

Report from the Capital

APRIL 1970



S. S. C. HISTOR.
NASHVILLE

Resources, Staff Help For States Projected

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs took steps in its semi-annual meeting to make its resources and staff available to Baptist leadership in the states who might desire such service.

The action was taken in response to increasing requests from state Baptist leadership for help with a rising number of public affairs that are developing in the states.

Although the number of such issues is large, four acute areas of public affairs problems rising in the states were identified. They are the issue of state aid to nonpublic education, the welfare program of the nation and the entire range of state aid to children, court cases on freedom of religion and separation of church and state, and the problem of taxation and the churches.

At the request of the Baptist Joint Committee last October, James M. Sapp, director of correlation services, and W. Barry Garrett, director of information services, developed a set of guidelines for the stewardship of Baptist influence in the states. These were approved by the Baptist Joint Committee as a tentative and beginning procedure for use by the staff in advisory consultations with the constituent bodies.

In addition, the Baptist Joint Committee authorized its staff in consultation with Baptist state leaders to select three or more states or regional areas for pilot projects in handling public affairs issues in the states.

Both the guidelines and the projects are to be reviewed annually for the development of future policy on working relationships.

It was pointed out at the meeting that it continues to be the policy of the Baptist Joint Committee to work with whatever group or committee that is designated by the states to handle public affairs issues.

During the discussion it was pointed out that in many states it might be profitable to develop "Baptist joint committees" composed of representatives of each Baptist group in the state to help develop Baptist approaches to public issues.

that the compulsory chapel is part of the "training for command" program at the academies, serving a secular, not a religious purpose. Therefore, they say, the courts are not likely to declare the practice unconstitutional.

COMPULSORY RELIGION AND MILITARY TRAINING

Steps toward the disestablishment and free exercise of religion in the nation's military services may have been taken recently by seven service academy students who are suing to break the requirement for compulsory chapel attendance.

The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. on January 20. Attorneys for the government argued that the suit should be dismissed because all administrative remedies had not been exhausted by the students. On March 11 U.S. District Court Judge Howard E. Corcoran ruled that the administrative remedies had been exhausted and that the question is a proper one to be considered by the courts.

The probability now is that the case will be pursued through the District Court and will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel has sought unsuccessfully twice to get the Pentagon to repeal the compulsory worship attendance requirements at the military academies. (The Chaplain's Commission is a permanent, independent agency through which 36 denominations direct their chaplaincy programs. A. Ray Appelquist is the executive secretary.)

In 1964 the Chaplain's Commission issued a statement that said it shared "the concern of the military for the training objectives presumed to be attained through compulsory worship." However, it continued, "we believe those objectives can best be achieved by disassociating them from worship and by giving such vital concerns a regular place in the training schedule."

Using even stronger language, the Commission said, "it is our conviction that any requirement by the State of compulsory attendance at services of worship is contrary to the principles of religious freedom and the constitutional rights of the individual citizen."

"Our religious history and experience have amply demonstrated that voluntarism is an essential element in the health and vitality of the religious life of individuals, churches and synagogues," the Commission continued.

Acting under instruction from the Chaplain's Commission, Appelquist in a recent letter renewing its request to the Pentagon wrote that "it is our continuing hope that the academies would move to voluntary religious exercises before the existing practices are formally reviewed and publicly judged in the courts."

He expressed the opinion that if compulsory worship attendance were abolished by the courts rather than by the military itself, this "can have only an adverse effect on public acceptance of the total religious program for service personnel."

Added to the above efforts are those of Lt. Dwight Vaughn, USA., who graduated from West Point last June. He declared that as a Southern Baptist he felt that requiring his attendance at cadet chapel "denied me my right to follow my own religion."

West Point regulations do not allow men to attend outside denominational services in lieu of academy chapel, as does the Naval Academy.

