

Editorials

Tuition Credit

S2142. Senate Bill 2142, that is. It has a companion known as HR9332 or House of Representatives Bill 9332. The Senate version is more widely known as the Packwood-Moynihan Bill. It is sponsored by New York's Sen. Daniel Moynihan and Sen. Robert Packwood of Oregon.

The House version is sponsored by Reps. William Frenzel of Minnesota and James Burke of Massachusetts.

These bills are more popularly known as tuition tax credit measures. That is they would give tax credits to all who pay tuition fees for education at any level - public, private, elementary, high school and college. According to the diocesan schools office, credits could be applied to as much as 50 per cent of tuition costs but could not exceed \$500 per person.

Presently the House bill is in the Ways and Means Committee and a vote there is expected during April. This area's representative in the 35th congressional district, Rep. Barber Conable, is an influential member of that prestigious committee. Needless to say, letters to him, care of the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 will be useful.

Ways and Means, however, is only the first stop for the legislation. If it passes committee it will face a vote by the entire House, probably in May. Then will come Senate consideration.

Expect to hear much more about tuition tax credits in the upcoming months. Please study the issue and stay attuned to progress of the legislation. But most of all, let your elected representatives in Washington, know your feelings. A special diocesan strategy committee feels that grass roots support is the key to passage. That means you.

Greater Issue

An unfortunate corollary to the greater debate concerning liberalized abortion has been the prejudicial tack taken by some pro-abortionists. We refer to the blatant attempt to use anti-Catholic prejudice as a weapon against the pro-life movement.

We do not think it is necessary to point out again how this tactic has been used. In its simplest form it comes in the version that the Roman Catholic hierarchy is spending oodles of money to force its version of morality on good ole America. There are enough inconsistencies and lies in that approach to fill the Grand Canyon and we have editorialized many times on the subject.

How does such diatribe affect a person who is not a Catholic and who believes very strongly that liberalized abortion is wrong? May we quote from a letter on the Op Ed page of the New York Times written by Pennsylvania Sen. Richard S. Schweiker.

"To label the abortion issue as solely a 'Catholic concern' first of all overlooks simple basic facts; for example, many of the outspoken opponents of abortion, such as myself and such fellow senators as Orrin Hatch, Mark Hatfield and Jesse Helms are non-Catholics," Schweiker points out.

He goes on: "President Carter himself, and his wife Rosalynn, have taken strong and unequivocal stands on the morality of abortion, and this can hardly be attributed to one or two meetings of the leadership of the Catholic bishops of America in the White House with a Baptist president."

The senator also rebuts the argument that anti-abortion is merely a right-wing stance. He uses as examples such senators as Biden, Burkin and Eagleton who have consistently opposed federal funding of abortion yet who could hardly be categorized as right-wingers.

"The Catholic Church in America, on the basis of most social issues, could also hardly be called right-wing," Schweiker writes, "witness its recent testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee favoring the Panama Canal Treaty."

We, of course, agree. We think that abortion transcends the present human weakness to label everything in sight either liberal or conservative.

Opinion

Support Urged

Editor:

Soon our State Legislators will be voting on a Capital Punishment bill to reinstate the death penalty in New York State. Gov. Carey will probably again veto any bill that is passed, but some are hoping that there will be enough legislative votes to override his veto.

We speak for the abolition of the death penalty.

All the arguments advanced for and against the death penalty have certain elements that are valid, but none by itself is totally convincing.

The arguments against the death penalty advanced on religious and humanitarian grounds consistently seek to foster important values: the Lordship of God over human life; the duty to help the criminal rather than just to punish him; the recognition of human fallibility; the need for reconciliation; the increased awareness of the complex nature of criminal acts.

Our policies and laws should be framed in ways that extend the fullest possible protection to every human life. Greater attention should be devoted to eliminating conditions which lead to crime, and to the development of forms of punishment which, while truly deterring crime and effectively punishing criminals, respect the dignity of the offenders and foster their rehabilitation and reconciliation with the community.

Therefore, we urge people to write to Gov. Hugh Carey supporting him in his veto of any bill asking for the reinstatement of the death penalty. We also urge people to write to their State Legislators asking them to abolish the death penalty and not to override Gov. Carey's veto, if such a bill should be passed.

"We the people" bring about solutions in society. May we raise the consciousness of our responsibilities in this.

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Courier-Journal 1

Strength Prevents War

Editor:

World disarmament and an editorial opposing the death penalty were recently discussed in the Courier-Journal.

Last week's article on world disarmament condemned the arms race but nowhere hit on the root cause of the arms race, Soviet imperialism.

In the past it has always been the policy of the Church that society has a right and a duty to protect itself.

Evidently this is no longer the case according to certain religious and political leaders.

For example, the rejection of the death penalty protects the life of a murderer at the expense of the law abiding.

In New York State, 70 per cent of homicide sentences are for ten years or less. This means that convicted murderers for the most part will be free to kill again, and they have!

Returning to the topic of world disarmament, it should be noted that the Soviet Union outspends us militarily by at least two to one.

In addition, the Soviet Union has spent billions of dollars on a sophisticated civil defense system. We have virtually nothing regarding civil defense.

Coupled with a Soviet ABM system (we scrapped ours) the estimated ratio of Americans killed to Russians killed in a nuclear war would be somewhere between ten to one and thirty-five to one.

