COURIER-IOURNAL

Wedriesday, June 28, 1978

Chicago U. Prof. Backs Tuition Tax Credits

Washington, D.C. (RNS) - nonpublic schools. James S. Coleman, the Univercity of Chicago sociologist who headed the influential 1966 study favoring desegregation of public schools, said he supports tuition tax credit for



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Coleman, who spoke here at a forum sponsored by the Black Student Fund, said tuition tax credits "would increase the opportunity of black parents to escape from schools that they think hurt their children."

Coleman observed that "a very large number of black children" already attend Catholic and other private religious-sponsored schools in large cities such as New York, Chicago and Washington and that the results have been positive.

against tuition credits which hold that they would promote segregation, hurt public schools, and mainly benefit middle and upper income groups.

modest size of the proposed credit (\$100 to \$500 per student), he said, the principal effect would be to encourage or permit lower income familes to send their children, to relatively low-priced private 'schools.

Coleman said that the charge that programs which help blacks attend private schools are detrimental to public education is "not valid." He said "anything that allows for an individual to have greater opportunity can't be bad for the country.

"Parents and children have He opposes the argument a better sense of what's a good school context for them than do professionals who must deal with a very large number of children," he said. "I trust the parents and children more than the professionals."

He said he favors tuition

credit on federal income taxes and also supports proposals allowing parents to use

or private schools.

"I think the stronger the vouchers for tuition at public private schools are the better

it will be for the public schools because the public schools will be forced to be better to stay in business," Coleman said.



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