

"Those people who are not governed by God will be ruled by tyrants."--W.Penn

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Be articulate. "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

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"My Enemies Surround Me With Fury."--Psalm 16. 16.

Action has been resumed in Congress on the Federal-aid-to-education bill. For the past year considerable discussion has arisen throughout the country about this particular bill. Whether or not parochial school children will benefit by extra-curricular aids, such as free bus rides, lunches and health service, is not the main point at issue. It's hidden underneath a welter of verbal broadsides. What is at stake, in the final analysis, is the parochial school as a traditional and integral part of our American system of education.

Rev. Robert C. Hartnett, S.J., in FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION (now available at Dillon and Cavanaugh pamphlet racks), explains clearly the rights of children attending non-public schools. We bring this matter to your attention so that YOU WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

Auxiliary Bishop Stephen J. Donahue of New York, recently stated: "We as Catholics are not asking the government to build our schools. What we demand, and by right, is this: When the government, national or state, is appropriating public funds to give extra-curricular benefits, such as bus rides, health service, free lunches to school children, we want our children and all school children to be included."

Catholic schools, once maligned and stoned and burned by fanatics, after enjoying a comparative era of peace, once again are being attacked as un-American. Professor John L. Childs of Columbia University, a prominent spokesman in the educational field, represents all-out hostility to the parochial schools. Mr. Paul Blandshard is quite sure that the Catholic school system is undemocratic and should not be tolerated in a free, democratic American society!

Not many years ago, a prominent mid-western college president (non-Catholic) indicted his co-religionists in these words: "The American Protestant Church should be convicted of the fearful sin of spiritual neglect of children and youth. A church which cannot save its own children can never save the world." (G. Bromley Oxnam please note.)".....What is the way out? It is now becoming increasingly clear that society must learn how to teach virtue and find a way to give every child a systematic training in morality and religion...."

This cry of warning is but one more in the chorus of other thinking Protestants who do not agree with the Blandshard-Oxnam theme, and who see what their forebears did not see when they welcomed Horace Mann's system of public schools in this country--with absolute divorce between schools and religion.

We rightfully boast that Catholic schools stand out today more than they have ever stood out before as the only hope of the nation's moral life. A much greater service would be rendered the cause of American education if our tax-supported schools would be investigated as to basic principles of Americanism contained in the Declaration of Independence. Too many teachers in State universities and public high schools teach atheism, agnosticism, relativism in morals. Yet our Founding Fathers wrote: WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT--THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL; THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS.....TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS, GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED.

Let us keep the proper perspective and not strain the gnat and swallow the camel: Which is more un-American, undemocratic, unjust--giving free bus rides, lunches, health service to non-public school children who are being taught the basic principles of real Americanism and whose parents pay taxes for these extra-curricular aids; or pooh-poohing religion, eliminating God out of American life, teaching there is no such thing as a spiritual soul, all this in tax-supported public schools?