



# REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL

★ RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ★ BAPTIST PRINCIPLES  
★ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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(Note to readers: There was no January issue of Report From The Capital.)

## PRESIDENT KENNEDY SENDS COMPREHENSIVE MESSAGE ON EDUCATION TO CONGRESS

President Kennedy has sent a message to Congress for a vast comprehensive program of federal aid to education. Although he left out parochial schools from his program of aid to the general educational system of the nation, many church-state problems are involved in much of the remainder.

It has been the President's position that across-the-board aid to the nation's parochial schools is unconstitutional. On the other hand, his proposals for higher education include both public and sectarian colleges. His legal advisers have indicated that special purpose loans and grants to private schools are constitutional.

The President's program for public schools calls for both classroom construction and aid to improve teachers' salaries. The Senate last year passed such a bill (S. 1021). But the House refused to consider such a program because of a combination of conservative opposition and efforts to include the parochial schools.

The President's expanded program includes a five-fold program to improve the quality of teaching in the elementary schools. No distinction is made here between public and private schools. The President recommended:

\* Annual awards of 2,500 scholarships to outstanding teachers for a year of full-time study;

\* Establishment of institutes at colleges and universities for teachers of subjects in which improvement is needed;

\* Grants to colleges to pay for part of the cost of special projects;

\* Amendment of the cooperative research act to develop projects of research on better ways to teach; and

\* Grants to local public school systems for experimental projects to improve teaching in elementary and secondary schools.

The President's program to aid higher education includes loans for construction of academic facilities and scholarships for students. The provisions include both public and sectarian colleges and universities.

In the President's message on education other special education and training programs not previously included were added. They are:

Medical and dental education: A 10-year program of matching grants for construction of new medical and dental schools, plus scholarships and cost-of-education grants to the schools chosen by the students.

Scientists and engineers: expansion of the science foundation program for new educational materials, expansion of experimental summer programs for gifted high school students, and expansion of National Science Foundation institutes for teaching science and mathematics.

At the higher education level the President recommends institute programs for college teachers, improvement of the content of science and engineering courses, fellowships for graduate students, and \$61.5 million in grants to colleges and universities for basic research facilities.

Adult literacy: a five-year program of grants to schools of higher education and to the states to develop programs to aid adults to become literate.

Migrant workers: a five-year program of aid to states and school districts to improve educational opportunities for migrants and their children.

Educational television: a program of matching grants to states to aid in the construction of state and other nonprofit educational television stations.

Handicapped children: a program of aid to help in the special training of workers with afflicted children in the entire range of physical and mental handicaps.

Federal aid to the arts: a recommendation to establish a federal advisory council on the arts to

study the needs in this area. No full program was recommended at this time.

In his message to the Congress the President said that "no task before our nation is more important than expanding and improving the educational opportunities of all our people."

The President said that the nation cannot afford the wasted talent, the blighted lives, the delinquency, despair and dependence produced by an under-educated society. But, he affirmed, "better schools we can afford."

The President emphasized that "the control and operation of education in America must remain the responsibility of state and local governments and private institutions." He denied that federal aid would mean federal control.

Initial estimates are that the President's educational program will cost \$1,105,258,000 the first year and \$5,713,292,000 over the next five years.

#### PRESIDENT REASSERTS STAND ON AID TO PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

President Kennedy clashed again with a Roman Catholic cardinal over his question of federal aid to parochial schools.

Kennedy told his press conference that when he became President he took an oath to defend the Constitution. He said that legal counsel from the Attorney General's office and from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare had led him to the position he has taken.

"So I am going to continue to take the position I now take...unless there is a new judgment by the Supreme Court," he said.

The President's comments were made following a question about a speech by Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York. The cardinal said that if the President's proposals to aid public schools without aid to the parochial schools were put into effect, the Catholic parochial school system would eventually die.

President Kennedy has said repeatedly, both during his campaign and since his election, that he is opposed to unconstitutional aids to parochial schools. Thus the parochial schools are left out of Administration proposals to aid the public schools by classroom construction and teachers' salaries.

The Roman Catholic bishops of the United States have taken an adamant position that they will oppose any aid to public schools that does not include parochial schools. As a result they succeeded, along with a number of other factors, in killing public school legislation in Congress last year. No one expects the impasse to be broken this year for the same reasons, plus the fact that this is a Congressional election year.

Although the President stands firm in his position that across-the-board loans and grants to parochial

schools are unconstitutional, he does not say that special purpose aids to schools (elementary, secondary and higher education) are unconstitutional. The practice of giving such aids to all schools has been going on for years under previous administrations.

