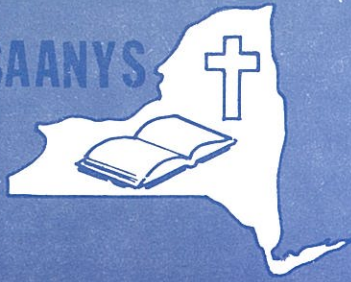


CSAANYS



NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

SUITE 820 · 41 STATE STREET · ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207 · (518) 434-1291

Principals Agree: Convocation Proves An Eye Opener

"Here we are from Buffalo to Brooklyn, from across this state we've come together as one. One voice, one body. I don't believe it. Finally we are doing it and that is praiseworthy. Welcome to Albany, welcome."

Yes, we did it, as Joseph McTighe, program committee chairman, stated in his welcoming address to over 500 administrators who assembled for the first convocation held by the Catholic School Administrators Association. On April 17 and 18, 1978, enthusiasm ran high, as all attending hoped it would be the occasion for meaningful dialogue and exchange of information and concern.

Spirits were soon dampened by the end

Call To Action

Perhaps what will be most remembered by those principals who attended the Convocation is the spontaneous session, "CALL TO ACTION." After morning sessions which created only feelings of anger and frustration, there was need felt for a response from those assembled. Several administrators rose from the floor to make proposals for action and future directions to be taken, by the principals, as individuals and as an Association.

The crux of many of the proposals was the need for Catholics to become involved politically to develop "clout." As an Association, CSAANYS will communicate to elected officials on all levels, federal and state, the support of the 500 New York State Catholic administrators for tuition tax credit for elementary and secondary school parents. As individuals the principals were called upon to enter the political arena and to be a mobilizing force for the parents in their community.

Other proposals dealt with the need for greater communication and dissemination of information from the State Education

of the morning session. We realized that once again we were the victims of discourteous disregard and "pious platitudes."

The Governor scheduled to give the welcoming address at 10 a.m., arrived 40 minutes late, this delaying the entire morning session. Carey, failing to apologize for the delay, attempted to regain his audience with a quick "inside joke" directed at Regent Newcomb who was seated on the stage: "Have you ever seen a regent resplendent in his full robes and dress? Makes His Eminence look like a busboy."

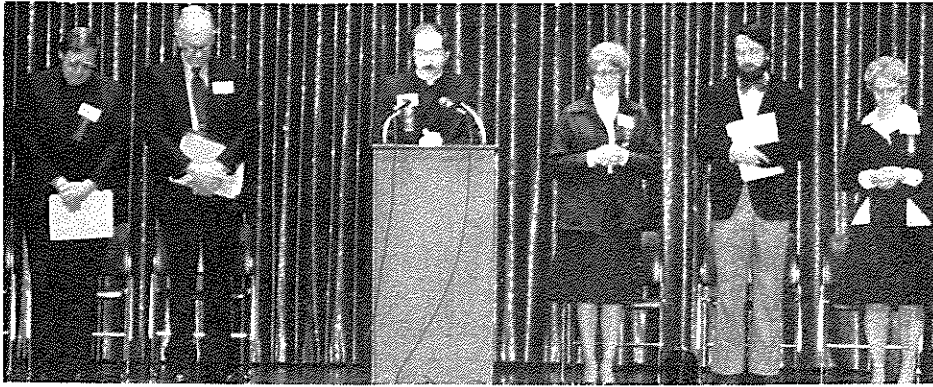
After a number of banal and anecdotal remarks regarding the value of Catholic education, the governor asked the

administrators to share his concern for "the value of one human life" by supporting his stand against capital punishment. A statement that the administrators found hard to swallow in light of his failure to address the abortion issue.

Insult was added to injury when Stanley Steingut from Brooklyn, Speaker of the NYS Assembly, failed to show up for his presentation in the afternoon. The Executive Director of CSAANYS received word from Steingut's appointment secretary the morning of April 17 that he would not attend. At that time the ED urged that Steingut honor his commitment in person or send a replacement. Steingut's absence spoke volumes, and his failure to send a representative even more.



Administrators listen attentively as speakers praise the efforts of the nonpublic sector.



Fr. Michael Carrano begins the morning session with a prayer.

The Regents:

Regent Harold Newcomb spoke to the administrators on the history and relationship of the Board of Regents and the Catholic schools of New York State, the oldest continuing education policy making board in the country. However, since its creation in 1784 by the NYS Legislature, the Board has been evolving into its present form.

Regent Newcomb stressed that the Regents "recognize and support the significant role of Catholic schools in educating the children of the state. The education that you offer does make a big difference in the lives of many thousands of our young people..."

