

Reactions to Supreme Court School Aid Ruling

Harrisburg, Pa. — (RNS) — Gov. Milton J. Shapp said here that the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing purchase-of-services aid to private and par-

ochial schools constitutes "a blow to education in Pennsylvania." "If these schools close," he

said, "it will mean an even greater burden for our public school system."

According to Gov. Shapp, the state aid program had averted bankruptcy in some non-public schools.

John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, said the Court's decision "now brings into scope the nightmare public problem of which Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, as well as the school board of Philadelphia have warned . . ."

"It is too early for me to attempt to describe the full effect this unfortunate decision will have in Pennsylvania in terms of the continuance of the voluntary effort whose great work throughout the state is now mortally threatened," Cardinal Krol said.

Rep. Martin P. Mullin (D-Philadelphia), an acknowledged advocate of Catholic causes in the General Assembly, said, "There will be alternate routes to secure aid. We who favored it realized that it might be ruled unconstitutional and we are exploring other areas, such as scholarships and shared time."

"If we do not do something, there's going to be a catastrophe," Rep. Mullin added.

Under the plan declared unconstitutional by the court, the state was allocating at the rate of \$23 million annually for services in secular education at private and parochial schools. It covered instruction in mathematics, physical science, physical education and modern foreign languages. An aid program totaling \$32 million was being planned for the 1971-1972 school year.

Bishop James J. Hogan of the Altoona-Johnstown diocese said that "apart from the established value of non-public education, in my opinion the state can ill afford to lose its non-public schools because a very real difficulty is foreseen . . . There is no question but that the Court's decision will hurt badly the Altoona-Johnstown diocese."

The state secretary of education, Dr. David H. Kurtzman, said, "This decision may be hard on public schools. If students from non-public schools move immediately to the public schools, we have no way of financing them immediately since reimbursement is made the year after services are provided."

"For the first year, the local school districts which have already adopted their budgets, will have to finance the additional costs themselves," Dr. Kurtzman said.

Boston — (RNS) — Roman Catholic Archbishop Humberto S. Medeiros of Boston warned that the U.S. Supreme Court decision against state aid to parochial schools will have an "escalating effect on total tax rates."

He said the Catholic schools in the archdiocese of Boston, with an enrollment of more than 100,000 students, now save taxpayers more than \$75 million annually.

This analysis was based on a May 1971 report of the Massachusetts Special Commission to Study Public Financial Aid to Non-Public Primary and Secondary Schools.

The report estimated that each pupil transferring into the public schools would cost the taxpayers \$750 a year for the first year and more than \$750 the following year, as educational costs continue to rise.



Scholarship Winners

The Men's Club and Alter-Rosary Society of St. Margaret Mary's have awarded scholarships to four young parishioners who are entering Catholic high schools. The recipients, David Rothfuss, Rosemary Holz, Mary Helen Hummel and Michael Bryant, are shown with the principal, Sister Mary Stephanie, and the presidents of the two parish organizations, Richard Aulbacher and Mrs. Thomas Oltorik.

Kids' Letters How Would God Answer?

Catholic Press Features

New York — Regardless of how many prayers God is called upon to answer, the least He should do is answer some of those "Children's Letters to God" that appear in books and newspapers.

That's the first-class idea proposed by MAD, the satire magazine, in its latest issue.

"Answers to Children's Letters — from God" include these "Heaven sent" notes, taken down by writers Dick DeBartolo and Donald K. Epstein:

Dear Jerry,

I do spend a lot of time in Brooklyn, but that was not Me you saw on the IND subway last Saturday afternoon.

Love,
God

Dear Leslie,

Thank you for your concern, but I do not find it a "drag" working Sundays and religious holidays.

Sincerely,
God

Dear Randy and Ricky,

It does not matter which one of you sleeps where. I'm just as close to the one in the bottom bunk.

Love,
God

Vatican to Update Guidebook

Vatican City (RNS) — A small guidebook on marriage that Pope Paul VI has been distributing to newlyweds at general audiences will shortly be issued in a new, revised edition.

Federico Alessandrini, the Vatican's press officer, said the booklet was being rewritten and updated "to bring it into full accord with present day conditions and with Vatican II's teachings on marriage."

The current guidebook, "The Christian Family," though first published at the beginning of Pope Paul's reign, reflects, in some of its statements, ideas on large families championed by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

"Fecundity is the blessing of the nation," the 125-page booklet asserts, "and the numbers of its people are a nation's greatest wealth. If the fatherland is in danger, it does not have to beg other nations for humiliating alliances to defend its borders."

The booklet adds that a high birth rate is good for a nation because it will lead to emigration, and "thus, the fatherland's name is carried to other lands."

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Annual Festival At Holy Cross

The annual festival at Holy Cross Church will be held on the grounds at 4492 Lake Ave. this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 16-18.

The festival will open at 6 each evening but the carnival rides will be operated also on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, from 1 until 5.

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Development Drive Gets New Aide

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Father Robert V. Monticello, director of Catholic Social Services and deputy delegate for the clergy in the Archdiocese of Detroit, has been named executive director of the Campaign for Human Development.

He succeeds Joseph McSweeney, who has directed the U.S. Catholic Church's national domestic anti-poverty program

since last Summer. Father Monticello's appointment became effective July 1.

The appointment was announced here by Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Catholic Conference, and Auxiliary Bishop Michael Dempsey of Chicago, national director of the Campaign.

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