

Political Advertisement

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MARIO CUOMO WAS "SILENT"

TO THE EDITOR

CATHOLIC
new york

OCTOBER 10, 1982

To the Editor:

Mario Cuomo's victory in the Sept. 23 primary to select a Democratic nominee for governor resulted from a striking coalition of upstaters and minorities, liberal Democrats, labor, and to all appearances, Catholics.

In the campaign most of the views were fully aired except that there was silence on Cuomo's position regarding aid to non-public schools and tuition tax credits. Admittedly the latter is a federal, not a state, issue at the moment, and there is no state legislative action presently pending on this topic. The issue is, however, significant for the future when increases in state-loaned textbooks and "required services" reimbursements will be sought. It would have made sense had Catholic leadership raised the question of aid to non-public school students so that the views of the candidates could be made known

and perhaps influenced.

Certainly other forces were at work on this as well as on other issues. Mr. Cuomo had the endorsement of the Liberal party, well known for its opposition to any aid to non-public schools and for its disendorsement of Sen. Moynihan a few years ago because of his sponsorship of tuition tax credit legislation in the Congress.

When about a month before the primary Al Shanker and the United Federation of Teachers came out strongly for Mr. Cuomo, the Diocesan Coordinating Committee for Educational Assistance was alerted to the importance of soliciting the views of the candidate on this topic. While no one issue need be overly compelling, no one issue of concern to our constituency should be ignored. It would have been helpful to the electorate to know his views on this topic and such

openness, too, might have been a helpful influence on the candidate's views. In the political game, our leadership should have been working on this issue as we can be sure the Liberal party and UFT people were.

The first public disclosure of Mr. Cuomo's views opposing tuition tax credits was made by Mayor Koch in a public debate about a week before the primary. There was no time to have the issue aired and presented to the public.

Cuomo's position was then reported to be that he viewed tuition tax credits as "unconstitutional." It would have been helpful to have this view smoked out earlier so that it might have been subject to potential voter influence or at least rebuttal by pointing out that the candidates were running for governor, not for U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Mario Cuomo is a person of great moral and intellectual integrity. He has

shown concern for the poor and the disadvantaged; he has opposed the death penalty. The differences of some of us with him on the tuition tax credit issue will not be a single, decisive issue in any way. But as Catholics in the political processes of our society, we have failed to bring out one of the many significant issues involved. His regrettably mistaken position favoring abortion funding has been brought out. We can now ask, belatedly, as the gubernatorial campaign begins, where do the candidates stand on aid to non-public school students and parents as it is relevant in the state arena?

Did you notice that when Mr. Cuomo gave his compelling and excellent victory speech on primary night, Al Shanker was directly behind him?

Msgr. Harry J. Byrne
Pastor
Church of the Epiphany
Manhattan

THE CHOICE IS YOURS IN NOVEMBER!

LEW LEHRMAN

MARIO CUOMO

YES

SUPPORTS tuition tax credits for parochial schools.

NO

YES

SUPPORTS ending Medicaid funding for abortion.

NO

YES

SUPPORTS cutting the state income tax rates for individuals.

NO

YES

WILL SIGN a death penalty law.

NO

YES

OPPOSES early release of some convicted prisoners.

NO

YES

WILL APPOINT tough judges to the Court of Appeals.

NO

YES

SUPPORTS definite prison sentences for violent criminals.

NO

YES

HAS EXPERIENCE creating real jobs in the private sector.

NO

IT'S TIME TO STOP THE DESTRUCTION
OF OUR TRADITIONAL FAMILY VALUES.
LEW LEHRMAN WILL FIGHT TO SAVE
TRADITIONAL FAMILY VALUES.



Elect Lew LEHRMAN / GOVERNOR

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2!

REPUBLICAN/CONSERVATIVE/STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT

Paid for by the Committee to elect Lew Lehrman Governor.