Regent Newcomb explained the principles adopted by the Board of Regents in 1971 to govern the support of aid to nonpublic schools. First, aid must not jeopardize the welfare and adequate support of public schools. Aid must maintain the quality of nonpublic schools, but preserve their independence. Legislation proposing aid to nonpublic schools, but preserve their independence. Legislation must meet the test of



"I ask you to share my concern for the value of one human life." Said Governor Carey to those assembled in the Empire State Convention Center.

constitutionality. This year, the Regents have supported legislation regarding transportation to nonpublic schools at the urging of CSAANYS and the NYS Catholic Parents Federation.

Administrators Hear Ambach

Commissioner Ambach announced that the State Education Department was in the process of re-evaluating the services provided the non-public schools through the Bureau of Nonpublic School Services.

In the way of programs for the future, the Commissioner asked the administrators to share his support for the revision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act which would provide increased advantages to New York State, and the CETA connected Youth Employment Act.

In his concluding remarks, Commissioner Ambach expressed his appreciation for the cooperation of the nonpublic sector with other sectors of the educational system and hoped that all sectors would work to achieve greater levels of excellence in education in New York State.

In the following question and answer

period, the Commissioner dealt with various topics. In the area of tax credit for elementary and secondary school tuition, the Commissioner stated that although the Regents had endorsed the proposal for tuition tax credit on the post-secondary level, there was a question of constitutionality in regard to tax credit on the elementary and secondary levels. Therefore, the Regents did not endorse the proposal on these levels.

When questioned on the proposed transfer of the Bureau of Nonpublic Schools to the Cultural Education Center, the Commissioner assured the administrators that move had had nothing to do with the Bureau's level of importance in relationship to any other unit within the Department. The decision was made on the basis of how the Department could best use its facilities.

Commissioner Ambach also promised to obtain information on the extent of the



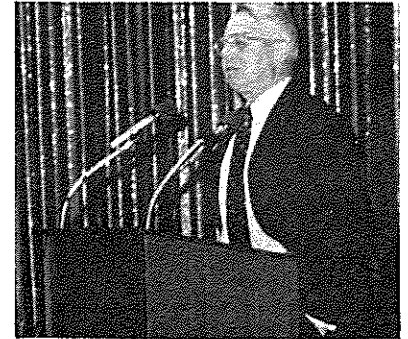
The CSAANYS Convocation occasioned the first address by Commissioner of New York State Ambach, to Catholic Administrators.

dissemination to the nonpublic schools of notices on the establishment of Teacher Centers in the Albany area and other information sent by the various departments of the State Education Department.



Father George Sheehan reactions from





Warren Anderson, President Pro Tem of the NYS Senate, reviewed for the principals some important facts in the lobbying process.

Since both the Senate and Assembly dealt with volumes of bills through a committee system, the Senator stressed that it was important to contact members of a particular committee early. It requires 31 votes in the Senate and 76 in the Assembly to pass a bill, thus making contact with local representatives in support of an issue important.

In reaction to the frustrations of the morning sessions, there followed a heated question and answer period. The Senator was asked why tuition tax credits for the elementary and secondary parents had disappeared from a bill recently passed by the legislature. He stated that through a process of negotiation credits for these levels had been eliminated due to the adverse financial impact such a loss of revenue would have on the state.

Senator Anderson was asked directly what action, if he was elected governor, he would take to help the Catholic schools survive. His answer, "I would be willing to do all that we can do constitutionally," drew moans and cries of "Copout" from the audience.

An administrator expressed the view of many that it was obvious that state aid was not so much a matter of constitutionality but politics. Another principal stated that although few of the audience were politicians, being closer to philosophers and poets, it was clear that action in the political arena was necessary to achieve representation as a force in education and to influence the selection of judges who set the constitutional limits as barriers to aid to nonpublic schools.

DIocese OF ALBANY

In search of a Superintendent. Inquire and/or send resume to: Selection Committee, Albany Diocesan School Board, 40 North Main Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12203. — Deadline June 1, 1978.



Principals began to recognize the need to become involved politically in order to develop "clout."

RATHER SWITCH THAN FIGHT

Following the Call to Action Session, Robert Stone, chief Counsel for the State Education Department addressed the administrators.

"Let me say at the outset," commented Mr. Stone, "if I say anything that offends anyone, I'd rather switch than fight."

Counsel Stone's text centered around the guidelines and minimum requirements for all schools as they are determined by the legislature, the Regents, and/or the Commissioner of Education.

It was stated by Stone that these stem from the fact that all youngsters between the ages of 6 and 16 must attend school, should be exposed to certain subjects of instruction and the instruction offered in schools other than public should be equivalent to that offered in the public school. He added, "there is no objection to it being superior."

Stone went on to mention that recent decisions such as Wolman in Ohio and the Filler Case in New York State have limited the services to nonpublic school students in sectarian schools. "These decisions," he stated, "have created a problem where therapeutic and remedial services must be rendered on a religiously neutral site." The

problem is transportation. Presently the district has no obligation to transport students other than from home to school.

