

**Editorial**

**Not 1 Submarine's Worth of Food for World's Hungry**

Five leaders of four major faith groups have laid the problem of world hunger directly at the doorstep of governments who persist in the arms race.

According to Religious News Service, the leaders state that hundreds of millions of people are "painfully hungry" because "many of the world's governments are more prepared to destroy human life than to develop and sustain it."

They issued an eight-page document as the outcome of a United Nations Seminar on Disarmament and Hunger convened by the U.S. Inter-religious Committee on Peace last December.

Auxiliary Bishop John J. Dougherty of Newark, N.J., signed the document as the Catholic representative. Also signing were United Methodist Bishop A. James Armstrong of Aberdeen, S.D.; Judge Margaret Haywood of Washington, moderator of the United Church of Christ; Rabbi Alexander Schindler, head of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America.

"So numerous and serious are these direct and indirect linkages between disarmament and hunger that some persons have urged disarmament of the world as a pre-condition for an adequate food strategy."

They suggest that "beating missiles into plowshares and bombers into pruning hooks" is a moral imperative for our time.

To back up its generalities, the document employs a graphic example:

"While the Ford Administration in late 1974 was torn by an internal dispute over whether the U.S. could afford to increase its projected food aid from \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion or \$1.4 billion, a so-called 'arms-control' agreement was being negotiated with the U.S.S.R., which would permit the U.S. to build two additional Trident submarines beyond the ten already planned, with each submarine to cost over \$1.5 billion. Thus the U.S. at most was not prepared to provide one submarine's worth of food aid to the world."

The document declares that the "arms races are escalating at a time when hunger and malnutrition are also increasing." Governments are spending at least \$250 billion a year for military purposes, or about 6 per cent of the total gross world product.

If anyone's eyes are still closed to the lack of concern for the hungry on the part of the "have" governments this document will help open them. For 35 cents each, copies are available from the U.S. Inter-religious Committee on Peace, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Anyone who might feel that there is some religious "do-goodism" inherent in the document should remember that it was President Eisenhower who long ago warned about the danger of the industrial-military complex. Like most of us, however, he did little about it.

And in a recent New York Times piece, Anthony Lewis pointed out a related fact. He noted that our secretary of state claimed that "we're giving some in countries in which political relationships are of importance to us... but the vast majority of our food aid goes for humanitarian purposes."

Lewis points out that the six countries officially classified by the U.N. as most seriously affected by food shortages, receive \$275 million of the \$748 million in food dispensed by the U.S. — and one of these countries is Cambodia which receives \$194 million and has obvious importance to us in the political sphere. Including Cambodia this amounts to 37 per cent of our aid — the other 63 per cent goes to 13 countries not on the needy list, such as Thailand, Israel, Jordan, Iran and of course South Vietnam which gets more than any other single country — \$305 million.

So who is fooling whom? How we as a "have" nation are treating the hungry of the world is becoming a joke. A grim one.

**Opinion**

**DeSales Should Become a Cause**

Editor:

When I read of De Sales' proposed closing, a few thoughts came to mind which I would like to share with others.

I would have loved to see De Sales become a **cause celebre** — parents earmarking their school taxes for DeSales. It is high time that God-fearing parents stop wringing their hands over the plight of Catholic Education. Why should not the Government return some of the school tax dollar to children so that they can go to the school of their choice as in Canada?

Education is the primary obligation of the parent, not of the State. The State exists in education to assist the parent. Parents have a constitutional right to send their children to the school of their choice. In the **Pierce** decision the Supreme Court declared: "The child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations." Yet when parents exercise this inherent right of theirs, they must pay for it! It reminds me of the gangsters in the Untouchables — you can keep in business if you pay the syndicate. I suggest parents join the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights (1100 West Wells St., Milwaukee, Wisc. 53233) and work toward ending a hundred-and-twenty-five years of discrimination.