In addition to protesting required worship attendance, Vaughn in 1968 initiated a series of requests through his chain of command to end mandatory deductions from pay for support of the chapel. It is reported that West Point no longer requires financial support of the chapel by the cadets, although the compulsory attendance regulation is still in effect.

Lawyers for the seven students argue that the compulsory worship attendance rules of the service academies: (1) violates Article VI of the Constitution which prohibits religious tests for public office, and (2) violates the First Amendment to the Constitution which prohibits an establishment of religion and interference with "the free exercise thereof."

Attorneys for the government argue that such regulations do not violate the Constitution. They further contend that attendance at some form of religious service each Sunday is vital in training junior officers to minister to the religious needs of the men under them.

The government attorneys further argue

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The views of writers of material for *Report From The Capital* are not necessarily those of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs or its staff. The bulletin also provides for the sharing of views between leaders of the cooperating conventions and between leaders of various religions and traditions.

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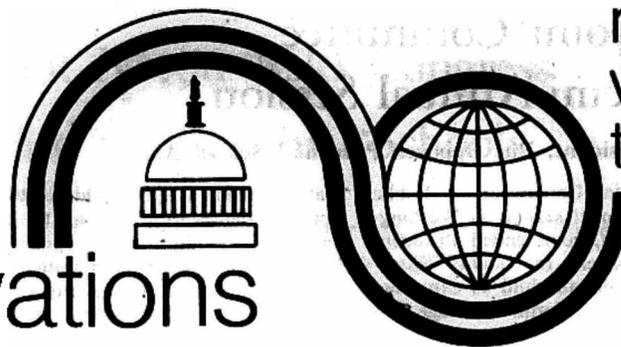
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Executive Staff of the Committee: C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director; John W. Baker, associate executive director and director of research; W. Barry Garrett, director of information services; and James M. Sapp, director of correlation services and editor of *Report From The Capital*.

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washington observations



news-
views
trends

April 1, 1970

PRESIDENT NIXON released three messages on education during March which could hold great significance for the nation in the 1970s. The messages dealt with elementary and secondary education, higher education and school desegregation.

ALL THREE MESSAGES dealt with highly controversial substance. Much of the material was not new. Much of it reviewed the issues in the light of current developments and needs of the nation. The message on educational needs and priorities attempted to respond to the plight of non-public as well as public schools.

THE CHURCH-STATE ISSUES threaten to surface again in any administration of public funds which would benefit private institutions. While the climate of the nation is far different now than a decade ago, many persons are not willing yet to see any difference between aid to persons and aid to institutions, per se.

THE MESSAGE ON DESEGREGATION, largely the President's own handiwork, is a masterful attempt to ~~assuage many viewpoints and political positions~~ in an effort to turn the nation away from a strident, polarized stance on public school integration.

THE PRESIDENT inserted himself in the precarious role of "referee" in the "game" being played between hard line "segregationists" and "integrationists" in those areas where the law and the courts have not spelled out the rules. He has sought to interpret the role of local, state and national leaders in resolving the besetting problems.

IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN how the nation and the courts will accept his "calls" in the "game" which has a long way to go in many parts of the nation. Nevertheless, the President has been willing to make an attempt to bring some order out of the chaos which reaches throughout the nation as well as within the departments of his own government.

THE PRESIDENT'S welfare reform proposal with the few amendments attached by the Ways and Means Committee will come before the Rules Committee right after the Easter recess.

THE RULES COMMITTEE will probably go along with Representative Wilbur Mills' request for a closed rule . . . no amendments allowed during the floor debate . . . and the bill should pass the house by a sizable majority.

THE MAJOR BOTTLENECK to the bill in the Senate will be the Finance Committee with Senator Russell Long as chairman. There seems to be very little pressure to get the bill through Senate hearings and to the Senate floor.

THE CHANCES FOR PASSAGE by Congress and the signing into law by the President look fairly good. This proposal by Mr. Nixon could radically change the welfare system and offer strong incentives for people to work rather than remain permanently on welfare rolls.

