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Catholic Education: A Force in N.Y.S.

All is in readiness for the first state-wide Convocation of Catholic school principals in Albany on April 17 and 18, 1978. The response from administrators across the state has been an enthusiastic one.

On Monday evening, April 17th, at 8 p.m., the keynote address will be delivered by U.S. Congressman Thomas Railsback (R-Ill), one of the original sponsors of the Tuition Tax Credit legislation in the House of Representatives. The Congressman's topic for the evening will be "Tuition Tax Credits."

Albany Awaits Administrators

On Tuesday, Regent Harold E. Newcomb will discuss the relationship of the Board of Regents to the non-public schools. Commissioner Gordon Ambach will later discuss the relationship of the State Education Department to the non-public schools.

In the afternoon, Senator Warren Anderson, President Pro-Tem of the NYS Senate, and Assemblyman Stanley Steingut, Speaker of the NYS Assembly, will discuss current legislation pertinent to the parochial schools of the state. The day will conclude with a discussion of state education laws and how they apply to the non-public schools by Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs, Robert D. Stone.

We urge you to send in your registration, if you have not already done so. There will be registration at the door. Please make every effort to join your fellow Catholic educators in Albany on April 17 and 18. Your presence will demonstrate that Catholic Education is indeed a Force in New York State.

In a recent letter to the membership concerning the Convocation, Rev. George Sheehan, President of CSAANYS, stated: "We are having the Convocation so that we might share our common concerns, and be heard not as a voice coming from the shadows of the back room, but as a united people (over 800 strong), speaking loudly and clearly to the media, to the Education Department of the State of New York, to governmental bodies, that we are here, and we want to be heard, and we want to be counted."

CSAANYS CONVOCATION

April 17-18

Empire State Convention Center.
Register NOW, avoid the rush.

Railsback: Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Thomas Railsback, U.S. Congressman from Illinois, will deliver the Convocation keynote address at 8:00 p.m., April 17, 1978. His topic will be Tuition Tax Credit Legislation. Congressman Railsback with William Frenzel (R-MN) and James Burke (D-MA) are the original sponsors of H.R. 9332 which would allow refundable tax credit for tuition paid to public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools, vocational schools, colleges and universities for the taxpayer, his spouse and for any dependents for whom the taxpayer is entitled to claim a personal exemption.

Mr. Railsback has been a member of Congress since 1966. A member of the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Railsback is the ranking Republican on its Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and Administration of Justice. He is a recognized constitutional lawyer. In the past he has represented the United States on international Parliamentary Exchange Programs. Presently he is chairman of the Illinois Republican delegation.

Because of official obligations in Washington at the time of our Convocation Senator Daniel P. Moynihan was forced to cancel his tentative acceptance of our invitation to speak.

E. D. Accepts Appointments

The Executive Director has been selected as delegate to the Governor's Conference on Libraries. He was also appointed by Speaker Stanley Steingut to the Advisory Board to the Speaker's Task Force on Sports and Physical Fitness.

The State Conference is being held in preparation for the first White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services which will be held in October, 1979, in Washington, D.C. All types of libraries and their services will be examined, including state agency libraries and the State Education Department. Br. Bernard regards his selection as an opportunity to represent the views of the Catholic educational community. He solicits opinions and comments from principals and school librarians on all facets of library needs and functions, including state mandates and services affecting libraries and elementary school mandated central libraries. The Conference is to begin June 5th.

The Task Force Advisory Board's purpose is to draft plans for increasing the quantity and improving the quality of sports and physical fitness programs in New York State. The Assembly's Task Force is an outgrowth of an investigation of facilities by the Speaker when a study was made to have New York State host the Summer Olympic Games. Studies will be made to identify the assets, liabilities and resource needs of amateur athletics, professional sports and physical education in New York State.

The Advisory Council under the chairmanship of Robert J. Kane, president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, is composed of representatives from widely diversified sports and physical fitness groups in New York State.

Presidential Perfidy

NEWSBRIEFS

Throughout the nation's history, Catholic Educational Institutions have played a significant and positive role in the education of our children. Millions of Americans of every income level, race, background and region have reaped the benefits. Indeed, in many areas of the country, parochial schools provide the best education available. Recognition of these facts must be part and parcel of the consciousness of any American president.