Another point: Have we Americans become so milk-toast that the action of ACLU does not stir deep anger? ACLU comes to the defense of War protesters and milks 12 million dollars from our tax monies and yet ACLU refuses to espouse a cause where the constitutional rights of parents are so obviously violated. If ever there has been a case of non-clear discrimination and violation of constitutional rights, it is in these instances where parents cannot exercise their right of choice of school, unless they pay for it. If ACLU espouses only the tenuous "rights" of radicals, then they should get out of business. If they are honestly concerned about American Civil Liberties, then what about the civil liberties of Americans to send their children to schools of their choice without penalty?

A final point: Recently, our Attorney General instituted a suit against AT&T for monopoly. Yet no one institutes a suit against the Government, for forcing one of the most terrifying monopolies in a Republic: a **monopoly in education!** The power to tax is the power to destroy. The



"YEAH, I THOUGHT SURE IT WOULD ALL COME BACK TO ME! ANYWAY, HARRY, WOULD YOU BE FREE TO CHAPERONE THE KIDS' SKATING PARTY TONIGHT?"

Government is effectively destroying every alternative system of education by refusing to distribute a fair share of school taxes to all except those children attending the public school system.

The only other nations in the world that have a one-school system are the totalitarian nations. **Regimentation of thought is the tool of the dictator and the most dangerous threat to a nation's freedom.**

If ever in our nation we needed schools teaching moral and spiritual values, it is today! If ever in our nation we should not be closing Catholic schools, it is today!

We can spend \$300,000 a day, mind you, in one little segment of our nation betting on horses. Yet to keep in existence schools that pump red corpuscles into the bloodstream of our country — not one red cent! Shall we wonder, then, if our nation dies of leukemia?

Not to end on a note of pessimism, I see in the future a grassroots demand for Catholic schools. I hope and pray that this nation, based on liberty and justice for all, will also see the injustice of denying educational liberty to 47 million of her citizens and correct it.

Rev. Albert J. Shamon  
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**No Money For Schools?**

Editor:

Catholics cry about Catholic Education financing. We seem to ascribe the blame for the increasing difficulty of maintaining our schools as rooted in one or both of the following: 1) a general moral decay permeating our society (resulting in lower Catholic population enrollment in our schools), and 2) a governmental system which is nurturing the birth of a one-school system as is found in totalitarian nations (by requiring our citizens to pay for the right to exercise their constitutional right of freedom of choice for the education of their children).

Let us, however, look within our own structure before putting all of the blame outside of our domain. With the announced closing of DeSales-High School, the spokesman for the diocese maintained that the diocese had no funds available to assist DeSales. Strange that the diocese manages to subsidize schools within her jurisdiction that enroll 80 per cent non-Catholic student populations (this subsidy is noted on Diocesan Needs Collection envelopes in my parish — the 80 per cent non-Catholic population of one of these schools was noted in the media on Jan. 22).

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I find it also interesting to note that through the Human Development Campaign Fund, more than \$50,000 was donated to Geneva Home Improvement Corporation a couple of years ago — a wonderful beneficence, but one which benefited a rather small number of people.

Amazing indeed, however, that the diocese "has no funds available" for a school which educates 315 of her own children. Could it be they're not worth "developing"?

Jesus reached out to others, but He even took care of his own. Is the Church expanding herself to such an extent that she is dying within?

David G. Mulvey  
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**How to Help Holy Childhood**

Editor:

My son Steve is one of the most fortunate children among the handicapped because he attends The School of The Holy Childhood where love radiates on the faces of the Sisters and teachers who work to further his education. These gifted, patient people are helping the children to gain independence in many ways that we parents would never accomplish alone. The children are outstanding in honesty, loyalty, kindness, love and innocence. They introduce themselves to a visitor and capture another heart with ease.

This beautiful school depends financially on the success of the Fanny Farmer Easter candy sale which takes place between Jan. 24 and Feb. 28. Won't you consider ordering Easter candy from one of the parents or friends of God's exceptional children? Remember when you do it for them, you also do it for Him. It is tax exempt and has the added benefit of our gratitude, love and prayers included.

Barbara Fischer  
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They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

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