

Vermont Bishop Asks Governor for Aid

Montpelier, Vt. — (RNS) — Vermont's Roman Catholic bishop warned Gov. Deane C. Davis here that without government aid all Catholic schools in the state will eventually close.

Declaring that state subsidies for non-public schools are definitely the lesser of two financial evils and certainly the most just course for Catholic taxpayers, Bishop Robert F. Joyce of Burlington said it would cost the state \$8 million to put Catholic students into public schools.

On the other hand, he pointed out, to maintain operation of the state's Catholic schools will require only \$1.2 million in government assistance, a saving of \$6.8 million.

The bishop's comments were contained in a letter to Gov. Davis which was printed in the weekly edition of the Vermont Catholic Tribune.

The letter was prompted by an announcement of the Rice Memorial High School board in Burlington, that its tuition would be raised from \$225 to \$400 per year for each family.

In response to the high school board's request, Bishop Joyce asked Gov. Davis that "definite provisions be made for substantial aid to private schools (in the upcoming state budget)."

Bishop Joyce indicated to Gov. Davis that time is short. He noted that some Vermont Catholic schools will have to close next year if funds are not forthcoming.

Several Catholic schools in Vermont have closed over the past few years, some without much prior warning to local

Nixon Returns 48,000 Acres To Indians

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — About 48,000 acres of "sacred" New Mexico land and its adjoining Blue Lake were officially returned to the Taos Pueblo Indians here by President Nixon who said he was "rectifying an injustice."

The land, used for tribal and religious purposes since the 14th Century, was taken from the Taos tribe in 1906 during the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt. It was used to create the Carson National Forest in New Mexico.

The land was returned to the Indians via passage of a special land-title bill in the Congress.

The tribe's religious leader, 90-year-old Juan de Jesus Romero, headed the Taos Indian delegation that participated in the White House ceremony. Members of Congress who sponsored the bill and other government officials also were on hand.

In signing the bill, Nixon made it clear that the return of the Taos lands was not a gift but the rectification of a long-standing injustice.

HEADS ND ALUMNI

Notre Dame, Ind. — (RNS) — Robert A. Erkins, a 1945 graduate who heads one of the largest trout-farming operations in the world has been elected president of the Notre Dame Alumni Association. Named as one of 10 leading business executives in America in 1964, Erkins is president of Thousand Springs Trout Farms, Inc., Buhl, Idaho.

Courier-Journal

Notre Dame Women Set Dinner Dance

The University of Notre Dame Women's Club will hold its annual dinner dance Saturday, Dec. 26, at Locust Hill Country Club, beginning at 7 p.m.

Guests will be greeted by Mr. and Mrs. John Glavin,

Scottsville; and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Klee, Pittsford.

The club is also selling fruit cake again this year for its scholarship fund. Chairman is Mrs. E. Roy Hanna, Irondequoit.

education officials. The influx of students in some cases has been difficult for the public system.



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