Baptist Joint Committee Holds Semi-Annual Session

Commends President, But Opposes Parochial School Aid

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, in semi-annual session in Washington early in March, commended President Nixon for his concern for quality education for every American child as expressed in his education reform message to Congress.

However, the Baptist agency balked on the President's proposals for federal aid to the nation's parochial schools.

The President's message to Congress coincided with the semi-annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee, giving the Baptists an "on-the-scene" opportunity to respond to his proposals.

The Baptist leaders registered "concern over the inherent church-state and public policy issues" raised by the President's message on education.

Less than two weeks prior to his education reform proposals, Mr. Nixon met with representatives of the National Catholic Education Association and pledged to find ways to support private schools.

Among the President's actions announced in his reform proposals were the creation of a Commission on School Finance, a request for a new National Institute of Education, and efforts to increase and extend provisions in current education laws for aids to parochial schools.

After careful analysis of the President's education reform message the Baptists raised a number of questions that may arise in possible legislation. Among them are these:

1. Is this a step towards a dual public education system?

2. Should government policy shift from neutrality to positive support for religious institutions?

3. Does this open the door to private schools as a means of circumventing desegregation?

It was the opinion of the Baptist Joint Committee that if parochial schools were to close or turn public, as suggested by the President that they might, "the expense to the public would not necessarily be overwhelming."

Further, it was the view of the Baptists

MONTHLY HOUSING EXPENSES

Monthly housing expenses on the typical new median-priced home . . . financed with a 30-year, 8½ percent mortgage . . . total \$290 or more, including taxes, insurance, utilities, and maintenance and repair.

To really afford such a house, says the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a family needs an income of nearly \$14,000 a year. But, HUD laments, fewer than one family in five has this high an income.

that "government sponsorship of two educational systems would seem to guarantee inequality in educational opportunity."

The Baptist Joint Committee, in harmony with its long-time support of the public schools, rejected the concept of the public schools as constituting a monopoly in education.

Instructing its staff on policies to follow in dealing with possible legislative proposals in Congress, the Baptist Joint Committee reaffirmed its belief that "public tax funds should be regarded as a public trust to be administered by public agencies for the public good."

Gives Endorsement to Nixon's 'Family Assistance' Proposal

President Nixon's family assistance proposal now being considered in Congress received an endorsement "in principle" from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in its semi-annual meeting.

John W. Baker, associate executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, evaluated Baptist principles that led to the Committee action. "No man can be truly free unless he has a minimum degree of economic security," he declared.

"A person whose family lacks the bare essentials of life is not free though the bonds of slavery are legally abolished. The Baptist principle of freedom should mesh with welfare reform," Baker continued.

The Baptist executive also declared that the "worth and dignity of man" and "the principle of brotherhood" argue for support of "the idea of income maintenance."

The Baptist Joint Committee action was taken after several months of study by the staff and Committee members and as a result of intensive group discussions at the meeting.

"While man does not live by bread alone, he must have bread," the Committee members asserted. "We affirm Christianity's legitimate concern for the poor and their needs," they continued.

However, the President's welfare proposal was described by the Baptist group as "a minimal attempt at meeting mammoth social needs."

The proposal to provide a minimum of \$1600 a year for a family of four was one of the "inadequacies" in the current welfare reforms, the Committee agreed.

In endorsing in principle the President's family assistance proposal the Baptist Joint Committee was speaking only for itself and not for its member conventions. Eight Baptist denominations in North America are members of the Baptist Joint Committee. C.

Director to Retire in '71

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs took steps in March to select a successor to C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director since 1954, who has announced his retirement in April 1971.

Carlson made his announcement on the basis of the personnel policy of the Committee, which requires retirement the first of the month following an employee's 65th birthday.

At present the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee is on a leave of absence for research and writing. During his absence the administrative duties of the Committee are being carried out by John W. Baker, associate executive director.

