



Tower of Peace

This sculptured peace tower, nearly 600 feet high, was recently inaugurated in Osaka. Dedicated to the war dead of all nations, the tower was built by the Church of Perfect Liberty, founded in 1946 by Tokuchika Miki. The sect's aim is world peace. Names of those killed during recent wars are enshrined in the altar of the tower. Four floors in the middle of the structure serve as observation points. The peace tower is built to withstand typhoons and earthquakes. (RNS)

Parish School Busing Okayed With Warning

St. Paul, Min. — (RNS) — The Minnesota Supreme Court has upheld the 1969 state law authorizing the use of public funds to bus parochial school students, but it warned that the law "brings us to the brink of unconstitutionality."

An attorney for the anti-busing forces said he intends to appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Speaking for a unanimous court, Associate Justice James Otis said the law did not violate the constitutional separation of church and state because the pupil, not the sectarian school, is the principal beneficiary of the aid.

The law is therefore a valid exercise of the police power of the state, said the court, because it protects the safety of the pupils.

But in unusual departure from tradition, the court, which usually limits its opinion to the precise issue confronting it, repeatedly warned that other forms of state aid to parochial schools might be unconstitutional.

Baptists Object to School Aid

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—The President's Commission on School Finance will be informed of Baptist opposition to public aid for parochial schools, a White House aide has assured the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Edward L. Morgan, a Presidential assistant, replied to a communication from John W. Baker, associate executive of the Baptist committee, sponsored by eight denominations.

The message protested the composition of the President's Commission on School Finance. The Baptist committee said it felt that all members of the subcommittee are advocates of public aid to private schools.

Mr. Baker also objected to a proposed voucher experiment which is to be tried in one urban and one rural community in the Fall, 1971. This plan allows tuition vouchers for parents to spend for education in any school.

The Baptist committee was also concerned about the use of public money by private or parochial schools which might operate only to evade integration decisions.

Knights Give \$10,000 for Peru

New Haven, Conn.—(RNS)—The Knights of Columbus, headquartered here, have sent \$10,000 to Pope Paul for use by Vatican relief agencies in aiding victims of the recent earthquakes in Peru.

John W. McDevitt, Supreme Knight of the 1.2 million member

organization of Catholic men, said the action was taken by K of C directors to demonstrate that they share the Pope's "pastoral concern for the catastrophe which befell our Christian missions in Peru."

Noting a tradition of providing aid to disaster-struck areas, he said the K of C sent financial assistance to Bishop Joseph B. Brunini of Natchez-Jackson, Miss., last year following Hurricane Camille.

Minimum Income Support Urged

Albany, N.Y.—(NC)—National Conference of Catholic Charities president Charles J. Tobin urged people across the nation to write their congressmen expressing support for the Nixon administration's family assistance plan.

"This is as landmark as the first minimum wage law, the charities official commented. "It would be our first true 'guarantee of freedom from hunger' for every American . . . there is no reason why anyone in this country should go to bed hungry."

The plan, passed by the House of Representatives and currently awaiting action by the Senate's finance committee, would provide a national minimum level of income for every American family.

"It is not a perfect law, but it is a needed law," Tobin said, observing that "unless some major attempt is made to secure passage I'm afraid it will die, as many good ideas die, from lack of interest."

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