It is clear then that the Soviet Union believes it can win a nuclear war.

Therefore a policy of unilateral disarmament on our part will only increase the possibility of nuclear war.

Strength, not weakness, prevents wars. And unless our leaders are cognizant of that fact, we are likely to lose both a war and our freedom.

Robert Bart
PO Box 594
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Mass For Shut-Ins

Editor:

With each succeeding week, the Mass for Shut-Ins on Channel 10 each Sunday morning at 8 a.m. continues to grow in popularity with many Rochesterians who are confined at home or in nursing homes because of age or illness.

The Mass is pre-recorded each week at Station WHEC with the Basilian Fathers conducting it one week and the priests from the Rochester diocese taking every other week. Lectors are students from Aquinas and laymen and women from the various parishes. Aquinas now sends Mass Missalettes to more than 1,100 people each month. Letters are received each week thanking the priests for the Mass. Recently a new service has been added to the program to help the many deaf viewers. Rachel Foerster interprets the Mass for them in sign language.

Father Joseph Reinhart, assisted by Henry Miller of the Daily Mass League, is the coordinator of the Mass for the diocese while Father Stephen Martin, CSB, is the Basilian coordinator.

We wish to thank Station WHEC for providing this service to the many shut-ins who look forward to Sunday morning.

William J. McCarthy
Director, Public Relations
Aquinas Institute
1127 Dewey Ave.
Rochester, N.Y.

Column Missed

Editor:

Nancy Murphy had something to say that made all our previous (pre-Vatican II) Catholic education relevant to the now church. Our principles haven't really changed. We just look at things from a new direction, and with her help find many faceted perspectives for the same old beliefs.

Mary Alice Leutung
516 Seneca Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14622

Editor:

When you removed "Catholic" from your newspaper title, it certainly became a secular paper as any reader can see... Her (Nancy Murphy's) fight against abortion, euthanasia, values clarification, etc. gave us insight, when we could not find it elsewhere. We surely don't hear it from the pulpits...

Mr. and Mrs. J. Edmond Nagle
7 Beach Ave.
Auburn, N.Y. 13021

Editor:

Let us add our pleas to the multitude you have already received requesting the return of Nancy Murphy's column...

Richard and Elizabeth Shipley
11 Mumford St.
Seneca Falls, N.Y. 13148

Editor:

How come the last two issues of the C-J have had negative response to your dropping the columnist Nancy Murphy? How come the 2-22-78 issue had to use an additional page to publish the letters in opposition to this "editorial decision"? How come there has been no response from the editorial staff to the outpouring of reader's outrage which has not been equalled since the silly "Call to Action" series?

Mrs. Leona F. Hancock
151 Belmont Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14612

Editor:

I find it impossible to understand how the Courier-Journal, a supposedly Catholic newspaper, can eliminate the most instructive, informative and inspiring column it carried, namely, "Life, Liberty and Law."... Since we are trying to raise our four children in the true Faith, we will sorely miss her much-needed weekly column...

Mrs. Monica Sherony
51 Lambeth Loop
Fairport, N.Y.

Editor:

Please return Nancy Murphy's column. It is sadly missed.

Bryan J. Hepworth
138 Campbell St.
Rochester, N.Y.

Editor:

Any teacher of religious education needs all the help she can get! That is why I am so concerned to learn Nancy Murphy no longer is one of your columnists... She provides a beautiful balance, as well as consistently thought-provoking material.

Eleanor Murphy (no relation)
25 Cottage Ave.
Hornell, N.Y. 14843

Editor:

I, too, am extremely disturbed by your discontinuance of N. Murphy's column...

Clarence C. Zimmer
355 Wood Road
Rochester, N.Y.

Editor:

I have learned (from your letters to the editor, Feb. 15) that Nancy Murphy will no longer be writing in your paper. Many share her point of view. I happen to think it was very healthy and perhaps prompted many changes that were necessary

Eleanor Hockenbrock
25 Shire Oaks Drive
Pittsford, N.Y. 14534

Editor:

I notice you are no longer running Nancy Murphy's column. That was best in your paper...

Mrs. T. Sayers
PO Box 61
Arkport, N.Y. 14807

Editor:

For the past two Editions (I was away before that) I have greatly missed an article by Mrs. Nancy Murphy. As her articles are the main reason that I take this paper you Edit and Publish, I am at a loss to understand what has happened...

Rufus K. Dryer II
1 Birmingham Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Editor:

I regret very much that you have decided to discontinue Nancy Murphy's excellent column. Her column was one that could be regularly depended upon for good solid reading that stuck to one's mind, the way a good dinner sticks to the ribs.

There is nothing I can say in praise of Mrs. Murphy that has not already been said very well in previous Letters to the Editor...

Eunice E. Bowers
978 Winsor Ave.
Elmira, N.Y. 14905

Editor's Note: We also acknowledge a letter to Nancy Murphy praising her from William Tarcisus Constable of Geneva and an alphabetical paean by T. M. Cameron of Elmira, N.Y. This week we have printed excerpts from letters concerning this matter in the interest of providing space for other subjects on this page. The pro-Murphy position has been stated well and amply on these pages over the past three weeks. We will print no further letters on the subject.