The committee to nominate Carlson's successor was appointed by Homer J. Tucker, chairman of the Joint Committee. It is composed of five of the chief executives of the denominations that maintain the public affairs work. They are: Porter W. Routh (Southern Baptist Convention), Edwin H. Tuller (American Baptist Convention), Warren R. Magnuson (Baptist General Conference), G. K. Zimmerman (North American Baptist General Conference) and Alton K. Wheeler (Seventh Day Baptist General Conference).

Emanuel Carlson is the executive director.

In taking the action, Committee members agreed that they found "no apparent infringement of constitutional church-state relationships" in the President's proposal. A minimum standard of living is essential for a person to have complete dignity, the study group reports said.

In addition to guaranteeing a minimum income level and increasing benefits to the aged, blind and otherwise disabled, the proposed welfare reforms would provide job training and work incentives to increase income beyond the public payments. The Baptists' action called for "careful development of guidelines" for implementation of these proposals in order to protect the individual.

In one of the group reports, concern was expressed particularly that the new reforms contain "no guarantee that the quality of administration will be better than at present." Even so, the proposed program "recognizes people as persons and lessens degrading aspects of the present welfare system," the group said.

COVER PICTURE

The staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs studies minutes of the March meeting and other materials for direction and guidance on public policy issues. L to R are W. Barry Garrett, C. Emanuel Carlson, John W. Baker and James M. Sapp.

—Baptist Joint Committee Photo Harrell Krell, Photographer



President Nixon Asks Congress For Aid to Parochial Schools

An Analysis of the President's "Message on Education Reform"
Sent to Congress on March 2, 1970.

President Richard Nixon has proposed federal education reforms designed to strengthen both the public and private schools of the nation.

In a "Message on Education Reform" sent to Congress the President (1) proposed a new National Institute of Education, (2) announced a President's Commission on School Finance, (3) asked for funds for a program to help every American learn to read, and (4) proposed a network of child development projects for pre-schoolers.

Discussing his Commission on School Finance, Mr. Nixon said: "The specific problem of parochial schools is to be a particular assignment of the Commission."

The President made it clear that he intends to find ways to help the parochial schools in the nation. He declared that such schools are essential to the education processes of the nation and that they must remain in operation.

"The nonpublic elementary and secondary schools in the United States have long been an integral part of the nation's educational establishment," the President said. They "provide a diversity which our educational system would otherwise lack," he continued.

Nixon championed the parochial schools as a safeguard against educational monopoly by the public schools. Further, he said

that they offer parents a choice of schools for their children.

"Up to now," the President continued, "we have failed to consider the consequences of declining enrollments in private elementary and secondary schools, most of them church-supported, which educate 11% of all pupils—close to six million school children.

"In the past two years, close to a thousand nonpublic elementary and secondary schools closed and most of their displaced pupils enrolled in local public schools.

"If most or all private schools were to close or turn public, the added burden on public funds by the end of the 70's would exceed \$4 billion per year in operations, with an estimated \$5 billion more needed for facilities."

The President further praised the parochial schools for their "dimension of spiritual value giving children a moral code by which to live. This government cannot be indifferent to the potential collapse of such schools."

The President urged the Commission on School Finance to keep two considerations in mind: "First, our purpose here is not to aid religion in particular but to promote diversity in education; second, that nonpublic schools in America are closing at the rate of one a day."

The purpose of the new proposed Na-

tional Institute of Education is research and experimentation in the United States. Both public and private schools would be included in the program.

Under the President's "right to read" program, new curricula and better methods would be developed. Special funds for school libraries and special education projects were called for. Both public and private schools are included in the plans.

The President said he has committed his administration to learning development of children during the first five years of life. He has established a new office of child development and is pushing for a network of experimental centers for pre-schoolers.

Goals set forth in the President's program include equality in education, new standards for measuring learning, accountability and responsibility of school officials, and local control of education.

