

Stella Maris Introduces Winter Camping

Camp Stella Maris announced this week that it will initiate a Winter camping program which begins Feb. 3. for boys and girls 11 to 15 years old.

address is Camp Stella Maris, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, 14604, telephone 716/454-2636.

CITs will spend four weeks working closely with senior counselors while still enjoying camp facilities for half the price.

Nancy Kelly. According to a Stella Maris release Willsey and Sister Nancy together with Tette, will implement new and improved programs at camp this coming summer.

This Summer a new in-depth Counselor in Training (CIT) program will be offered to senior campers. The program is designed to teach the skills and knowledge needed to become a counselor, Tette explained.

The 1978 summer camping season has been extended this year to eight weeks, four for boys and four for girls. This year's head counselors will be Jim Willsey, a first theologian at St. Bernard's, and Sister

Tette added that a slide show on Stella Maris is now available to groups interested in sending or sponsoring children for the 1978 season.

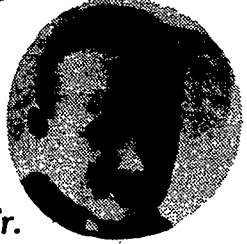


Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Senator Speaks

Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D-N.Y.) fields a question from the floor on welfare reform at the recent annual convention of the New York State Association for Human Services held in Rochester.

The Church 1977



Fr. Andrew Greeley

One of the most important pieces of social legislation in recent times was introduced in Congress by Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon and Senator Patrick Moynihan of New York. Simply put, the legislation will allow taxpayers to subtract one-half of the tuition they pay up to \$500 maximum credit per student directly from their income taxes. You have four children in high school or college, for example. You are almost certainly paying more than \$1,000 in tuition for each one; you can deduct half that tuition — \$500 — for each student from your income tax, thus saving \$2,000 in taxes.

The purpose of the Packwood-Moynihan bill is simple: it is intended to save private education and to make college education possible for an increasing number of American middle-class families who are being pushed out of the market—even the public higher education market—by inflation.

As Senator Packwood points out, "It now costs an average of \$2,790 a year at a public college and \$4,568 at a private one—well beyond the means of many with middle-class incomes. This marks a 55 percent hike in education costs at public colleges and universities over the past five years and a 52 percent rise in private higher education."

Packwood went on to observe, "The loser in this escalating tuition war, as in all else, is the middle-income taxpayer. He is too poor to afford the cost of college, too well-to-do to qualify for federal financial assistance. The American dream of a new home, a family car, a vacation, and a college education for his children has become a withering hope."

Pat Moynihan emphasized the immense threat to the private educational sector and the danger to all of society if private education ceases to exist. "Joseph Schumpeter warned years ago that the end of liberal society would not come about through some Marxian convulsion

but rather by what he describes as the slow but steady conquest of the private sector by the public sector.

"In education today we still have a strong and vital non-public sector, but can it last without revision of social policies that today favor only public institutions and that erect sizeable barriers to individuals whose educational needs might best be served in non-public ones? How many families, even those solidly in the middle class, can afford to pay \$2,000, \$4,000 or \$6,000 a year for the schooling of each of their children?"

I think the Packwood-Moynihan bill will pass the Senate eventually, but I have grave doubts as to whether it will get through the House of Representatives. Indeed, one of the reasons so many senators are willing to support the bill, I suspect, is that they really don't think it has much chance to become law.

There will be strong opposition from the public education monopoly, which would be delighted to see private education go out of business. Public educators no more want competition than American steel companies want competition from Japanese steel companies or American airlines want it from the redoubtable Freddie Lake and his Skytrains. In addition, anti-Catholic organizations, such as Americans United, the American Jewish Congress, and the American Civil Liberties Union, vigorously oppose such legislation. They know that the grammar and high school beneficiaries are bound to be Catholic schools.

The Packwood-Moynihan bill is likely to be ignored by the American Catholic leadership just the way previous measures were. There will be, I would venture to predict, no articles in The National Catholic Reporter about the bill and no pompous editorials in that journal, The Commonwealth, or America. There will be no vigorous and militant campaigns at the Catholic roots, because the hierarchy, the clergy, and the religious, who are supposed to be the leaders of Catholic education,

simply don't believe in it strongly enough to mobilize the grass roots muscle the bill needs to become law. With a single legislation stroke, the Packwood-Moynihan bill would cut in half the tuition costs for most Catholic schools. That the Catholic leadership will not organize massive support in favor of such legislation is mind boggling, especially since it would very effectively short-circuit obvious anti-Catholic bigotry which has affected Supreme Court decisions and Parochial through the years.

But tax credits provide money to parents and would increase their leverage to determine Catholic educational policy. There are a lot of bishops who would just as soon see Catholic schools go out of existence rather than yield any of their power of control to lay persons.

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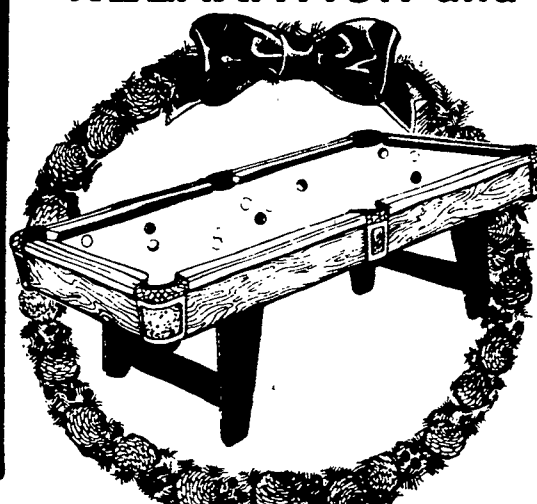
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