

# Action Awaited By Legislature on Speno-Lerner Bill

Special to the Courier-Journal

Albany—"No action has been taken on the aid-to-non-public-school parents tuition bill or any substitute bill at this time," said J. Alan Davitt, executive secretary of the Council of Catholic School Superintendents after the legislative recess.

"All the bills are bottled up in committee," he said, "and the only way to get them out is to write, telegraph, phone or visit your legislators and tell them you need help."

"With the passage of the Governor's \$7.14 billion record budget and the welfare and public school aid debates over and done, the only major money issue remaining is non-public school aid," Davitt said. "We've got to get action now."

Talk in Albany has settled on adjournment on April 18 or recess on the 18th until the 29th (which includes the week of Passover) with a final wind-up session that day.

Any aid to non-public school students has come in the supplemental budget which will be voted near if not on the last day of the session. That's the catch-all appropriation bill to make up for the omissions or under-estimates in the original budget passed last week but

prepared well over a year ago.

At present parents of non-public school students who've been supporting the tuition aid plan sponsored by Queens Assemblyman A. Lerner, are expected to keep up their efforts on the bill because "it's the only one we've got" said Davitt.

The governor in indicating his problems with the tuition aid program had promised alternate suggestions to aid the nonpublic schools on an emergency basis this year until his blue-ribbon commission makes its report on both public and nonpublic school support in 1971.

However neither he or his staff has made any public alternate proposals as yet. "Until that happens," Davitt said, "we fully support the tuition aid plan presented earlier this year."

That plan provides for reimbursement of 80 per cent of the cost of the secular subjects taught in religious oriented schools. It would be paid as a tuition aid grant to the parent based on a formula that included the secular cost of education in the school, the parents income, the number of children he has in school. It provides maximum grants of \$150 in grammar and \$250 in high school.

## Abortion Law Repeal

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federal, state or local tax revenues "to support a government-sponsored program to kill unborn babies is contrary to the Judeo-Christian principles upon which our country was founded."

The new statute permits abortions up to the 24th week of pregnancy, for any reason, upon written consent of the mothers. It takes effect July 1.

With 76 votes required in the legislature for passage of the bill, it was passed 76-73, without a vote to spare. Drama abounded as the roll call was

Reaction to Michaels' vote by clergy and many Catholics in the Auburn district was summed up by Msgr. James D. Cuffney, pastor of St. Mary's Church and area clergy dean, who said, "I am disappointed."

Six Auburn pastors issued a statement expressing dismay because Michaels attributed his action not to the wishes of his constituents but to the reason of family. Michaels also was criticized by some for his "emotional" vote and "dramatics." He had stated that he couldn't live with his family if he voted against the bill as he originally intended.

### How They Voted

#### FOR REPEAL

Donald Shoemaker, Webster; S. William Rosenberg, Rochester; William F. Steinfeldt, Rochester; Don W. Cook, Henrietta; George Michaels, Auburn; Constance E. Cook, Ithaca; L. Richard Marshall, Elmira; Charles D. Henderson, Hornell; Joseph Finley, Walworth.

#### AGAINST REPEAL

Frederick Warder, Geneva; James L. Emery, Geneseo; Raymond J. Lill, Rochester; Frank Carroll, Rochester.

under way. It appeared the bill would be defeated. As the call neared the end, Assemblyman George M. Michaels of Auburn, who had voted "no," interrupted:

"I realize, Mr Speaker, that I am terminating my political career, but I cannot in good conscience sit here and allow my vote to be the one to defeat this bill—so I ask that my vote be changed from no to yes."

That made 75 votes. Assembly Speaker Perry Duryea cast the 76th vote which approved the measure.

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## Right-to-Life Statement On Abortion Passage

Following is a statement of the Right-to-Life Committee released Friday following passage of abortion law changes by the State Legislature. The statement was signed by Father L. John Hedges, committee coordinator, and by Dr. Thomas R. Sweeney and Attorney Robert J. Feldman, cochairmen.

It is disturbing to consider the far-reaching effects of the legislation on abortion reform. The Right-to-Life Committee—and many legislators, as the very close vote indicates—feel that family stability, respect for life and the law itself will certainly suffer.

One can easily foresee the basic disrespect for life extended to the elderly and the handicapped. In England, the easy abortion law has spawned a movement to legalize mercy killing.

