

Nixon Reiterates Support For Tax Credit Proposal

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — President Nixon, in a radio speech on education in the U.S., again pledged his irrevocable support to federal tax credit legislation aimed at assisting parents of children attending non-public schools.

After speaking about what the Nixon administration has done for elementary, secondary and higher education over the last four years, the President turned to the "one part of the educational community that has contributed to America from the very beginnings of our history... our non-public school."

Observing the "social need" these schools face today, Mr. Nixon said: "Were these non-public schools to fail, the loss of diversity, the elimination of freedom of choice for millions of parents, and the new burden on the crowded public school system would be but part of the cost."

"Lost as well," he added, "would be an irreplaceable and precious national asset: schools that have provided millions of American children with a moral code and religious principles by which to live."

Among the responses to the President's message was praise from Rabbi Morris Sherer, chairman of Citizens Relief for Education by Income Tax (CREDIT), and criticism from C. Stanley Lowell, associate director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Rabbi Sherer, who also is executive president of Agudath Israel of America, New York City, said the President's endorsement of the constitutionality of tax credits is a "significant landmark" in efforts to achieve financial relief for parents of non-public school children.

He added that non-public school supporters are "encouraged" by the President's deter-

mination "to guarantee freedom of educational choice" and by his firm commitment to tax credit legislation. Rabbi Sherer said the way is now clear for consideration of tax credits in the next Congress.

Lowell, labeling the President's stance as "tragic indeed," charged that "it is a naked bid for parochial school votes. His statement places him squarely in favor of federal aid to Church institutions."

Terming the action a "flouting" of the religion clause of the First Amendment, he said the President "is doing this because he feels there is an ample clutch of votes to be had by promising unconstitutional aid to Catholic schools," and other parochial schools.

The tax credit proposal has also won the support of Democratic presidential nominee, Sen. George McGovern, who said he favored the legislation provided it meets constitutional requirements.



Dames at 'Mer-Sea'

"Dames at Sea," a musical comedy, will shove off at Our Lady of Mercy High School Auditorium, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10 and 11, at 7:15 p.m. Heading the cast of this Mission Day musical are, (seated, l-r) Karen Bender, Nancy Bissonette, Beth Nicosia, and (standing, l-r) Jerry Holleran, Tim Dunn, and Bill Coughlin. Tickets may be purchased from Mercy students in advance or at the door.

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Upstate Indians Protest Sale of Sacred Items

New York (RNS) — Upstate New York Indians, protesting the proposed auction of tribal religious objects, succeeded in preventing the sale of three wampum belts. However, they failed to bar the sale of three of four sacred masks they sought to purchase.

When the Indians heard about the proposed sale of more than 200 lots of Indian art by the Sotheby-Parke Bernet galleries here, they tried to negotiate with the gallery. The gallery agreed to withhold the belts, but the masks remained on sale.

Harmer Johnson, the gallery's specialist in American Indian art, announced at the auction that Iroquois and Delaware representatives were present and would be bidding to regain the treasures. Calvin John of the Seneca Nation bought the first mask for \$300. The other three, however, went for \$800 to dealers and a private collector.

John said the tribe did not have enough money to match the higher bid.

During the auction, the Indians present expressed surprise at the high prices paid for some of the objects: \$5,000 for a Sioux dress decorated with beads, \$650 for a carved pipe showing a copulating couple. The auction resulted in sales totaling \$71,000.

After the sale, Mike Myers, a Seneca who teaches Indian studies at the State University College at Oswego, was reportedly near tears at the loss of the masks. He said he felt betrayed.

Many Rivers, a Mohawk from Brooklyn, tried to explain what the sacred objects meant to his people. He said: "These things had been passed down from generation to generation. We've lost so much of our culture now. We're trying to save what we have for our children."

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Who is the real friend of education?

In one of the most cynical of maneuvers, Nixon's managers have tried to make him out to be a friend of parochial school education. In fact, Nixon's whole political career is a record of neglecting elementary and secondary education. He has vetoed three bills that would have helped to improve the quality of schools. All of them would have helped to reduce the crushing property tax burden which is one of the main reasons for local resistance to aid for parochial schools.

What has Nixon done?

Nixon's local propagandists have given you a lot of ballyhoo about "revenue sharing" as the solution to local funding problems, but their actions speak louder than words. Your county Legislature — a majority of them Nixon supporters — decided it was worth 16 cents. Nixon hasn't told you where he will get the money to aid parochial schools. All we know is that he has *refused* to help *public* schools.

What will George McGovern do?

George McGovern will cut the waste out of Pentagon spending, put an end to cozy relationship between military brass and favored contractors, close the loopholes that let more than 100 millionaires pay no income tax, stop the handouts intended to save rich corporations from their own bad management, tell the special interests that the U.S. government is no longer for sale, and reduce the welfare load which has increased by six million under Nixon's unemployment policy. Without adding one penny to the taxes of people who work for wages and salaries, Senator McGovern will provide direct aid to local schools in any district that will reduce its property taxes by one-third. Coupled with this, McGovern will seek ways to assist parents of parochial school children within the limits of the Constitution. The McGovern education program is a total program — one that will help improve the quality of all legitimate schools. This is in contrast to the disjointed, emotional, vote-grabbing stunts which substitute for rational programs in the Nixon public relations operation.

George McGovern doesn't just say he wants to help your children get the kind of education you want for them. He tells you how he will do it.

As one editorial writer said:

"Senator McGovern would bring to the presidency a deeply held philosophy of democratic government, a dogged determination to carry out the policies consistent with it, a respect for dissent and an overriding concern to do what is morally right — qualities which have been so largely lacking in the last four years and which America so urgently needs in the next four."

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Louise Slaughter and Lawrence Kurlander, Co-chairmen.