

Supreme Court Considers Key Parochial Cases

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — No less than 50 legal briefs were submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court as three significant cases on parochial school aid opened.

Twenty-eight of the briefs dealt with a challenge to a Pennsylvania law that provides state subsidies to private and parochial school instructors who teach secular subjects.

The Rhode Island case is an appeal of a lower court decision which held unconstitutional a state law permitting state payment of part of the salaries of teachers of secular subjects in non-public schools.

In the Connecticut case, some taxpayers are challenging the application of the 1963 Federal Higher Education Facilities Act which allows construction grants to sectarian colleges and universities.

The appeals come at a time when increasing numbers of states are already considering providing some form of public assistance to non-public education. A survey among 21,000 public school officials attending the American Association of School Administrators convention in February indicated most now approve of some measure of state aid.

The Pennsylvania salary subsidy plan, adopted by the legislature in 1968, is considered the key case before the high Court. Under this law, proceeds from a tax on horse-racing are distributed according to a prescribed formula to non-public schools for costs of teachers' salaries, textbooks and teaching materials in mathematics, modern languages, physical science and physical education.

About 97 per cent of non-public school students attend religiously-affiliated schools, nine of 10 being Roman Catholic, according to the plaintiffs.

Vatican, Moscow Keep in Touch

Vatican City — (RNS) — Contacts between the Vatican and Soviet Russia will continue following "favorable and interesting" results of a visit by Archbishop Agostino Casaroli to Moscow.

Archbishop Casaroli, sometimes described as the Pope's "foreign minister," said on his return to Rome that his talks with Russian Orthodox Church leaders and Soviet representatives had been "positive." He did not elaborate on their content.

The prelate's journey was characterized as an attempt to secure more religious freedom for Catholics in the Soviet Union.

"The atmosphere of open willingness to talk was evident," he said, "and especially the appreciation for the worldwide action for peace undertaken by Pope Paul."

Archbishop Casaroli went to Moscow ostensibly to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty on behalf of the Vatican. He said contacts would be maintained through the Soviet Embassy in Rome.

COMPUTER BANKS MISSION JOBS

Seattle — (RNS) — A computerized "job bank" listing nearly 7,000 missionary positions has been compiled by Interchristo, a non-profit, non-denominational group "dedicated to matching God's people with the world need."

More than 100 Christian agencies, mostly Protestant, are now filling positions through "Intermatch," the job placement facet of Interchristo.

Courier-Journal

Cardinal Foresees 'Chaos' if Church Schools Close

Chicago — (RNS) — John Cardinal Cody of Chicago told a group of Masonic and Catholic attorneys here that he foresees "chaotic conditions" in both private and public education if state aid to non-public schools is not granted soon.

Stating that Catholic schools are nearing "the end of the road," for lack of money, he asked, "is it feasible to take 250,000 children out of Catholic schools?"

The prelate addressed an ecumenical luncheon sponsored by the Lawyers' Shrine Guild.

Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie has asked the Illinois Legislature to approve a \$29 million aid package to private and parochial schools.

"We do not want the question of aid made a political issue," Cardinal Cody said.

High Court Rejects Selective Objection

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled here that opposition to all war is essential in qualifying a man for conscientious objector status.

The 8 to 1 decision said that the basic test, despite religious convictions, is whether opposition applies to war in general. Therefore, the right of "selective objection" or opposition to "particular wars" such as Vietnam, was ruled unlawful.

Written by Justice Thurgood Marshall, the majority opinion went against the expressed wish of many U.S. denominations.

Eight Protestant Churches and the American Jewish Congress had supported the young man involved in one of two cases decided by the Court. The administrative board of the U.S. Catholic Conference was on record as favoring the young man's case.

Louis A. Negre, a Catholic from Bakersfield, Calif., lost

his appeal for discharge as a C.O. His petition was filed in 1969 after he was ordered to Vietnam. He said he would be "violating" his own concepts of natural law and his religious training by serving in Vietnam.

The Army and a lower court ruled that Negre had no grounds for claiming conscientious objection since he was not opposed to participation in all wars.

The California soldier was backed by a "friend of the court" brief from the National Council of Churches, to which eight denominations were party, and from the American Jewish Congress.

Justice William O. Douglas was the lone dissenter on the selective conscientious objection question.

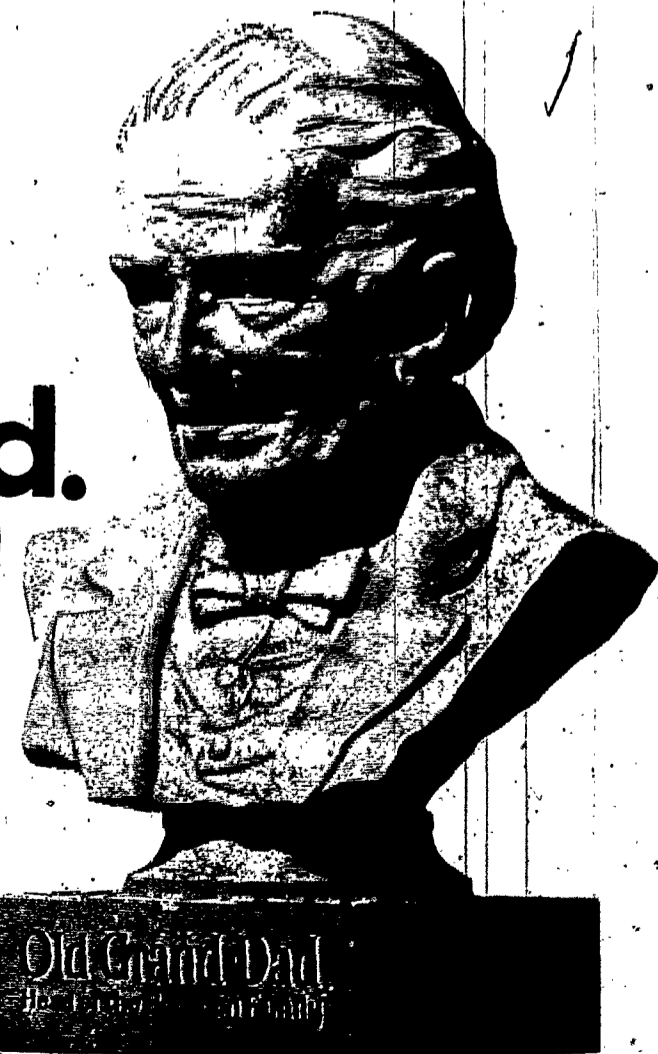
In other actions, the Supreme Court upheld, by a four to four vote, the right of a Maryland court to ban the movie "I Am Curious—Yellow."

What names will be on everyone's lips today?

O'Brien,
O'Malley,
O'Day,
O'Flaherty,
O'Connor,
O'Sullivan,
O'Neill and

O'Grand-Dad.

(Most people just call it the good stuff.)



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