

State Sen. Speno Dies

Albany — (RNS) — One of New York State's leading legislative proponents of state aid to non-public schools, Sen. Edward J. Speno, died of a heart attack (Feb. 17) while serving his 10th consecutive term in the State Senate here. He was 50.

He had been co-sponsor, with Assemblyman Alfred H. Lerner (R-Queens), of a bill aimed at providing tuition grants up to \$250 per pupil to parents of non-public school students.

Although he was a Catholic and a supporter of his Church's stand on parochial aid, the Republican legislator disagreed with the Catholic bishops last year and voted for liberalized abortion. He said at the time

he did not want to impose his views on others.

A native of Syracuse, Sen. Speno was a graduate of Niagara University and received his law degree from Cornell University. He moved to Nassau County in 1949 and represented the state's Fourth Senatorial district since 1954 when it was created.

Chairman of the Senate's Republican Conference, he was credited with helping to guide more than 300 laws through the legislature in the last 16 years.

Sen. Speno is survived by his wife, four children, his parents and two sisters. A funeral Mass was to be offered Feb. 20 at Sacred Heart Church, North Merrick.

Sen. Speno's Death Lamented

The death of State Sen. Edward Speno of Long Island was noted with regret in a statement issued by the State Council of Catholic School Superintendents.

The statement said, "The record of Sen. Speno's work will stand as a monument to his concern for the education of all children. For many years, with deep personal conviction and great foresight, he led the effort in the New York State Legislature to provide equitable assistance to the education of nonpublic school children, first in bus transportation, then in textbooks, and most recently the parent-aid proposal which now bears his name."

Sen. Speno's death also brought an expression of "deep sympathy" from the State Catholic Committee spokesman, Charles J. Tobin, speaking on

behalf of the Catholic dioceses of New York.

Tobin offered "prayers for the sorrowing family of the senator whose untimely death has shocked us all."

Youth's Other Problem - - Alcoholism

Last in a Series

By TAMMY TANAKA

New York — (RNS) — Public alarm over drug abuse has overshadowed the persistent and increasing problem of alcoholism and alcoholism-related crimes—especially among young people.

Uniform Crime Reports statistics compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation reveal that during the 1960-69 period the number of persons under 18 arrested on various "alcohol-related charges" more than doubled—from 30,144 to 72,930. Arrest rates for girls under 18 more than tripled.

The total reported arrests on alcohol-related crimes and offenses for all age groups still make up nearly one third of all reported cases in the U.S. For 1969, the figure was 1,411,214 alcohol-related crimes among a total of 3,323,741.

This category includes liquor law violations, drunkenness, and driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. The latter classification is composed primarily of drunken drivers.

Actress Mercedes McCambridge, honorary chairman of the Alcoholism Recovery Institute and a recovered alcoholic, reported at a forum recently that the use of alcohol among youths is 25 times as great as the use of drugs.

Holding that alcohol is a greater threat to youth than drugs, she pointed out that the deaths of teenagers from drinking have risen 15 per cent in recent years.

Figures of the FBI Uniform Crime Reports show that the arrest rates for persons under 18 in alcohol-related crimes and offenses are nearly double that for drugs. In 1969 there were 42,434 arrests involving narcotics among persons under 18—72,980 arrests for alcohol-related crimes.

Around the country, social agencies, aware of the trend, have moved to meet the problem.

The Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Board in New York reported that 1,000 new AA groups were formed in 90 countries around the world last

year. Its membership rose by 50,000.

Beginning with two members in 1935, the AA membership in Canada and the U.S. has risen to more than 300,000 in 1970, according to an AA spokesman. Membership had increased to 100,000 in 1950 and doubled to 200,000 by 1965.

Stanley Gitlow, president of the American Medical Society on Alcoholism has estimated there are some 6 million to 10 million alcoholics in the U.S.

Institute statistics show that one of every 13 employees in the U.S. is an alcoholic causing a loss exceeding \$6 billion a year to industry, and that about 95 per cent of all short-term prisoners serve time because of alcoholism.

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Christopher Paper Examines Debate On Abortion

New York — "Abortion," the latest issue of Christopher News Notes, will be mailed this month to more than one million persons. The publication examines the biological, legal and ethical roots of the abortion controversy.

Strongly affirming a pro-life position and opposing relaxation of abortion laws, the News Notes urges less rhetoric and more intelligent and compassionate discussion. It calls upon men of good will on both sides of the debate to cooperate in programs that would improve the quality of life for the unborn, the poor, and the aged in our society.

Single copies of "Abortion" are available free of charge from The Christophers, 12 East 48th St., New York, N.Y.

SWITCH IN JOBS

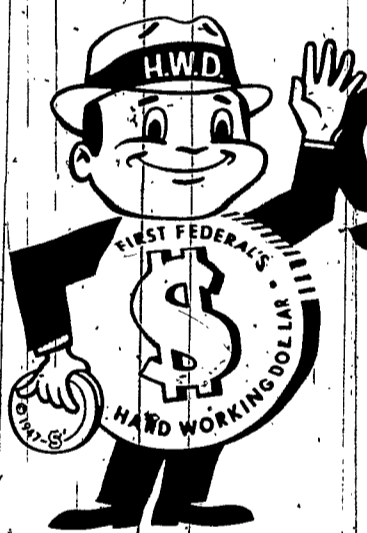
Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Msgr. Bernard Law, one of the top ecumenists of the Catholic Church in U.S., is leaving his post here to return to his home diocese where he has been named vicar general to Bishop Joseph E. Brunini of Natchez-Jackson. Father John F. Hotchkin, an aide to Msgr. Law in the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, has been named to succeed the Mississippi priest as executive secretary.

STAR THEATER DANCE

The Brockport Resident Dance Company will use the lighting effects and special projections of the Strassenburgh Planetarium Star Theater in a dance concert at 9:15 p.m. Feb. 25-27 and March 4-6.

The show, titled "Celestial Movements" marks the first use of the planetarium's projectors as an integral part of the dance.

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