

President Promises School Aid... But

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bill passed by the Legislature last June.

The second factor deflating the President's position was his own warning that he had no speedy solutions.

"Too much is at stake for us to act in haste," the President told about 11,000 attending the National Catholic Educational Association meeting.

"We share a great obligation," the President said, "to improve the public school system while preserving the nonpublic schools, and in that obligation we shall not fail."

Nixon, however, went on to cite difficulties facing any proposal to aid private schools. "I will not," he said, "make promises which cannot be kept, nor raise hopes which later will be disappointed."

He obviously was referring to the church-state question which has influenced recent court decisions.

A day earlier in the conference, delegates heard Sidney P. Marland, U.S. education commissioner, reiterate his promise to try to develop additional means of fiscal support for Catholic and other private schools.

He also said his office would speed up efforts to insure that nonpublic schools receive the full benefit of existing federal aid programs, indicating that studies show the need for improvement in this area.

Cardinal John J. Krol, arch-

bishop of Philadelphia and president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said he was encouraged by the President's address.

He said Nixon had gone beyond his support of nonpublic education expressed at the Knights of Columbus convention in 1971, particularly in stating that he would make specific recommendations to Congress.

The President said:

"I have already requested that certain proposals and alternatives relating to the findings of the Commission on School Finance, as well as to the urgent need for property tax reform, be studied by the Advisory Commission on Inter-governmental Relations. This is a committee that covers the federal government, the state governments, the city governments, as well as the private sector, because the solution we seek must ultimately involve not just the federal government but these other units as well.

"When that advisory commission has completed its study, I shall make specific legislative recommendations to the Congress that deal with three great interrelated national problems.

"First, relief of property taxes — the mainstay of public school support — which have now become an intolerable burden upon millions of American home owners.

"Second, development of alternative sources of finance for public schools.

"Third, specific measures designed to preserve the nonpublic school system in the United States."

Evangelism Campaign Launched in Britain

London — (RNS — All major English Churches are taking part in a massive, unprecedented evangelism campaign that was launched in the North of England at Easter with the reading in an estimated 10,000 churches of a joint Easter Letter written by three top churchmen.

The letter was written by Anglican Archbishop Donald Coggan of York, Roman Catholic Archbishop George Andrew Beck of Liverpool and the 1971 moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, Dr. John Marsh. It summed up the campaign by Archbishop George Andrew the North of England to "work out ways of making the Christian faith intelligible to those at present out of touch with Christian worship and activity."

Although confined to the populous, industrial North — it is entitled "Call to the North" —

HOUSING PROJECT

Portland, Me. — (RNS — Ground-breaking ceremonies for a 200-unit housing project for the elderly were held here by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Maine. The 11-story, \$4 million structure, will be managed by the diocesan Bureau of Housing.

Looking Up



And Now They're Gone

Two of the most-talked about men in recent New York history died last week. Gil Hodges, left, died of a heart attack April 2. He is shown with his daughter Irene, wife Joan, and son Gil Jr. after his amazing Mets captured the 1969 World Series Championship. Earlier in his career he was the silent hero of the colorful Brooklyn Dodgers. At right is Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, a 13-term congressman from Harlem and the first Eastern black to sit in Congress. He died at 63 April 4 from complications following surgery. (Religious News Service Photos)

Senate Vote Urged on Abortion Repeal

Albany — Twenty-nine members of the State Senate (the minimum number to pass a bill) have stated that they would vote to repeal the present "Abortion-on-Demand" law and restore the old law, if they were faced with such a decision, according to Ed Golden, state Right to Life chairman.

"There are, we have been told, more than enough members — a majority of the Senate Codes Committee — who would report the bill out if given a chance to act on it."

"Why has nothing been done?" Golden asked.

Sen. James H. Donovan, co-author of the Donovan-Crawford bill which will erase the abortion-on-demand law and restore the former protections of the law to both mother and child, said he too is confident that "if a repeal bill comes to the floor, there will be 29 members, maybe more, who would support this bill, in the light of the wholesale slaughter that has taken place in New York State during the past year."

Hospital Careers Topic at Mooney

The Cardinal Mooney Women's Guild will sponsor a talk on Monday night, April 24, on career opportunities in the hospital field.

Students, members and their friends are invited to hear Frank O'Brien of the St. Mary's Hospital employment office at 8:15 in the Mooney High School auditorium. Several hospital technicians also will be on hand to answer questions.

By Joe Giacalone

3 Committees Will Plan GEM Work in New Towns

The Genesee Ecumenical Ministry (GEM) committee on new towns is establishing three religious strategy committees to plan religious facilities and services for Riverton, Tonawanda and the Southeast Loop project.

"We decided that the religious philosophies in Tonawanda, Riverton and Southeast Loop are so diverse we ought to establish three different religious strategy committees," Father Henry Atwell, GEM executive director, said after a denominational meeting April 5.

He explained that Riverton is planned for 2,150 acres in the Rush-Henrietta area, where churches already exist. "So the GEM committee on Riverton would like to work in close cooperation with the Rush-Henrietta League of Churches to devise plans and ready the parishes for the instant growth in population that will take place."

The Southeast Loop project is similar to Riverton, in being in an area where churches already exist, but it differs from Riverton in that it is in the city.

Gonanda, 1,600 acres in Wayne County, will be remote from existing communities. It is planned as an entity unto itself, and will be surrounded by a "green-zone" of open land.

The planners of Gonanda, according to Father Atwell, do not want denominational churches. They want to make multiple use of such facilities as theaters, school auditoriums and gyms.

"This is fine for Sunday morning, but how about the funeral on Tuesday?" Father Atwell pointed out. "There are many details to work out, there are three different philosophies at work and I think it is a very exciting opportunity," he said.

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