



Page 1 Editorial Thank God For the Fourth of July

While recent court rulings on abortion and school aid and the ongoing Watergate mess have given rise to chagrin in varying degree in all of us, nonetheless all should pause this week to contemplate our nation's birthday.

For without the work of a small group of Americans in that hot Philadelphia of 197 years ago and without the courage and martyrdom of a great number of Americans since, we would not be discussing rights under this amendment or that, or the checks and balances of our federal system.

There would be no First or Fourteenth Amendment, there would be no guaranteed rights, there would be no necessity for checks and balances.

So let us all thank God for what we have been given and work and pray to keep it.

Bishop Hogan Begins New Series on Youth

There is no question that youths are "less visible in the visible Church," says Bishop Joseph L. Hogan in the first of a four-part series on "Youth in the Church" beginning today in the Courier-Journal.

Taking this fact into account, the Bishop points out that it is the Church's responsibility to understand why this is so and then to make meaningful bridges to those not participating in the life of the Church.

The series begins today on PAGE 3.

High Court Ruling On Schools Flayed

By PAT PETRASKE

The Supreme Court decision knocking the constitutional props out from under several programs of aid to nonpublic schools and to parents of private school children has come under fire from several directions.

Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools, Dr. J. Kenneth O'Loane, an official of Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF) and Thomas Banaszewski, of a state federation of Catholic school parents, all dissented from the court rulings.

Under fire were the decisions handed down on the last day of the 1972-1973 judicial term. The court decreed that financial aid, including income tax credits, tuition reimbursements and mandated services costs is unconstitutional. Approximately 750,000 students in New York State, non-public schools — most of them Catholic — are affected.

O'Loane, chairman of the CEF Research Committee, charged that the Supreme Court put itself "in the place of the Creator" on the issue of inalienable rights with the decision legalizing three-month abortions.

"Thus it is not surprising that, in the school-aid decisions, the Supreme Court did not hesitate to violate both the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. The court has failed to grasp that, in the field of education, there are two opposing, basic theories. One holds that education which is not God-centered is not truly education at all; the other holds that education which is man-centered is to be preferred.

Under the rule of law which is supposed to hold in the United States, the court is prohibited by

the First Amendment from establishing one of these theories in favor of the other. But that is precisely what it has done in preferring "man-centered" education," O'Loane stated.

O'Loane continued his ob-

jections stating that the Supreme Court interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment which is designed to provide equal protection under the law, has been interpreted to mean "You can get back a fair share of your education tax money only if you renounce the belief that all true education is God-centered."

not lift a finger to help in any other way. The state will take your taxes to educate your neighbor's children but will not let your neighbor help you," he said.

Economically the laws do not have much of an immediate

Violated Constitution

— Dr. J. K. O'Loane.

effect since little money is actually involved. The only operative program was the state law giving tax relief to parents allowing them to subtract a stipulated amount from their income tax for each child attending a non-public school. It meant tax savings of up to \$150.

Father Brent added that the law would not have provided money for the schools but would have been a financial benefit to the parents.

Brother Peter Pontolillo, SM, executive director of Catholic School Administrators of New

A similar reaction was voiced by Banaszewski, a member of the Interim Executive Committee of the State Federation of Catholic School Parents, and Father Brent, who feel that the rulings are a limitation of the choice between state and church schools.

Transparent bigotry

— Brother Pontolillo.

York State, delivered the most vehement retort calling the actions "transparent bigotry" and a "blatant disregard of the will of ordinary citizens as manifested through their state legislatures."

He said that to declare unconstitutional the income tax exclusion on the grounds that it aids religion is "totally illogical and unbelievable." He feels it calls into question tax exclusions and deductions for all legitimate purposes.

Immense pressure is being placed on parents to forgo freedom of choice in education, Father Brent stated. "The state is saying, 'We will provide state-sponsored education but we will

After conferring with Peter Gallagher who assumes the

Continued on Page 2