



"Since parents have brought children to life, they . . . must be recognized as the primary and prin-

cipal educators." (Vatican II: Declaration on Christian Education.)

Why Political Action?

Catholic schools don't just happen.

They are made to happen — by parents who pay tuition; by Catholics who contribute to the collection; by the priests, brothers, sisters and teachers whose contributed services constitute a very large portion of school support.

The State has an interest also in the continuation of non-public schools. Legislators in many states are recognizing this. However, just state assistance for parents will not come without political action.

Citizens for Educational Freedom is the only national citizens group working for government help to preserve parental options in education. (The New York State office is in Rochester at 331 Seneca Pkwy.)

The United States Congress is now examining the concept of tax credits for tuition payments. This would provide parents with up to \$400 per child in tuition money through reduced federal tax payments. The support campaign for this concept is called CREDIT (Citizens' Relief for Education by Income Tax). Both President Nixon and Sen. McGovern have endorsed the idea.

Below are arguments and answers for and against the concept of aid to religious schools.

AGAINST

1. Separation of Church and State is a wise policy.
2. Aid violates the first amendment.
3. Subsidy means governmental control one way or the other.
4. Private schools are divisive.
5. One school system makes for greater unity.
6. Subsidy would lead to a dual system and so to a more expensive system.
7. No one wants to pay taxes to support teaching a religion he does not believe in.

FOR

1. Schools are not churches. Absolute separation of Church and State (that is, religion and political life) is dangerous folly.
2. First amendment guarantees religious liberty. To deny parents a fair share of their school taxes violates parental rights.
3. Accountability is not control. England and Canada subsidize Catholic schools, but do not control them.
4. Private schools are different. Diversity is not divisiveness. Variety and competition are the spice of life.
5. One school system creates intellectual monopoly and makes for goose-stepping, totalitarian uniformity.
6. True, if church-sponsored contributions and voluntarism were to disappear. It is more economic to subsidize an existing school than to create a new one.
7. That is our position, too: we do not enjoy paying taxes for the teaching of a religion (secular humanism) in the public schools — a religion, we do not believe in.



"The Catholic school retains, even in our present circumstances, the utmost importance." (Vatican II: Declaration on Christian Education.)



Justice

1. Blindfolded (not blind) — for she is impartial.
2. Scales in hand — for she distributes public goods equitably to all.
3. Sword — for she is won by struggle!