

People and Events of World & Nation

Reagan Submits Bill To Deny Tax Break To Biased Schools

Washington (RNS) — President Reagan has submitted a bill to Congress to deny tax exemption to private schools that discriminate.

His action capped 10 days of see-saw policy reversals that created a public furor.

It began when the Justice Department announced that the Internal Revenue Service had no authority to deny tax exemption to schools that discriminate. IRS has been denying such tax exemptions for more than a decade.

White House spokespersons, declining to be identified said at that time that the administration had no intention of submitting legislation to Congress to grant IRS authority to deny tax exemption. The administration came under a barrage of criticism. Four days later President Reagan said he was "unalterably opposed" to racial discrimination in any form and that he would introduce remedial legislation.

Six days after that, the president announced that he had submitted a bill to Congress. Administration officials said new applications for exemptions would be denied, pending congressional action.

Pontiff Asks Prayer For Church Unity, Regrets Separation

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II, urging Catholics to pray for Christian unity, said he regretted "differences" among Christians "which have not yet been resolved."

The pope devoted a general audience to a reflection on the worldwide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

"Again this year, this week does not find Christians fully united," he said. "Not all differences have been resolved and a feeling of suffused sadness pervades the hearts of thoughtful and responsible Christians."

He said, however, that "authentic progress" had been made over the past year in the Vatican's relations with the Eastern Orthodox Church and with "ecclesial communities which originated in the (Protestant) Reform."

He said that various theological dialogues over the past year had helped churches "see more clearly both the things they have in common and the differences that divide them."

The pope said that the "differences in relations among Christians are very real," adding that "it is not just a question of prejudices inherited from the past, but often of different judgments rooted in profound convictions which touch conscience."

Bishops Name Panel To Help Vatican With Fund-raising

Washington (RNS) — The National Conference of Catholic Bishops has set up a committee to explore ways of increasing financial support by U.S. Catholics to the Vatican.

Archbishop John R. Roach of Minneapolis, the conference president, named Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara of Indianapolis to head the new Ad Hoc Committee on Economic Concerns of the Holy See.

Archbishop O'Meara is an experienced fund-raiser who was national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

At first the new committee will consider ways to increase the traditional "Peter's Pence" collection, to be taken up this year June 22. The collection traces its roots back to 889 when King Alfred the Great taxed his people to aid the popes. In the

U.S. the collection averages \$5 million. The Vatican projects a \$25 million deficit for its 1981 operations.

Four African Nations Listed on Itinerary For Pope in February

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II will visit the West African countries of Nigeria, Benin, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea from Feb. 12-19, the Vatican announced.

The announcement followed earlier announcements that the pontiff would visit Africa.

It will be the pope's first tour outside Italy since he was shot and seriously wounded May 13, 1981.

It will be his second visit to Africa. In May 1980 he went to Zaire, Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Upper Volta and Ivory Coast.

Cardinal Cody Leaves Hospital after 25 Days Heart Therapy

Chicago (RNS) — Cardinal John Cody was released from a hospital after spending 25 days under treatment of an irregular heart rhythm.

The day before he was released, the 74-year-old prelate received a special apostolic blessing from Pope John Paul, who told him to "be assured of my spiritual closeness to you at this time."

A representative of the 2.4-million-member Chicago archdiocese, the nation's largest, said the cardinal was still in "serious" condition, although he is starting to resume his regular functions.

Cardinal Cody is the target of a federal probe of allegations that he misused archdiocesan funds. He has denied wrongdoing.

Reagan Again Scores Abortion, Asks U.S. To Choose Life

Washington (RNS) — President Reagan reaffirmed his opposition to abortion at a news conference — urging that American opt for "life" if in doubt when it begins.

Responding to a woman journalist who asked if he had reconsidered his stand on abortion in the light of opinion polls showing most Americans favor "freedom of choice," the president said he thought "everyone had overlooked the real finding" of recent congressional hearings on the proposed Hatch Amendment.

"The fact that they could not resolve the issue of when life begins was a finding in and of itself," he observed. "If that is true, shouldn't we morally opt on the side that is life?"

"If you come upon an immobile body and you yourself could not determine whether it was dead or alive, I think that you would decide to consider it alive until somebody could prove it was dead," he added. "You wouldn't get a shovel and start covering it up. I think we should do the same thing with regard to abortion."

Cody Finance Probe Seeks Bank Records From Kansas City

Chicago (RNS) — A federal grand jury has subpoenaed records of Cardinal John P. Cody from the Broadway National Bank in Kansas City.

This is the seventh bank from which the Chicago jury has sought financial records of the cardinal, who is reportedly under investigation for misusing funds of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The subpoenas, delivered by an agent of the Internal Revenue Service, were

described by The Chicago Sun-Times, the paper which broke the original story, as "an effort to obtain financial records from third-party sources not under investigation."

By going the third parties, the newspaper explained, federal prosecutors avoided the church-state legal problems that had been suggested as a reason the cardinal's attorneys refused to comply with earlier subpoenas.

Religious Groups Push Arms Race Measure On California Ballot

Los Angeles (RNS) — Broad support throughout the Southern California religious community is building for a statewide advisory measure that calls for an end to the nuclear arms race.

The top executives of 12 major denominations, including Cardinal Timothy Manning of Los Angeles, have formally indicated support for an initiative that is being sought for the November ballot by a group called Californians for Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze. Dozens of local churches and other religious organizations are circulating petitions favoring the measure.

The initiative, if approved, would put the state on record as urging the U.S. government to propose to the Soviet Union an immediate halt to the testing, production and further deployment of all nuclear weapons, missiles and delivery

systems in a way that can be checked and verified by both sides.

"The moral issue of it has been particularly interesting to the religious community," said Jo Seidita, state co-chairman of the campaign. "It's the greatest outpouring on any social issue I've seen from the religious community, in terms of concrete involvement."

Pope Cites Jefferson Urging Congressmen Advance Human Rights

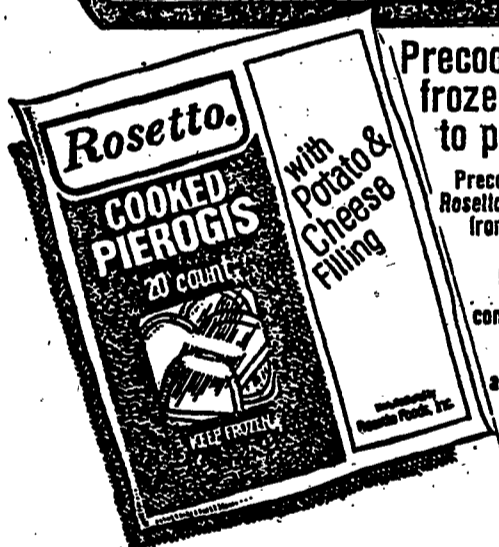
Vatican City (RNS) — Quoting Thomas Jefferson, Pope John Paul II urged six visiting U.S. congressmen to work for peace and be strong advocates of human rights.

"The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government," the pope said, quoting from an 1809 letter by America's third president to the Republican Citizens of Washington County.

The pontiff told the group, "The measures you take in Congress affect the lives of millions of Americans. They likewise touch the well-being of people throughout the world. Enactments of your Congress can give fraternal support to whole sectors of mankind and can sustain the hope of entire peoples."

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