

All Jewry May Agree Private School Aid Needed

New York — American Judaism, long divided on the question of government aid to religious schools, is approaching the point of agreement on federal support for private schools, according to a Jewish scholar, the New York Times reported recently.

According to the Times story, Rabbi Seymour Siegel, professor of ethics and rabbinic thought at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, has found that the Conservative and Reform bodies are leaning closer to the Orthodox view that favors government aid.

Rabbi Siegel, a major theological figure in Conservatism, makes his point in an article (in the Dec. 11 issue of *Sh'ma* (Hebrew for "Hear"), a new biweekly. *Sh'ma's* editorial board represents all three branches of American Jewry.

Reform and Conservative Judaism, like many Protestant denominations, have officially opposed federal aid to nonpublic schools. This view has frequently been voiced by their respective rabbinic arms, the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Rabbinical Assembly of America.

On the other hand, Orthodox Judaism, in common with the Roman Catholic Church, has long been on record in favor of government aid to religious schools.

The Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox) maintains that government aid to the

secular programs of private and religious schools is not a violation of the principle of the separation of church and state and is in full consonance with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

In his *Sh'ma* article, Rabbi Siegel says that, contrary to official Conservative statements, whatever the good reasons were for opposition to federal aid in the past, "there is a growing feeling, not limited to the Orthodox," that those reasons do not serve contemporary Jewish interests.

"I am one of the number," the rabbi writes, "who believe the time has come for the Jewish community to revise its stand on this question and to support the public officials who are in favor of state aid to all schools, including parochial schools, day schools and yeshivot (Hebrew schools).

"There are good reasons, in my judgment, to support efforts to ease the financial burden of those who are providing their children with alternative education."

According to Rabbi Siegel, the Conservative Jewish community is realizing more and more that the strengthening of the Jewish day school movement is essential for the maintenance of religious life.

"Even the Reform movement, once positively antagonistic," he says, "seems to be opening such schools, recognizing that they are vital to Jewish survival."

Tito Cancels Trip to Vatican

Belgrade — (RNS) — President Tito's planned visit to Pope Paul and the Vatican was postponed when the Communist leader of Yugoslavia canceled his state visit to Italy.

An announcement from Marshall Tito's office said that the trip would be rescheduled "as soon as possible," but some sources said that the postponement was indefinite.

It was only recently that the Vatican and Tito resumed diplomatic relations. Envoys between the Vatican and Yugoslavia now hold full ambassadorial rank.

No specific reason was given for the cancellation, but it is known that the Yugoslavs are angry about a statement by Italian Foreign Minister Aldo Moro reasserting Italy's claims to the Istrian Peninsula, southeast of Trieste.

PUBLISHER CLOSES

Paterson, N.J. — (RNS) — St. Anthony Guild Press, a major Roman Catholic publisher of catechetical and other religious literature, will terminate publication operations in line with a decision ratified Nov. 19 by its board of directors.

The directors explained, however, that the action does not affect the continuing production and circulation of the Guild editions of *The New American Bible* and the 1971 edition of *The Catholic Almanac*.



New Signal-Caller

Notre Dame's star quarterback Joe Thiesmann and his bride, the former Cheryl Brown, leave church following their wedding in Granger, Ind. The couple met at ND where she is sports information secretary.

HELEN HAYES HONORED

New York — (RNS)—Actress Helen Hayes was awarded the 1970 Citation of Merit by the Salvation Army Association of New York for her "contributions as an artist," and "her services to people with a heart that has been touched by the love of God." Commissioner Paul J. Carlson made the presentation before 2,500 members and guests at the association's 23rd annual luncheon meeting here.



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