In his message to Congress Mr. Nixon declared that the educational programs developed under President Lyndon B. Johnson "are largely fragmented and disjointed, and too often administered in a way that frustrates local and private efforts."

The President acknowledges that "the tone of this message, and the approach of this administration, is intended to be challenging." But, he said, "America's educators have the capacity and dedication to respond to that challenge."

Committee Alarmed By War Escalation in Laos

The Baptist Joint Committee discussed and adopted a statement in its spring meeting in which it expressed "deep alarm" over recent news and congressional reports of U.S. military escalation in Laos.

After affirming "continuing Christian concern that peace will become a universal condition among nations" and commending President Nixon's "publicly stated commitment to the principle of peace," the Committee said:

"We urge the President and the Congress to be honest and open with the American people in regard to this nation's military involvements and commitments in Laos and elsewhere, especially when war could result from these involvements and commitments."

The resolution cited particularly testi-

mony given on the floor of the United States Senate on February 26 and 27, of escalated U.S. military involvement in Laos.

"We . . . are afraid that we may discover at some future date that this nation has become involved in Laos as it is now in Vietnam," the Baptist executives said.

"We earnestly request," the statement continued, "that constitutional courses of action be scrupulously followed in regard to Laos and other areas in which we might become involved militarily."

In debating whether the Baptist Joint Committee should adopt such a resolution, editor Terry Young of the *California Southern Baptist* said that "our silence in this area has been profound and history will sit in judgment on us for it."

INTEREST RATE HAS DOUBLED

Mortgage money for homes was so ample 20 years ago that the Federal Housing Administration lowered from 4½ to 4¼ percent the maximum mortgage interest it would allow. Today, the maximum allowed is exactly twice that, at 8½ percent. Then as now, mortgagors also have paid an FHA mortgage insurance premium amounting to half a percent.

HOME UPKEEP COSTS

The average owner of a new \$30,000 house spends \$15.81 a month for maintenance and repairs, the Federal Housing Administration estimates. Based on FHA 1968 data, families that buy older, existing homes average about \$15.08 a month on maintenance and repairs.

SELECTED STATEMENTS OF MAJOR DENOMINATIONS RELATING TO **CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION**

Editor's Note: Some church groups are faced with discussing and formulating positions on conscientious objection. **REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL** will carry selected statements of several major religious groups in the country who have spoken to this issue in a formal manner.

War and military service are and always have been a cause of division among men of conscience. Many choose to bear arms, recognizing that in a sinful world force is often required to restrain the evil. Others, unable to reconcile the inhumanity of war with the demands of love and justice, refuse to participate in particular wars or in any armed conflict. Still others either enter the military or seek deferred status without having the basic ethical dilemmas facing them.

Lutheran teaching, while rejecting conscientious objection as ethically normative, requires that ethical decisions in political matters be made in the context of the competing claims of peace, justice, and freedom. Consequently, a man need not be opposed to participating in all forms of violent conflict in order to be considered a bona fide conscientious objector. It is in responsible grappling with these competing claims that he should consider participation or non-participation in the military.

Consistent with this, the responsible, conscientious choice of the individual to participate or not to participate in military service or in a particular war should be upheld and protected. The office of soldier, like all other temporal offices, is to be held in esteem by all. At the same time, the conscientious objector should be accorded respect and such freedom as is consistent with the requirements of civil order.

Governments have rightly seen fit to provide legal status for conscientious objectors, allowing them the privilege of performing alternative service in lieu of military duty. In granting such status, governments recognize that conscientious objectors may make a more valuable contribution to their nation in alternative service than they would if imprisoned or otherwise penalized.

Furthermore, the moral considerations which underlie the stand of the conscientious objector can have a salutary influence upon a nation. The ethical sensitivity and human concern represented in conscientious objection have a value that far outweighs any potential risk to security involved in granting legal exemption. It is better for the general well-being that the conscientious objector be given more than the stark choice between compromised integrity and imprisonment.

