

Editorials

What Happened To Tuition Aid?

Amid the anguished reaction to President Reagan's continuing budget cuts affecting services to the needy, another extremely important and just proposal has almost unnoticeably approached a crucial stage — tuition tax credits.

To put the issue in perspective, our previous First Man, Jimmy Carter, promised, if elected, to find "a constitutionally accepted method of providing tax aid for the education of all pupils."

Seizing on the issue, and at the time it seemed genuinely, campaigner Ronald Reagan promised, if elected, to press for tuition tax credits.

If he took the bait too quickly, consider the plight of Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia who, just one week before election day, blasted President Carter publicly for reneging on his promise to do something about such credits.

Or take Msgr. John Meyers, president of the Catholic Education Association, who wrote President Carter and threatened that "if the Democratic Party continues to thwart or ignore Catholic concerns, the loyalties of this constituency must be directed elsewhere."

But we must not be harsh with such positions. Ronald Reagan continued to pledge his truth while at the same time the issue retreated to less auspicious locations of the cooking apparatus than in the foreground.

Thus, in anticipation of the recently released budget for the 1983 fiscal year, Catholic officials had a watchdog plan — even if the president again promised his support for the credits, unless there was a line item for it in the budget, his words would be judged as no more than lip service.

"Later in the year," he wrote, "the administration will transmit to the Congress a plan to implement a program of tax credits for families of tuition-paying students."

Even if he finally does get around to such a plan, and even if it is accepted by the Congress, the aid has been effectively been set back several years.

Far from the front burner.

Insiders also feel that the only reason he added that single, lukewarm sentence was due to "pressure" which would mean that the president's resolve has thinned, again to say the least.

We understand that many of the budget cuts are more severe because they slash at the life-blood of many citizens. But that should not lessen the concern over tuition tax credits — for two reasons. Tuition tax credits are a matter of justice and when that is thwarted, particularly by a nation's rulers, then we are all in peril.

One education official said just before the budget was announced, "Tax credits are at a critical stage." Under President Reagan's scalpel, we feel, they may already have been amputated.

and Opinions

'Marriage Alive' Set Feb. 27

Editor:

Through the efforts of the Family Life Office, Bishop Clark and the State Catholic Conference, my husband and I were honored to represent diocesan as appointed delegates to the White House Conference on Families.

voiced. The rising divorce rate, battered wives and children, drug abuse — the list goes on and on. Proposals were made to ask the federal government to grant tax incentives to the public sector and private institutions to promote programs which would address these concerns.

Family Life Office, we are aware that many of these concerns are being addressed to our Church. The problem seems to be in making the public aware of what is available, and then comes the hard part — convincing the public that they do indeed need help.

If we are to help our families to maintain lasting, loving relationships in the face of job stress, drugs in schools and all the other pressures put on parents and marriage partners by the permissive society, parents must admit that they need help.

Why not try a marriage enrichment program called "Marriage Alive"? It will be presented at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27. Cost is \$5 a couple.

Jim and Lita Gillette 106 Laura Drive Brockport, N.Y. 14420

guidance, but directly to the pope instead. This statement was followed by the remark, apparently aimed at such priests, that three of the last four popes have condemned the arms race.

It has been my observation, however, that papal statements on armaments have been taken out of context and used in politically tendentious ways by the anti-nuclear activists.

What Pope John Paul II has called for (as he was quoted in the National Review, 1-22-82) is "the immediate reduction and ultimate elimination of all nuclear weapons undertaken simultaneously by all parties through specific agreements"

Educational Programs On Hatch Amendment

- Feb. 21 — St. Patrick's, Corning, 10:45 a.m.
Feb. 28 — St. Patrick's, Corning, 10:45 a.m.
March 1 — St. Vincent's, Corning, 7:30 p.m.
March 1 — St. Agnes, Avon, 8 p.m.
March 14 — St. Mary's, Ontario, 7:30 p.m.

the thought of nuclear are not simply allowed, but holocaust. necessary.

We might note the true Christian concern for life is not to be confused with secular concern for mere "life-style," the fear of losing which is a major underpinning of many secular causes passing for moral ones.

The most effective defense for peace is prayer (especially the rosary) and sacrifice. Look at the results it brought in stopping abortions at a local hospital.

Margaret Finucane 284 Canterbury Road Rochester, N.Y.

Don't Train Salvadorans

Editor:

The members of St. Stephen's Human Development Committee are opposed to the training of 1,500 Salvadoran soldiers in the United States.

We urge citizens to express themselves on this important matter by calling the White House Message Office 1-202-456-7639, or by writing to President Reagan, their senators and congressmen.

Pat Schofield For the Human Development Committee St. Stephen's Church 48 Fulton St. Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Defensive Arms Okay

Editor:

In John Dash's article on the Seneca Depot he states that three of the last pontiffs condemned the arms race. While this is true, it must not be interpreted to mean the pontiffs condemned self-defense.

I do not understand the motives of those who would align the Church with the unilateral disarmament position. I suspect that many are attracted to the excitement of a trendy crusade.

Guidelines

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writer's signature, full address and telephone number. They should be sent to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, no longer than 1 1/2 pages.

We routinely condense letters, edit offensive words and libelous statements, and reserve the right to reject letters. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and the letters will reflect the writer's own style.

Because submitted opinions exceed the space for letters, we publish only original letters addressed to us. We will not use poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent elsewhere. To ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one letter per month.

Disarming Must Be Bilateral

Editor:

The Feb. 3 C-J featured a front page article headlined "Nuclear Fission," which detailed the opinion differences among area clergy concerning the apparent storage of nuclear arms at the Seneca Army Depot.



THE NEW PASTOR AT ST. HILARY'S IS TRYING TO ROUND UP FOLKS WHO HAVEN'T BEEN TO CHURCH FOR AWHILE.

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