



Londonderry Playtime

Northern Ireland's younger generation plays ball against a wall carrying a recruitment slogan for the Irish Republican Army, the illegal revolutionary Catholic organization which is trying to drive the British military from the country. (RNS Photo)

President, Cardinal Talk

(Continued from Page 1A.)

Cardinal Cooke also observed that the Catholic schools also had a similar obligation — insistence on the academic standards required by the state.

While the schools have been adhering to the standards, the prelate said, the similar right to parents has been rapidly fading as parochial schools close. "If this right is given and cannot be used, this right is given in vain," he said.

The President drew a resounding ovation from the 2,500 delegates when he declared:

"In the homes, churches and schools of this nation, the character of the coming generation is being forged. We must see to it that these children are provided with the moral, spiritual and religious values so necessary to a great people in great times. As we see those private and parochial schools which lay such stress on those values close at the rate of one a day, we must resolve to stop that trend and turn it around."

Departing from his prepared text, the President added to the cheering delegates, "You can count on my support."

Cardinal Cooke, in his address, took direct issue with a section of the majority opinion in last June's decision, in which the justices warned against political divisions along religious lines that result from lobbying activities by parochial school advocates.

"I would ask the question," the Cardinal said, "are civil rights organizations guilty of divisiveness because occasionally unreasonable reaction or



President Nixon chats with Terence Cardinal Cooke, at the annual meeting of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus in New York.

over-reaction follows their legitimate political activity?"

The Cardinal said that Jewish, Protestant and Catholic parents who sought governmental aid to religious schools were simply exercising "their right to provide their children with a religious education as well as a sound secular education."

"To say that financially hard-pressed parents may no longer exercise this right because they have reached their limit in paying for the exercise of it, or because they will arouse feelings of divisiveness in others, seems to me unfair and unreasonable," he declared.

"I believe that in the long run the American people will reject this view. I believe further that whatever satisfactory solution is ultimately achieved by calm and cool minds, the great majority of our countrymen will respect and approve the efforts of their fellow Americans to preserve their right to freedom of choice in education."

Speech Draws Criticism

New York (RNS)—President Nixon's declaration that he favored aid to private and parochial education drew quick responses from both religious and secular opponents of the practice.

Leo Pfeffer, an attorney for the American Jewish Congress, said that the President's prom-

Said the Cardinal To The President

President Nixon reported this repartee between him and Cardinal Cooke at the Knights of Columbus meeting.

"I said to the cardinal, 'I hope the Supreme Court was listening to your speech,' and he said 'the attorney general was.'"

Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell, who heads the Justice Department was among the dignitaries at the meeting.

Courier-Journal

ise was clearly "in violation of a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court."

Pfeffer was an attorney in cases which resulted in the recent Supreme Court decisions which struck down aid to parochial schools in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

The executive director of the American Jewish Congress, Will Maslow, charged that the President's promise to aid parochial schools is a "turning aside from his constitutional responsibility."

He reaffirmed the American Jewish Congress' charge that government aid to religious schools would divert necessary funds from public schools.

The Washington Post, in a long editorial, said that the President had been "overwhelmed" by the temptation that encourages public speakers "to say what they know will be pleasing to their audiences."

The Cardinal added that Catholics made contributions in other areas:

- "Fostering of a true and worthwhile pluralism."
- "Development of citizens with a strong sense of values here in our country."
- Providing to a large segment of the American population a spirit that goes beyond the purely secular and rings out across this land with an appreciation of the very principles which our forefathers enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution."

"American Catholics," he added, "have nothing to be ashamed of in this incomparable, voluntary contribution to American life. It does not have its parallel in any other nation of the world and it has no equal in our own. And this contribution is clearly part of the history of the United States of America."

Nixon, Rocky Discuss Schools

(Continued from Page 1A)

President's adviser on domestic affairs, and Robert B. Douglass, secretary to the governor,

A spokesman for the governor told the Courier-Journal that the meeting had little effect on the governor's position on nonpublic school aid since "he already is on the record in favor of it."

"His record speaks for itself," the spokesman said, "since under the governor non-public schools have received aid."

The spokesman said he felt the President wanted to explore federal possibilities at the meeting and sought information from the governor and his aide.

According to the New York Times, Douglass explained to Nixon how New York State had devised some programs that provided funds for parochial school pupils while not running afoul of the State Constitution.

Wednesday, August 25, 1971

Rights Group Assails Nixon Busing Stand

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) Staunchly defending its position that the busing of students is "essential to eliminating segregation," the U.S. Civil Rights Commission has denounced President Nixon's policy of minimum busing to desegregate schools.

The President was accused of "undermining the desegregation effort" in a statement adopted unanimously by the six members of the commission chaired by Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of the University of Notre Dame.

Expressing particular dismay that the President took his anti-busing stance "on the eve of another school year," the commission said "what the nation needed was a call to duty and responsibility for the immediate elimination of the dual school system, and for support of all those officials who are forthrightly carrying out their obligations."

President Nixon told the De-

partment of Health, Education and Welfare in early August to hold busing to the "minimum required by law" as it accepted desegregation plans for school districts. The White House also warned that government employees could lose their jobs if they failed to carry out the "minimum enforcement" policy.

The Civil Rights panel's strongly-worded statement declared that the move will "almost certainly confuse the American public and erode the position of those school officials who have put themselves on the line to implement the law of the land."

"The President does not offer an alternative to implement the desegregation of the nation's schools," the commission charged. "Had he presented an effective alternative, the statement would have found acceptance among those who have waited 17 years after the Supreme Court decision to see the law of the land implemented."

Brooklyn Education Official Dies

Brooklyn — (RNS) — Msgr. Eugene J. Molloy, secretary for education of the nation's largest Roman Catholic diocese, died (Aug. 18) at St. Joseph College here at age 53. He had been suffering from a heart ailment.

Bishop Francis J. Mugavero

of Brooklyn, expressing his sorrow at the news of Msgr. Molloy's death, said that the Brooklyn educator "brought to the field of education a keen and incisive mind, a love of excellence, and openness to experimentation and a depth of knowledge."

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