However, legal exemption for the conscientious objector is a privilege, not a right,

which a just government grants in the interest of the civil good. This does not imply that governments are required to exempt men from any legal obligation. Governments must reserve the right not to grant, or to revoke, the privilege of legal exemption in situations of clear danger to the public order.

The fact that some persons may falsely exploit conscience to defend irresponsible disregard for the obligations of citizenship does not excuse the church from its responsibility of defending the bona fide conscientious objector. The church must exercise special care in judging the spirit and motives of those who may call upon the church for safe-guarding in such a position.

Recognizing both the heart-searching of many persons confronted with the possibility of military conscription and the broader considerations of justice and public order, the Lutheran Church in America adopts the following affirmations:

1. This church recognizes its responsibility of assisting its members in the development of mature, enlightened and discerning consciences. It calls upon its pastors and agencies of Christian education and social ministry to continue in their efforts to cultivate persons who can act responsibly amid the complexities of the present day.
2. This church stands by and upholds those of its members who conscientiously object to military service as well as those who in conscience choose to serve in the military. This church further affirms that the individual who, for reasons of conscience, objects to participation in a particular war is acting in harmony with Lutheran teaching.
3. Governments have wisely provided legal exemption for conscientious objectors, allowing such persons to do other work of benefit to the community. While such exemption is in the public interest, the granting of it does not imply an obligation on the part of government to provide legal exemption to anyone who finds a law to be burdensome.
4. In the best interest of the civil community, conscientious objectors to particular wars, as well as conscientious objectors to all wars, ought to be granted exemption from military duty and opportunity should be provided them for alternative service, and until such time as these exemptions are so provided, persons who conscientiously object to a particular war are reminded that they must be willing to accept applicable civil or criminal penalties for their action.

A General UCC Synod Resolution On Selective Conscientious Objection

WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, in keeping with the tradition of both the Evangelical and Reformed and the Congregational Christian Churches, has affirmed that "every Christian has the right and the responsibility to make his daily decisions in the love of God and in obedience to his living word"; and

WHEREAS the General Synod has by resolution previously taken action to "affirm its recognition of the right of conscientious objection to participation in or support of war, "to extend moral and spiritual support to the members of its constituent congregations who for conscience' sake seek exemption from military service and elect the alternative of civilian national service provided in the law," and to "call upon its pastors and congregations to hold closely within the fellowship of the church those who take this position"; and

WHEREAS there are, both within and without the fellowship of the United Church of Christ, persons who do not renounce the use of military force as in itself inconsistent with their understanding of their moral obligation but at the same time are persuaded on grounds of conscience that war under given particular circumstances is wrong and that, therefore, they cannot under these conditions engage in military service; and

WHEREAS they are led to this conclusion by such factors as their belief that the nation has not adequately explored peaceful means of settling international disputes,

(Continued on page 8)

5. All conscientious objectors should be accorded equal treatment before the law, whether the basis of their stand is specifically religious or not. It is contrary to biblical teaching (cf. Romans 2:15f) for the church to expect special status for the Christian or religious objector.
6. This church approves provisions whereby persons in the military who become conscientious objectors are permitted reclassification and reassignment. This church urges that these provisions also be extended to the conscientious objector to a particular war.

Consistent with these affirmations, the Lutheran Church in America directs a member who is a conscientious objector to send a written statement of his convictions to his pastor and to the president of his synod and the secretary of the church. Pastors of the church are directed to minister to all in their care who are conscientious objectors.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
AMERICA**

—Adopted by the Fourth Biennial
Convention
June 1968 (Atlanta)

Nixon's Education Commission To Study Parochial School Aid

President Richard Nixon has established "The President's Commission on School Finance," a major duty of which will be to study ways parochial and other non-public schools can be aided by public agencies.

The new Education Commission is to be composed of not more than 16 members to be named by the President. The final report is to be made to the President no later than March 3, 1972. In the meantime, interim reports will be made.