The President has indicated that he will, as able as he can to get his total education program enacted into law. This means that he will not let up on his effort for federal aid to public schools. Indications are, however, that he has little chance of passage in 1962, but that in 1963 there will be another major educational effort.

Cardinal Spellman made his statement in addressing a group of 1500 teaching nuns and brothers and lay teachers in New York following the President's message on education to Congress.

The cardinal said that if the Administration bill becomes law it will create "a dagger threatening our very existence." He said further:

"If the Administration's bill and the Administration's desire should become factual that means the end of our schools, because while we pay our municipal taxes, taxes for education, and while our parents assume the voluntary taxation (for) building and supporting our schools...nevertheless if the federal government should favor public schools and put an additional tax on us, from which we shall receive no benefits, then, my dear friends, it is the eventual end of our parochial schools.

"We cannot compete with the federal government's support and subsidy of public schools only."

He continued that it "seems incongruous to think that just because a child attends parochial school he should be excluded from benefits other children have, or might have or would have."

#### CARLSON COMMUNICATES WITH CONGRESS PRIOR TO ACTION ON COLLEGE BILLS

Both the House and the Senate have passed bills to provide aid to higher education. The House bill (H.R. 8900) provides a \$1.5 billion five-year program of loans and grants to public and private colleges and universities. The division of the funds calls for \$600 million a year for loans and \$900 million a year for matching grants. There are no scholarship provisions in the House bill.

The Senate bill (S. 1241) would begin a five-year \$1.5 billion loan program for the nation's colleges and universities, plus a \$250 million matching grant program to states for public community junior colleges. It also contains provisions for a five-year program for 212,500 scholarships to talented and needy students. It provides "cost of education" grants to colleges in the amount of \$350 per student using his federal scholarship in that school.

The work of the conference committee of the House and Senate has been delayed until the last of February because of a parliamentary maneuver on the part of the Republican leadership in the House. There was objection in the House to a conference with the

enate. This means that it must go through the House Rules Committee and that the House must vote whether or not to enter into conference with the Senate.

Prior to the consideration of the college bills by either House, C. Emanuel Carlson prepared a statement on "Church-State Problems in College Aid Bills." This was communicated by a personal letter to every member of the House and Senate.

Many of the proponents of government aid to all colleges say that federal help for higher education should not be considered in the same constitutional category as elementary and secondary schools.

Carlson asserted, however, that "a number of Congressional leaders are clearly of the mind that the constitutional principle is the same regardless of the level at which the church does its educational work." This would be true for both loans and grants, he said.

Carlson is currently making a thorough analysis of the problem of whether or not a subsidy is involved in the long-term, low-interest loans, such as are made to colleges by the Housing and Home Finance Agency. Although his final conclusion has not been reached, he said in his statement that preliminary facts seem to indicate that a subsidy is involved.

Referring to specific purpose grants and loans to church colleges for services rendered to the public, Carlson said that the Supreme Court probably would not rule them unconstitutional. However, he said, "If the government extends its performance on 'public functions' through church agencies there is no clear stopping place in sight."

Carlson made three suggestions to help clarify the issue "without delaying the additional facilities which are needed." They are: (1) Congress should clarify proper interest rates on loans to church colleges; (2) a method should be found to "differentiate those institutions which are really church agencies from those that are community agencies;" and (3) proposals to develop technical community junior colleges should be continued.

#### NEW HOUSE SPEAKER MAKES STATEMENTS ON HIS CHURCH-STATE POSITIONS

Prior to the election of John W. McCormack as Speaker of the House of Representatives to succeed Sam Rayburn there was widespread unrest in Protestant circles about his stand on church-state issues. McCormack, a devout Roman Catholic, has been widely accused of pushing special interest legislation through Congress in favor of his church. Many people felt that his election to the Speakership would make it easier to secure federal aid to parochial schools.

Although there were calls for a public statement from McCormack on church-state policy, he remained silent on the subject until after his election as Speaker. He has since been talkative on the subject. First came an interview with the Washington representative of Religious News Service. Then followed immediately a comprehensive statement in an interview with the magazine, U. S. News and World Report.

He then called into his office four Protestant leaders for a two hour conference.

The Protestants who met with the House Speaker were C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; Oswald G. J. Hoffman, director of public relations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; Dean M. Kelley, executive director of the Department of Religious Liberty, National Council of Churches; and Carl F. H. Henry, editor of Christianity Today.

