

Survey Sees Church Irrelevant

Princeton, N.J.—(NC)—A Gallup poll released here shows that some 58 per cent of the nation's college students find organized religion irrelevant.

"I can't see how church-going relates to living a good life," one student remarked, and the survey indicated his attitude was typical.

Liberal male upperclassmen at northern private colleges seem to find organized religion least relevant to their lives. Conservative females in their freshman or sophomore year at southern church-related schools find religion most relevant. Everybody else fits in somewhere between the two extremes.

The survey was conducted from April 24-May 3 and was drawn from a nationwide sample of 1,114 students at 55 colleges and universities.

No Aid for Private Schools

Springfield, Ill.—(NC)—The Illinois General Assembly adjourned without providing any financial assistance for nonpublic schools after emotion-charged lobbying on both sides of the issue.

Gov. Richard Ogilvie has called for aid to nonpublic schools for the past two years. Both times, aid bills passed the House but were killed in the senate education committee. The 1969 bill sought a \$32 million appropriation for the state to purchase secular educational services from nonpublic schools. This year's bill reduced the amount to \$29.5 million because a number of nonpublic schools had closed.

The six Illinois Catholic school superintendents declared "a state of serious emergency" and said they would not "panic."

Pope's War Statement Stressed

Baltimore—(NC)—Baltimore's Cardinal Lawrence Shehan concluded a sermon preached here in commemoration of Pope Paul VI's 50th anniversary by recalling the Pope's "apprehension and anguish over the recent extension" of the Indochina war.

Speaking May 24 at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Cardinal Shehan observed that the war "weighed particularly heavily on Pope Paul" and that he shared the Pope's concern over the course of combat in Southeast Asia. The cardinal also noted that he had received many letters from seminarians questioning the justice of the war.

BC Tuition Row Ends

Newton, Mass — (RNS) — The Jesuits' Boston College and undergraduate students have accepted an arbitrated \$240 tuition increase for the 1970-71 academic year.

The agreement ended a controversy which began April 9, when the administration proposed a \$500 increase. A strike vote of the undergraduates closed down the university. In two subsequent referenda the students rejected a compromise offer of a \$240 increase. In the last vote, however, the students agreed to binding arbitration of the issue.

Mexican Bishop Wants to Discuss Anti-Church Laws

Cuernavaca, Mexico — (NC) Bishop Sergio Mendez Arceo of Cuernavaca has requested an "open dialogue" with presidential candidates on Mexico's anti-Church laws.

Because many of the laws in practice are now largely ignored, the bishop charged that the laws "force upon citizens a steady diet of fiction and civic immaturity."

Bishop Mendez said he would like to change such constitutional provisions as that which says religious groups called churches are not legal entities.

Not being a legal entity, a church cannot own property or operate hospitals or schools.

Catholics now get around the law, however, by setting up lay corporations to own Church properties. Catholic schools, run by nuns, do exist, for example, but are owned by the parents of the students.

Another law forbids the teaching of religion, but the Sisters do so and the government looks the other way.

Bishop Mendez said he wants the laws derived from the 1917 constitution changed, because "Christian doctrine obliges us to observe laws promulgated by legitimate authorities, if they are just, or to try to reform them through the means at our disposal if we consider them unjust."

LIQUOR CONSUMPTION INCREASES ANNUALLY

Washington —(NC)— Americans drank more alcoholic beverages last year than they did the year before—following a trend begun in 1933 when prohibition ended.

In 1969, Americans bought an average of 1.80 gallons of alcohol per capita. The year before that it was 1.73 gallons, and in 1967, it was 1.64 gallons, according to Distilled Spirits Institute.

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