Chairman of the Commission will be Neil H. McElroy, former Secretary of Defense, according to an announcement by Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Counsellor to the President. The other members of the Commission will be announced by the White House in the near future.

President Nixon, in his executive order creating the Commission, stated that "it shall be the function of the Commission to study, and report to the President on, future revenue needs and resources of the nation's public and non-public elementary and secondary schools."

The President then listed 18 functions of the Commission, nine of which are directly related to non-public and parochial schools. These nine functions are:

1. "The implications of the levelling-off in school enrollments for fiscal and educational planning on all levels of government and for non-public schools.
2. "The fiscal status of non-public elementary and secondary schools, and attendant implications for public schools and public policy.
3. "A review of the financial structure of elementary and secondary education and an assessment of future trends in the public and private sectors.
4. "An assessment of the potential of non-public schools to contribute more effectively to the nation's educational progress, of the present and future needs and problems of non-public schools, and of ways and means by which non-public schools can be assisted, within the limits of the law, in carrying out their educational responsibilities.
5. "An assessment of present public programs which aid non-public schools and comparison with programs aiding public schools.
6. "Recommendations for achieving co-operation between public and non-public schools in furthering the education of all children.
7. "The implications of federal revenue for the financing of public and non-public education.
8. "The implications of possible changes in the public welfare system and in the

program of aid to Federally-impacted areas for school services and for the financing of public and non-public education.

9. "Ways of altering the distribution of Federal education funds so as to simplify and improve their usefulness for State, local and non-public education agencies."

About three weeks prior to the creation of the President's Commission on School Finance, Mr. Nixon conferred with representatives of the National Catholic Education Association. He pledged to them that he would support extended aid to parochial schools and called on the Catholic educators to cooperate with the new Commission on School Finance.

In his "Message on Education Reform" which the President sent to Congress he followed through on his call on the nation to aid parochial schools.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which was in semi-annual session when the President's message was sent to Congress, commended Mr. Nixon's expression of concern for quality education for every American child. However, the Baptist agency refused to go along with the President's intent to aid parochial schools.

The Baptists raised a number of church-state and public policy questions about the President's proposals and instructed the Baptist Joint Committee staff to work for the principle that "public tax funds should be regarded as a public trust to be administered by public agencies for the public good."

GI Educational Allowances

Bulletin—President Nixon signed the GI Educational Allowances bill into law on March 29.

A compromise bill raising GI educational allowances 34.6 percent was passed by the House March 18 and sent to the Senate for final action. The increases, which also would apply to war orphans' and widows' educational allowances, would be retroactive to February 1.

The final bill HR 11959, represents a compromise between the original House measure passed last summer providing a 27 percent increase and the later Senate version allowing a 46 percent raise. Last October President Nixon indicated he might veto the Senate version because of its cost.

It was estimated that the compromise bill would cost an additional \$132.4 million in the current fiscal year and \$275.5 million in the 1971 fiscal year starting July 1. Nixon's 1971 budget recommended only \$88 million for increased allowances.

Under the compromise bill, monthly allowances to a single veteran studying full-time would be increased from \$130 to \$175, allowances for a veteran with one dependent would be raised from \$155 to \$205, and for a veteran with two dependents, from \$175 to \$230. The current \$10 allowance for additional dependents would be increased to \$13. Proportionate increases are provided for veterans studying three-fourths and half-time.

The compromise bill contains three new provisions to aid educationally disadvantaged veterans. It allows veterans who need

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Higher Education

"The financial squeeze on higher education probably is hurting the large research universities and the small liberal arts colleges more than any other kind of institution, according to Clark Kerr, chairman of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.

"The group I think is in the greatest trouble of all is the big research universities," Mr. Kerr told the House Special Subcommittee on Education. He said those were the institutions that were hurt the most by cuts in federal research money and the ones that feel the greatest pressure to keep up with expanding educational technology.