Last year McCormack was accused of siding in with the Roman Catholic bishops of the United States in their opposition to any public school legislation that did not include parochial schools. It was said that publicly McCormack supported the President's program, but that privately he was working against it.

The new Speaker denies these charges and challenges anybody to prove it. He says that he has always supported school legislation and that when it was up for a vote he voted for it.

However, he made it clear in all three of the above interviews that he is in favor of including parochial schools in federal aid to education. Specifically he favored loans to private elementary and secondary schools for building classroom facilities (1) to teach science, (2) to teach mathematics, and (3) to teach languages.

McCormack said that Congress cannot legislate for private schools in the same way it can for public schools. By that he meant that "across the board" loans or grants for the private schools are probably unconstitutional, but special purpose loans or grants probably are constitutional.

The Speaker made it clear that he sees no difference between long-term loans to church institutions for college dormitory purposes and other aids to private colleges and the same kind of aids for parochial schools. He asserted that one of the greatest education bills Congress has passed is the Donabue Property Act through which schools, colleges and hospitals, both public and private have benefited.

When asked if he would support an educational bill in which the private schools are omitted, McCormack said that if such a bill were reported out of committee, or if the House struck out such provisions in a bill, he would still support it, even though he would have been in favor of leaving them in.

One thing that disturbs some Protestants about McCormack's position is that he has never made clear statements about his views on separation of church and state. The most that he has said is that he believes in equal and fair treatment for all churches and church agencies. He claims that his record supports this position.

Since the election of McCormack as Speaker of the House is an accomplished fact many Protestant leaders indicate that his new position may require him to take a moderating position on church-state problems. They seem to be in a state of "suspended judgment" and are willing to wait and see.



# RELIGION STUDIES CUT FROM DEFENSE FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate programs and fellowships in the field of religion under the National Defense Education Act have been eliminated by administrative regulation of the United States Office of Education.

The new regulation was published in the Federal Register and signed by Sterling M. McMurrin, U. S. Commissioner of Education. Under the rule there will be no new graduate programs or fellowships approved that in the judgment of the Commissioner of Education are not urgently needed "to meet the national defense needs of the United States."

R. Orin Cornett, acting assistant U. S. Commissioner of Education for Higher Education and director of the Division of Higher Education in the United States Office of Education, said that there will be no more graduate fellowships in the fields of religion, religious education, church music, comparative religion, contemporary religions or any related subjects.

Cornett explained that there had been no fellowships in theology after the first year of the National Defense Education Act but that some in religious education were granted last year. Now there will be no more of these, he said.

The new policy, according to Cornett, does not eliminate graduate programs and fellowships in subjects directly related to the national defense that may be taught in private colleges.

Examples of the types of fellowships that are being eliminated by the new order are: theology, Union Theological Seminary, N.Y.; Old Testament studies, Morehouse University, Atlanta, Ga.; comparative religion, Dropsie College, Philadelphia, Pa.; church music, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y.; theology of the Protestant Reformation and other Biblical studies, Claremont Graduate School, Calif.; Christian social ethics and church history, Duke University, N.C.; and Buddhism, University of Wisconsin.

Last year when there was discussion in Congress

about the revision of the National Defense Education Act, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, at its March meeting, voted to request the elimination of all theological and religion graduate fellowships from the program established by Title IV.

Later at hearings before the Senate subcommittee on education, C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, relayed this request to the Congress. He said, "When a National Defense Education Act undertakes to train theologians or specialists in the church-related disciplines for the sake of national security, a confusion develops both as to the ultimate commitments and the appropriate means. In the thinking of the Baptist Joint Committee, theological education is beyond the proper scope of government programming."

Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.), chairman of the education subcommittee, interrupted Carlson to instruct the committee staff to file a memorandum on the teaching of religion under the National Defense Education Act. This, along with expressions from other members of Congress because of complaints from their constituents, resulted in the change of policy on the part of the U. S. Office of Education.

Although the National Defense Education Act itself was not changed when it was extended last year, the same results have been accomplished by administrative action within the Office of Education.

According to Title IV of the National Defense Education Act an educational institution makes application to the U. S. Office of Education for approval of a new or an expanded graduate program. If it is approved, fellowships may then be awarded to students for that school.

Under the National Defense Education Act fellowships a student receives a three-year scholarship, which gives him \$2000 the first year, \$2200 the second year and \$2400 the third. He is allowed an additional \$400 for each dependent. The school may be granted a maximum of \$2500 a year for expenses incurred in teaching this student.

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