

Abortion to Be Big Topic

The following brief preview of the 1971 session of the State Legislature is provided by the State Catholic Committee.

The fiscal picture in the new session can be summed up in one word — tight.

The governor has a major budget deficit that may be a bombshell when all the facts are in.

So it will be a difficult year to get assistance for such priorities as the needs of the poor, the welfare family, the nonpublic school pupil and the sick and elderly.

Among issues will be:

ABORTION

Frightening new statistics arise every day which should

Anti-Parochial Drive Planned

New York—(RNS)—An "intensive, state-wide campaign" to oppose legislative approval of state financial assistance for parochial school tuition was vowed here by the Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL).

The 26-group coalition of civic, educational and religious organizations said it particularly reacted to reports that proponents of state aid to non-public schools would seek new laws awarding each child in a parochial school a stipend of \$250.

In a statement, the coalition noted that "backers of aid to parochial schools" have apparently decided to abandon efforts, to repeal the so-called Blaine Amendment which prohibits state aid to non-public schools.

PEARL called the move "hardly surprising," stating that whenever that issue was left to the voters, the idea of spending public funds for sectarian schools was rejected.

GOVERNOR DECLINES CENSOR'S ROLE

Raleigh, N.C.—(RNS)—Although admitting that "as a parent" he would not want his children to read high school textbooks that have drawn the fire of fundamentalist clergymen, Gov. Robert W. Scott of North Carolina indicated that he does not intend to become a censor of public school texts.

He said, "I disapprove of some of what I saw," but "the vast majority of the texts were in my opinion satisfactory." Gov. Scott added, concerning censorship, "I don't think any one individual perhaps has this authority or should have the authority."

The governor said the books were approved by state school authorities, but were not used uniformly across the state. Local school boards have the option of using them or not. He said that was why the Rocky Mount school board could drop the books after the ministers' protest.

CAPITOL HILL ROUND-UP

have influence on our lawmakers. Bills have been pre-filed 1. to change the law back to where it was; 2. change residency and time limit factors; 3. get in some guarantees to protect the individual conscience of doctors and other medical personnel.

A startling story came to light recently. A little girl who survived an abortion operation in New York City is up for adoption. She's now 4 months old. Dr. J. Pakter of the city's health department said 25 other live births have resulted during abortion operations but none of these survived.

EDUCATION

The blue-ribbon Fleischmann Committee created last year by the governor to look into the

quality and support of all schools in the state will not issue a report this year to the Legislature.

J. Alan Davitt, executive secretary of the Catholic Schools Superintendents' Association, has challenged the commission to act, citing the hundreds of hours of testimony, countless pages of testimony and an increasing number of schools being forced to close.

There will be a tuition aid bill to be considered this year. It will provide, on a sliding scale based on taxable income, help for parents in meeting children's tuition. Dual enrollment bills have also been introduced but the education commissioner feels this is only a partial help and no real attack on the problem of cost and support.

HEALTH

Comprehensive health programs are in the works, both from the governor's office and the Legislature.

Capital To Mark King Birthday

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—The birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be celebrated here Jan. 15.

In memory of the slain civil rights leader, Congress will be asked to declare the day a national holiday. Will J. Hardy, chairman of the city's King Holiday Committee, has asked residents to join in a march to the capital.

Parochial an Issue in Dakota

Bismarck, N.D.—(RNS)—Gov. William L. Guy of North Dakota has called on the legislature to consider state aid for private and parochial schools.

In a cautiously-worded statement, the governor said he "would not oppose a suitable program of minimal state aid to existing non-public schools," but would reject "any program which would encourage the proliferation of the non-public school program in this state."

Union Sets Up Tillich Chair

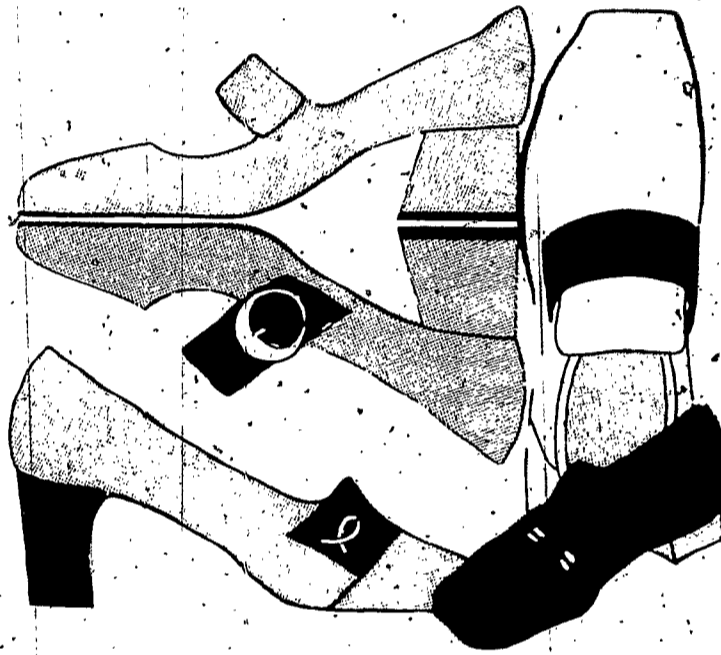
New York—(RNS)—Union Theological Seminary here is establishing a chair in memory of the late Dr. Paul Tillich, who died in 1965.

Dr. Tillich, a German, was dismissed by Hitler in 1933 from his post at the University-on-Main, and came to Union, where he taught until 1955. He then held a prestigious university professorship at Harvard.

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