

Tax Credit Compromise Sought in Senate

Washington (NC) — The Senate Finance Committee worked Aug. 9 at hammering out a compromise between the Reagan administration's tuition tax credit bill and another version, but did not vote on the issue.

Three major differences separate the administration's bill, introduced in June, from legislation which had been proposed earlier by Senators Robert Packwood (R-Ore.) and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.).

The disagreements center around a refundability provision, a provision to phase

out tax credits for parents with higher incomes and a provision to prevent tax credit money from going to schools that discriminate on the basis of race.

Both proposals would give parents a tax credit for up to one half the cost of tuition for each child in a private school.

The Packwood-Moynihan bill would allow a tax credit for parents who pay tuition to send their children to non-public schools but do not earn enough money to qualify for a tax refund.

The administration's version does not have a

refundability provision. Treasury Assistant Secretary John B. Chapoton said refundability violates tax policy but Packwood commented that tuition tax credits are educational policy as well as tax policy.

Finance Committee Chairman Robert Dole (R-Kan.) said, "While I generally shy away from refundable tax credits as bad tax policy, it seems to me to be sensible social policy in this case. Why should a poor family with little or no tax liability be denied the opportunity to choose between public and private schools?"

Dole said the three-year cost of the refundability provision would total only \$51 million. "This seems the least we can do for those in the lowest brackets who wish to sacrifice to send their sons and daughters to alternative schools."

The administration's bill would set a maximum amount a parent could earn and receive a tax credit and although Finance Committee members spoke in favor of the idea, several recommended that the maximum be lowered.

The administration has called for the credit to be reduced by a specified percentage of the amount by which the taxpayer's adjusted income exceeds \$50,000 and a taxpayer with an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or more could not claim any credit.

Senator Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) suggested that those figures be lowered to \$30,000 and \$50,000.

Committee members also questioned administration witnesses about the strength of language in the bill to prevent racial discrimination.

"It is critical that there is no odor of discrimination," Packwood said. He said he feared that tax credits opponents would try to claim that the legislation "will help upper income whites rather than lower income blacks."

Dole said, "I expect the

committee report on this bill, assuming it passes, to make crystal clear that these provisions are meant to be tough on those who may discriminate."

A letter from President Reagan urging support for his bill was read to the committee by Dole.

"It is of great importance to the continued vitality and diversity of our society that

parents have a meaningful choice between public education and the many forms of private education that are available," Reagan said.

"The rising costs of education are threatening to put the private schools beyond the reach of many families who cannot afford the double burden of paying private school tuitions and the state and local taxes that support the public school system."

Nazareth

Nazareth Academy will open its doors beginning its 11th year on Wednesday, Sept. 8. Among many innovations this year will be the inauguration of two new academic programs and a new computer center.

After piloting the data processing part of the new state business curriculum, Nazareth will offer the new business course of studies for the first time. As part of the program, a group of students under the direction of Sister Diana Dolce and Mrs. Mariangela Annucci will run the school bookstore to give them the experience of operating a small business. The business program is under the direction of Sister Dolores Anne Heuther.

The other new program beginning this year is called a fine arts major. Sisters Beth Sutter and Donna Marie Cucci styled the curriculum and won the approval of the State Education Department. The program will allow students to combine art, music theory and music performance to complete the course.

The athletic department will add soccer to its interscholastic curriculum this year as a varsity sport. The program

will be under the direction of Charles Schiano.

The first day of school at Nazareth holds a tradition each year. Only two classes — the freshmen and the juniors — attend the opening day. It is called Big Sister Day, when each freshman is assigned a junior as a personal escort to get her through the very difficult first day of orienting to high school life.

Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ, has been named Nazareth Academy's director of development. Her position will include long-range planning, alternate funding, publicity and recruitment.

A native of Rochester, Sister Carol has been assistant principal there for the past three years. Prior to that, she was principal of St. Anthony of Padua School and vice principal of St. Agnes High School.

Sister Carol holds masters degrees in history from Syracuse University and in administration and supervision from the University of Rochester. She is currently the vice president of the State Catholic School Administrators' Association.



SISTER CAROL

DeSales

Geneva — DeSales High School will begin its 71st year serving the Finger Lakes area on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

This year will be the first in seven in which the tuition at DeSales will not be increased. According to Sam Doncaro, president of the Board of Trustees, the cost per year to the student at DeSales is \$600, \$700 of which is by current tuition. The balance must be paid outside DeSales for uniforms, parent activities, and other activities.

The business program at DeSales will be the new state business curriculum by offering business Dynamics. Three teachers have been assigned to be used to teach the business program.

Among the new staff at DeSales are Sister Leo Marie, SSJ, who will be assistant

librarian and teach a course in Academic Methods; William Carroll, foreign language; and Thomas Geary, math. Sister Leo Marie came to DeSales from St. James, Waverly.

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