ROTH, PACKWOOD, MOYNIHAN BILLS REFINED, COMBINED

The original bills now known as H.R. 3946 have been rewritten in committee to include the following concepts:

- A full refundable credit for those who have low or no tax liabilities.
- Expedited judicial review that allows a court test prior to the elementary and secondary parents being able to take a credit.
- Effective August 1, 1978, tuition payments for full-time vocational and college undergraduate students would be eligible for tax credit equal to a maximum credit of \$250 per student.
- Effective August 1, 1978, the tax credit would also apply to tuition payments for elementary and secondary students. In addition, the credit would equal 50% of tuition and fees, up to \$1,000 for a maximum credit of \$500 per pupil.
- Effective August 1, 1981, the credit would be extended to tuition paid for graduate and part-time students.

The rights of millions of Americans to choose a religious education for their children lies at the core of America's diversity and strength. It is a right we dare not lose.

Truly these are words worthy of any protagonist of Catholic education. But, alas, they are the words of one who has recently come out in condemnation of an initiated strategy to defeat the proposed tuition credit legislation which would aid middle-class Catholic parents whose children attend elementary and secondary parochial schools. They are words written to the Chief Administrators of Catholic Education by President Jimmy Carter before election.

Secretary of HEW, Califano, the token Catholic of the Cabinet, vociferously mouthed the same refrain and labeled this effort to lessen the financial burden imposed upon middle-class Catholics as an

attempt to destroy the public school system in America. By their actions these individuals show disdain, if not contempt, for the Catholic population. They brush them aside as insignificant politically. If parents are not aroused to react, they deserve this characterization. If their failure to react is from apathy, it is their fault. If their failure to react is from ignorance of the facts of the case, then Catholic educators must to some degree bear the blame. It is our responsibility to present in their proper light the actions of the Carter Administration and the attempts of the senators and congressmen to devise legislation which will afford the parents of children in elementary and secondary Catholic and public school, as well as those in private and public colleges a relief from the heavy burden of taxation. The opportune time has arrived for the passage of such legislation.

SUMMER: DRIVER EDUCATION

The State Education Department has notified us that changes have occurred in the summer school regulations concerning driver and traffic safety education. Now it is possible for a nonpublic, registered secondary school to be in operation and offer driver and traffic safety education to any student wishing to enroll. In addition, driver and traffic safety education could be the only course at that school during the summer.

MAKE-UP DAYS

Due to the many winter storms, many schools are concerned about completing the 180 day school year required by law. Nonpublic schools are under no obligation to make up days lost because of weather since they do not receive state aid.

In this matter directives from the diocesan superintendents should be followed.

CHILD ABUSE

The Educator and Child Abuse, a booklet published by HEW's Education Division, was written to help educators understand and meet their legal responsibilities regarding suspected child abuse. The booklet is available from the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, 111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 510, Chicago, Illinois 60601. One to five copies, \$2.00 each.

Selection of Secondary Representatives to CSAANYS Board is in progress. Nominations are due April 28.

Dues Payment

In September, 1978, CSAANYS will change the arrangement for membership dues payment. It wants to convert to an annual payment at the beginning of the school year. The dues would cover the period from September to August. This is the arrangement adopted by most similar organizations. Therefore, CSAANYS will be billing the members who customarily would pay during the months of July through December 1978 in September, 1978. Those who would be billed normally during the second half of the school year will be billed in January, 1979. We believe that this new arrangement should aid the principals in their budgeting and coincide with their cash flow. It should also lessen CSAANYS's mailing of bills and reminders. This will be a transitional year and it is hoped that by September, 1979, all membership dues will be on the September school-year payment plan.

Unemployment Insurance

Effective January 1, 1978, unemployment insurance protection has been extended to teachers and other professional staff at non-profit educational institutions below college level, exclusive of members of religious orders.

To be eligible they must fulfill the standard eligibility rules: (1) have worked in 20 of the past 52 weeks; (2) be unemployed through no fault of their own; and (3) be making an active effort to find suitable employment.

An allied problem is the payment of unemployment benefits to substitute teachers. A substitute teacher, after working one day a week for 20-weeks in a 52-week period and earning a minimum of \$800 (a \$40 weekly average) is eligible for full unemployment benefits. Like any other unemployed person, he/she receives one-half of his/her weekly pay for a possible 30-weeks. Or, if he has earned a bare minimum of \$40 a week, he receives a minimum benefit which is currently \$25. Attempts made at the time of transfer to increase the number of working days from 20 to 45 were defeated by the federal government.

Teachers and other professional staff of all educational institutions will not be eligible for benefits between academic terms if they have a contract or reasonable insurance of employment in the ensuing period.

The non-teaching staff of all educational institutions below college level will not be eligible for benefits during vacation or recess periods if they have individual contracts for employment in the ensuing period, or are members of a negotiating unit having a written contract continuing the employee's employment.