

School Tax Credits, Rights of Unborn Backed by Christian Political Action Unit

Grand Haven, Mich. (RNS) — Equal government aid to all parents, irrespective of whether their children attend public or private schools, and governmental protection of "the rights of the unborn" were adopted

here at the annual congress of the National Association for Christian Political Action (NACPA).

About 70 registered members attended, but workshop sessions

had 125 to 300 people in the audience.

NACPA, which has almost 2,000 members nationwide, is largely made up of members of the Christian Reformed Church. The organization does not have any organic ties with that denomination, however, and does not receive financial assistance from it. Its philosophical orientation is based on the premise that Christ's redemption is cosmic, not merely personal, and applies to all spheres of human activity.

The idea of a Christian political organization is drawn largely from the Dutch Reformed political movement in the Netherlands at the turn of the century, particularly the activities of Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920), who was prime minister of the Netherlands from 1901-1905.

The educational freedom statement adopted here asserted that "the monopoly of public tax funds for only one type of school system has resulted in a 'tyranny of the majority.'" It called for a voucher, or tax credit system "whereby Christian, Jew, Humanist, or other people may request and obtain from the state a pro rata portion of tax funds to apply to the tuition costs of sending their children to schools of their own choice which provide instruction based upon their own philosophy of life."

In its statement on abortion, which was described as "subject to continuing improvement and reformation" NACPA called on the federal and state governments to enact legislation "which fulfills their responsibility to God and their citizens and protects the birth right of the unborn."

At the same time, the statement said, "abortion legislation must include just provisions for the needs of those parents — and especially the mothers — whose hardships as a result of pregnancy would otherwise make abortion a convenient — but unjust — solution."

The NACPA statement did not specify what it meant by "just provisions" and did not list any conditions under which abortion might be acceptable, although some NACPA members indicated that they felt it would be justified under such circumstances as danger to the life of the mother, rape, or incest.

Commenting on the abortion statement, Dr. Edward Y. Postma, a Grand Rapids obstetrician who addressed the congress maintained that "the unborn is a biological human being, a whole man, which begins biologically at the union of sperm and egg. The person at that moment has a genuine historical beginning. It never is a part of the mother, but for example, in only 23 days it has a beating heart and its own blood system."

Tax Credit Action Urged

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Citing the more than 50 "tax credit" bills designed to benefit parents of private and parochial school pupils introduced in Congress this session, a congressman has urged the House Ways and Means Committee to take "prompt action."

Rep. Edwin B. Forsythe (R-N.J.), the author of one tax credit bill, wrote to committee Chairman Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.), urging "prompt consideration" of his bill which would provide tax credit for tuition paid to private elementary or secondary schools.

"This is a matter that this Congress must face if it is to be responsive to the needs of the people," wrote Forsythe, a member of the Society of Friends (Quaker). "Income tax deductions have long been permitted for special burdens, such as state and local taxes, interest payments, casualty losses, medical expenses, and charitable contributions."

"Considerations of equity as well as social policy make it desirable to add tuitions to the list," he said. "In my view, tuition tax credits can help parents augment their support of non-public schools without placing a commensurate burden on them."

"If well designed," he added, "tuition tax credits are on firm constitutional grounds and will stand up against any constitutional challenge."

K.ofC. May Urge Support For Anti-Abortion Candidates

New Haven, Conn. (RNS) — A resolution to be considered at the Knights of Columbus convention at Toronto, Ont., Aug. 15-17, will call on the membership to back candidates in the Fall elections who oppose abortion.

The resolution is one of 200 resolutions submitted by various U. S. and foreign delegations.

Nine resolutions will deal with

Toronto Deacons Now May Officiate At Marriages

Toronto, Ont. (RNS) — Roman Catholic deacons in the archdiocese of Toronto have been authorized to officiate at marriages.

Those authorized have completed seminary training and are in full-time parish work. The authorization does not include celebration of the nuptial Mass.

General permission was granted by Archbishop Philip F. Poole of Toronto, but the deacons must be specifically delegated for each marriage by the pastor of the parish to which they are assigned.

The deacons have applied for registration numbers from the deputy provincial secretary of Ontario so that the marriages at which they officiate will be legal in civil law.

The Rev. Mr. Bruno Primavera, 31, a recent graduate of Boston's Pope John XXIII Seminary, was the first deacon to officiate at a marriage in the archdiocese.

Father Kenneth Robitaille, chancery spokesman, said the use of deacons involved in full-time pastoral work will help relieve pastors who may have as many as five or six weddings on some Saturdays.

"The deacons, like hospital interns, are under the supervision of pastors, who act as consultants on problems that may be encountered by the newly-ordained men in making the preliminary investigations for marriages," Father Robitaille said.

North Americans On Biblical Panel

Vatican City — (RNS) — Two biblical scholars, one a Canadian and the other a U.S. priest, were the only North Americans named to a new 20-member Pontifical Biblical Commission established by Pope Paul.