Our thinking young people have another example of contradictory standards. We deplore the destruction of property, and race riots. We are shocked by assassinations, war



Visits Suburban Church

Pope Paul lifts up a baby boy during a visit to a parish church in Acilia, a small suburb of Rome. (RNS)

## Pope Sets Up Commission To Aid Travelers in Rome

Vatican City — (NC) — A new papal commission has been set up to provide for the spiritual needs of emigrants, travelers, and other people on the move.

The new Vatican office is called the Pontifical Commission for the Pastoral Care of Emigration and Tourism.

It will care for the spiritual needs of emigrants, temporary migrants, nomad peoples such as gypsies, and sailors, airline and airport personnel and religious pilgrims.

In setting up the new commission, Pope Paul VI has actually combined five separate offices which have existed for various periods of time and have been attached to various congregations of the Roman Curia, the Church's central administrative offices.

In establishing the new commission Pope Paul said that "to provide better for the spiritual welfare of those who live away from home, it now seems expedient that these activities be usefully and effectively united and placed under one direction."

The new commission will come under the Congregation of Bishops, whose prefect, Carlo Cardinal Confalonieri, will be the commission's prefect.

An unspecified number of clerical and lay consultants will be named for a five-year period.

## Pope Reaffirms Traditional View Of Resurrection

Vatican City — (RNS) — Deploring the tendency among some people "who call themselves Christian," to deny the "physical resurrection" of Jesus, Pope Paul VI re-affirmed the traditional Catholic teaching that the physical resurrection is "fundamental to the Christian faith."

The Pope's remarks were made at an audience with a group of Catholic and other Christian theologians participating in an international symposium devoted to the discussion of the resurrection of Christ as an historical event.

The pontiff said the resurrection was "fundamental to Christian faith," but noted that "nevertheless, it had been questioned throughout history."

This tendency today, he added, has reached "its ultimate dramatic consequences, when people who call themselves Christian interpret in a purely mythical, spiritual or moral way, the physical resurrection of Jesus."

The Pope admitted that the Church does come across "inherent difficulties in the interpretation of doubtful and difficult (Scripture) texts, and therefore tests the usefulness of different opinions."

## Agenda Set For Bishops' Meeting

San Francisco — (RNS) — Church decentralization, ecumenical progress, new anti-poverty efforts and priestly formation will be some of the questions up for airing at the Spring meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) here April 21 to 23.

More than 200 Catholic prelates headed by John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit, president of the NCCB, are expected to attend the semi-annual meeting, which will include reports and participation of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the bishops' action agency.

(Bishop Joseph L. Hogan of the Diocese of Rochester, enroute home from an 13-day visitation of Latin American mission stations, will attend the conference.)

During the NCCB meeting, the bishops will consider a report on the question of holding regional meetings, a move aimed at decentralization of some activities of the bishops' conference.

They will also consider a draft statement on "Christian in Our Times" which reviews problems of post Vatican II renewal.

The bishops will also be asked to consider proposals dealing with race, poverty and welfare, especially a move to establish a \$50 million program for domestic anti-poverty efforts. This would include a nationwide educational and fundraising program.

A proposal, backed by the USCC Communications Department, to open the meetings to coverage by news media, at least partially, will also be considered. Up to the present, almost all bishops' deliberations are held in executive session.

Cardinal Dearden will open the meeting with a public address April 21. Twice daily press panels of bishops and specialists in various fields will be scheduled.

## Bishop Lauds Bolivia Work

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Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Maurer, the Papal Nuncio, Bishop Giovanni Gravelli and Archbishop Georgio Manrique of La Paz gave a luncheon for him in the Cardinal's residence on Saturday.

"My observations of the mission scene in Brazil and here have been limited to our own parishes," Bishop Hogan said in summing up his impressions. "But it's obvious that these are areas of great untapped potential."

"The mission approach through education, clinics, food distribution and care for the people's non-spiritual needs is a logical one for the development of their dignity and well-being. I have been very impressed with the way the people have taken to the North American missionaries."

"This poor parish needs lots of work," the Bishop added, noting that the Bolivian church has very few native vocations.

The Bishop will fly southward to Santiago, Chile, on Tuesday, the 14th, to visit the two convents where six Rochester Sisters of Mercy are doing parish work in slum areas of that city.

He will return to the U.S. next weekend by a flight from Santiago to Los Angeles and will then attend the Spring national meeting of the U.S. Bishops in San Francisco. He is due to arrive in Rochester on Friday, April 24.

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