"Mr. Kerr said many small colleges also were in trouble. "Some are too small to use their resources effectively," he said, "and some are too small to attract today students who want a broader cultural exposure."

Cheryl M. Fields, "Research Universities Hardest Hit: Kerr," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 16, 1970, p. 7

Recent Publications

A Guide to Student Assistance has been published by the House Education and Labor Committee to "assist those who are interested in acquiring financial aid for higher education."

The 125-page booklet contains (1) a description of major federal student-aid programs, (2) a description of major federal graduate fellowship programs, (3) information on selected other federal programs available to undergraduates, (4) a list of major non-federal undergraduate scholarship and loan programs, and (5) general information on obtaining student aid.

Copies are 60¢ each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Members of Congress have a limited number of free copies available.

Also available from the Government Printing Office, for 30¢ per copy, is the report to the President by the Task Force on International Development, dated March 4, 1970, and entitled: *U.S. Foreign Assistance in the 1970s: A New Approach*.

Man and His Environment

"Ecologists are the modern day Jeremiahs who lament this fouling of the earth and assess the negative aspects of technology. The ecologist has a curious role: he must persuade the population that our standard of living may soon have an inverse relation-

ship to the quality of life, that an increase in the gross national product means more environmental ruin. Man himself, for the ecologist, is a pollutant.

"If this needed concern with our environment is not to burn itself out, it will have to avoid sadist hysteria and scalp-hunting. The big industries are rightly being called upon to reduce their contamination of the air, land and water. But making them the whipping boys obscures the fact that because of our endless consumption of technological artifacts, the fault lies with all of us. As the first ecologist (and first Jeremiah) put it: 'I brought you to a fertile country to enjoy its produce and good things. But no sooner had you entered, than you defiled my land, and made my heritage detestable' (Jer. 2:7)."

"Ecology Crusade Gathers Steam," *America*, March 21, 1970, p. 287.

Resolution . . .

(Continued from page 6)

that the aims of a particular war cannot be ethically justified, that the means used for the prosecution of the war violate the moral standards which should prevail among nations, or that the probable evil consequences would greatly outweigh the hoped for good; and

WHEREAS such a decision, taking into account the many dimensions of the situation and of the individual's obligations, is a valid expression of a Christian's responsibility to make his daily decisions in the love of God and in obedience to his living word; and

WHEREAS conscientious objectors are in any case required to substantiate their position before local draft boards, the burden of proof resting upon the individual taking this position;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognize the right of conscientious objection to participation in a particular war or in war waged under particular circumstances, as well as the right of conscientious objections to participation in war as such; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod remind those who are disposed to take this position that they ought not to do so lightly but only after careful examination and weighing of their own motives, the moral issues at stake including their proper obligations to the nation as an instrument of justice and order, the social

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as well as personal consequences of their decision, and their readiness to accept military or civilian service of equivalent time, risk, and personal inconvenience if afforded them, or else such penalties as may be legally imposed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod call upon pastors, congregations, Conferences, officers and instrumentalities of the Church, and specifically upon the Council for Christian Social Action, to provide information, assistance, and counsel for those who take this position in order that they may both maintain integrity of conscience and find suitable alternative means for discharging their obligation as citizens in a time of national emergency or danger; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod urge the Congress of the United States to amend the Selective Service act to provide suitable alternatives of military or civil service for those who on grounds of conscience object to participation in a particular war.

—General Synod, United Church of Christ, 1967

Allowances . . .

(Continued from Page 7)

tutorial assistance in college an additional allowance of up to \$50 a month for nine months. It establishes a pre-discharge education program (PREP) providing allowances for remedial or refresher courses taken before leaving service. Third, it directs the Veterans Administration to provide more extensive guidance and counseling services.

During the House debate, Chairman Olin E. Teague (D., Tex.) of the Veteran's Affairs Committee, said he expected the tutorial aid "to be administered in a very 'tight' manner so that abuse may be kept to the barest minimum."