They are Father David Stanley, professor of New Testament Studies at the Toronto (Ont.) School of Theology, and Father Raymond E. Brown, a member of the faculties of both the interdenominational Union Theological Seminary and the Jesuits' Woodstock College, New York. Courier-Journal

abortion. Other topics include parochial school aid, amnesty, legalization of marijuana, welfare reform, pornography and programs for the mentally retarded.

A total of 385 official delegates will gather in Toronto for the 90th annual session of the Supreme Council, top legislative and policy body of the Knights of Columbus.

The resolutions on abortion contend that "legalizing the killing of unborn children inevitably must lead to the decay of the respect for life at other stages of its existence" and that abortion even by a skilled practitioner constitutes a "threat many times greater than that posed by childbirth to the life of the mother and her mental and physical health as well as to the lives and health of her unborn children in future pregnancies."

A resolution on school aid requests support by all Knights for a tax credit plan that has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

The resolution on amnesty expresses opposition to wholesale unconditional amnesty for those who have deserted or evaded the draft. It also urges assistance for veterans in readjusting to civilian life.

Proposals for legalized use of marijuana and other drugs are "shortsighted," one resolution says, and "use of marijuana and other such related drugs" provides no benefit except to "the criminal element who would prey on members of our society and especially our young adults."

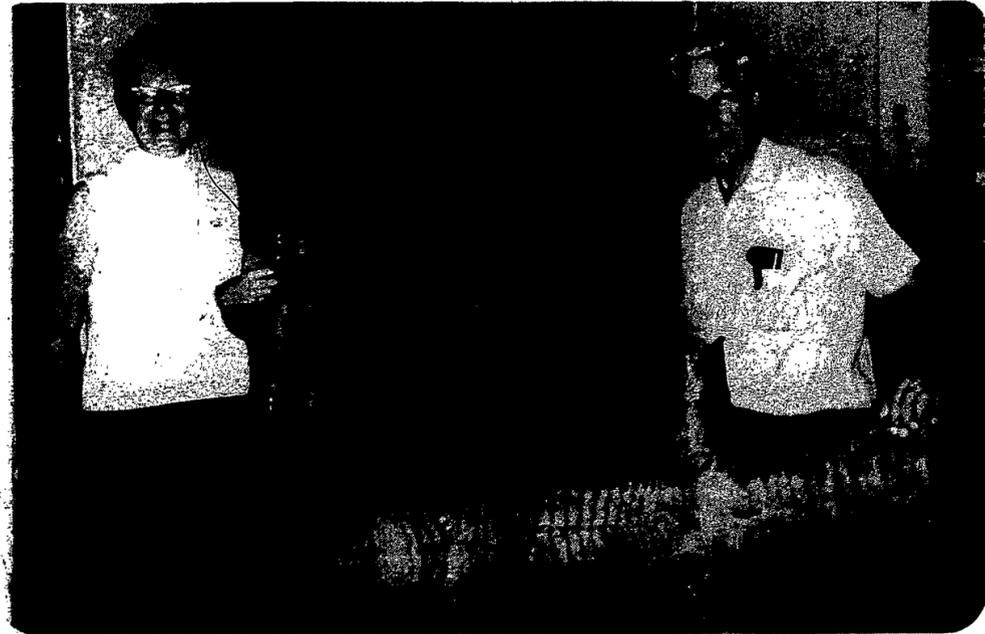
The resolution on welfare calls for development of a national program of welfare reform "with adequate grant levels and the inclusion of a federal job program to eliminate unemployment throughout the United States."

Resolutions on pornography hit particularly at the showing of X-rated movies on television. One resolution also criticizes the television industry for allegedly making sport of the religious commitments of priests and nuns, and calls for a campaign to halt what it calls a callous mockery of Catholic beliefs and practices.

A resolution on the mentally retarded says that the attention they receive is often substandard and dehumanizing, and it asks for the development of suitable programs to meet their needs.

SETON 34

The 34th Seton Branch of St. Mary's Hospital will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, Aug. 14, at the home of Mrs. Joseph S. Weber, 370 Rock Beach Road. Luncheon will follow a business meeting.



Wednesday, August 9, 1972

African Visit

Rochester visitors in Agomanya, Ghana admire the skins of a royal python and a crocodile. From left are Mrs. Mary Cruttenden and Sister Mary Bridget, SSPs, a Rochester native in Africa the last three years working in the catechetical department of Ghana's National Pastoral Center. With them are Sister Virginia, a Ghana nun; Father Kpeglo and Father Charles Erb, another Rochesterian who has served many years in northern Ghana. In picture on left, Sister Mary Bridget receives a papal medal from Bishop Peter Dery of Wa, in ceremonies July 16 in Holy Spirit Cathedral.