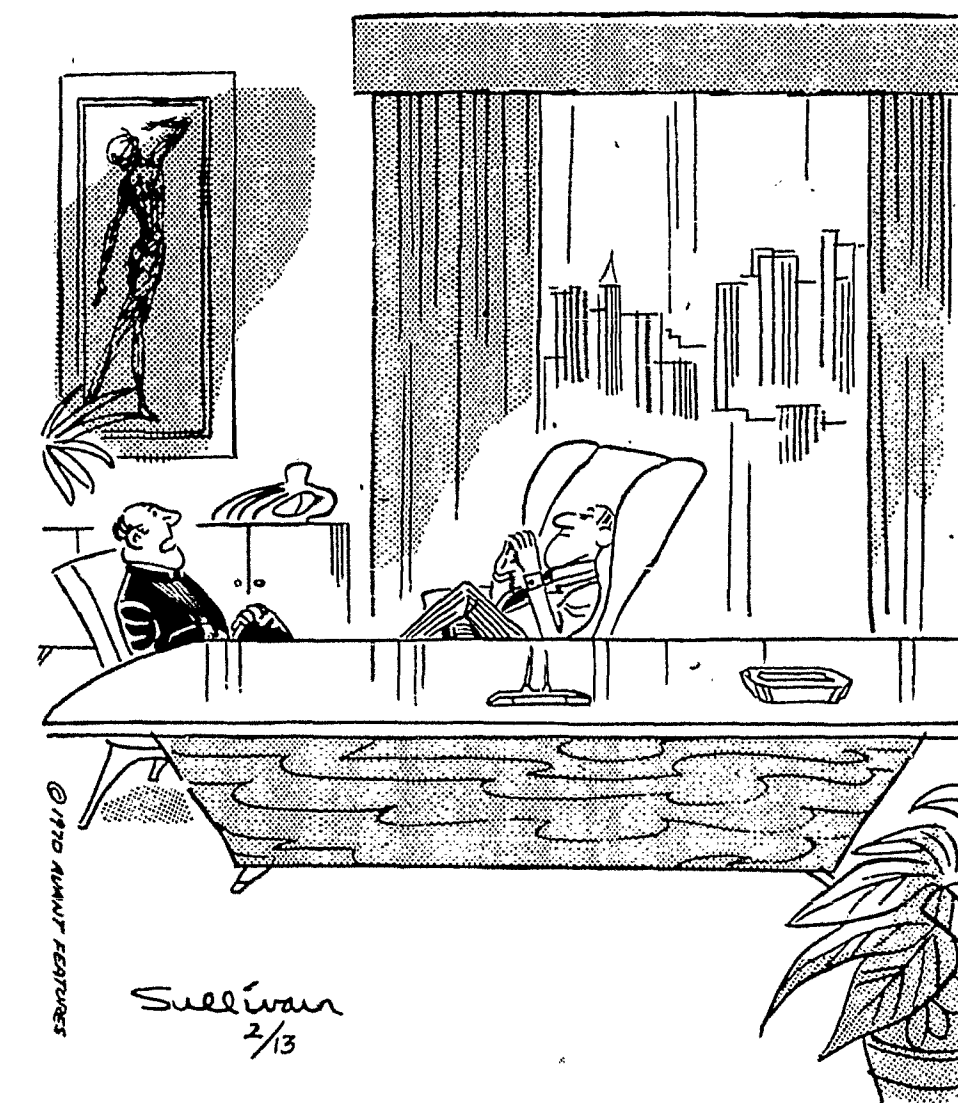
Again there is the matter of the changes in the Mass. Some refuse to accept them or make them. Yet Pope Paul said, "We shall do well to take into account the motives for this grave change. The first is obedience to the Council — that obedience now implies obedience to the Bishops

ing there? It is none of their business." I submit that they were there about their Father's business. They were there to give testimony that this was a moral concern, a matter of social justice, caring that each child in Rochester receives a quality education.

Bishop Hogan and Father Brent made their position completely clear. They care.

Now I have two questions. Where was the coverage in the Catholic Courier-Journal of this problem which raged in the city for weeks? The Courier is the main educational tool of the Diocese.

Is there no obligation to give ser-



"AND WHAT WAS THIS 'LITTLE PRAYER' THAT CHANGED YOUR LIFE AFTER LIVING EIGHTEEN YEARS ON WELFARE?"



Generation gap? Bishop gave Holy Communion recent visit to order. Sister Lucinda Gilmartin, Rose School

Bishop Hogan

Bishop Hogan celebrated 74 Sisters of St. Joseph during official visitation to the St. firmary on East Avenue on

One of the highlights of was the Bishop's greeting to her first-to-fourth grade Sister Lucinda Gilmartin, 8 will be 82 years old on St. Day.

Born in Corning, Sister the order in 1905. She t parochial schools in Geneva, ester, Lima, Spencerport an



Nurse Bec

Winning combinator competition sponsor are Catherine Ann Ily's "Miss Hope" 197 runnerup. Cathy, da Hiler of Greece, is a Nursing School, and Care Facility at Gen "Miss Hope" finals in Coyne, daughter of h of East Rochester, is pital School of Nursi Depart

Tofany Lauds

Vincent L. Tofany, statu tor vehicle commissioner, week praised the value parochial school education ing that "one of the tes strength of any nation i ability to raise and train leaders for the future."

Speaking at a dinner h ing Catholic high school ball stars, he said these c instill the qualities of coo virtue, honor, and reveren God, "and this is importa

COURIER-JOURNAL

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