The Regents have recommended that legislation be passed requiring the district to provide transportation to such "neutral" sites and that aid for such transportation be provided.

During the question and answer period, Stone was asked about nonpublic school involvement in a Drop-Out Prevention program that is to be funded by CETA. The counselor had no knowledge of the proposal but promises to investigate it.

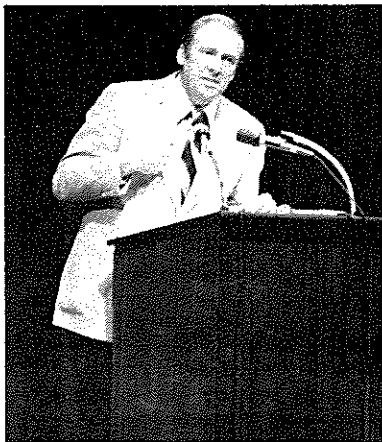
When queried on the rationale of the court in the Wolman and Filler cases, Stone stated, "The last thing I would do would be to defend the decision." He added that both courts felt they had to distinguish between what the court thought was instructional in nature and what was not. Their basic premise was that public funds may not be used for instruction in sectarian nonpublic schools.

Stone's presentation ended a long and stimulating day for the administrators. Br. Flood officially closed the convocation with a prayer and sincere thanks to all who contributed their time, talents and presence to this first endeavor by CSAANYS.



1 members of the Board accept resolutions and principals during the Call to Action.

The keynote address was given by Congressman Railsback, a Republican from Illinois, and sponsor of the Tuition Tax Credit legislation in the House of Representatives.



The Congressman urged that an all-out campaign for tax credits continue. Grass roots activity is essential. It is important for those present to mobilize forces to contact members of the House of Representatives urging their support of tax credits.

Noting a recent turn of events, Mr. Railsback left no doubt in the minds of all that the legislation is in jeopardy. In light of the opposition to the bill on the part of the White House, the bill which once boasted of over 250 supporters is losing backers.

Railsback, a constitutional lawyer, pointed out that unlike school aid bills in the past which were declared unconstitutional, the tax credit legislation

is "broad based and general in character."

The Congressman expressed dismay at President Carter's and HEW Sec. Califano's opposition to the legislation and their interference with the tax credit legislation in the House Ways and Means Committee.

What Congressmen have to ask themselves, Railsback said, is, "Do we believe that nonpublic schools in this country have provided a vital service to the national education?"

When the tax credit bill reaches the floor of the House efforts will be made to amend it to its original purpose to assist parents of elementary and secondary students.

It was evident from Railsback's tone that no matter how much effort is put into amending the bill there will be little chance of passage unless there is a strong campaign at the grass roots level from those in favor.

A strong campaign has been waged by the NEA, National PTA, American Jewish Congress, PEARL, etal, to oppose the tax credit legislation.

"A letter a day" should be the motto of every parent until this vital legislation is passed and signed by Carter.

It would be a travesty of justice if our neglect lets the opportunity pass us by.

Reactions Mixed and Missing

Seventy-five evaluations were left at the door; twenty-five more have arrived by mail. This is disappointing, when one considers that 470 administrators attended the first statewide convocation held by CSAANYS.

An overwhelming majority of the returned evaluations expressed interest in having an annual convocation. Whereas, 19 felt it should be held only when a topic of significance arises.

Although one principal said, "Based on this convocation, I would hesitate to attend another," the majority held that "we need to show 'Power' and the only way to do this is to be present. A yearly witness is necessary."

Regional Meetings

Twenty-five suggested that regional meetings also be held to discuss and update issues, legislation, position of local politicians, etc.

Reactions to the speakers ranged from "insulting" to "eye opener". The general feeling seemed to indicate that the speakers "said nothing new" and were "somewhat

ignorant as to the credentials and professionalism of the group" to whom they were speaking.

CSAANYS, though criticized by 3 for not controlling the length of the speeches, the contents of the talks, and not starting on time, was hailed for taking the risk. Gratitude was expressed for providing the opportunity to all to visit the State's Capital in order to be seen and heard as a force.

Convention and Luncheon facilities were rated satisfactory, although a few found the hall too cold and the cafeteria unable to handle the large group.

Pre-convocation materials were considered excellent by the majority (97-3). Those dissatisfied were concerned with the failure of CSAANYS to notify them of the change in the Keynote speaker. For this we do apologize. Time and budget became factors that prevented a personal mailing to all administrators in the state. Once we had secured a replacement for Senator Moynihan (he, as well as others in Washington, assisted us in this endeavor), a press release was sent to all the diocesan papers.

We Can't Stop Now

The National PTA, NEA, PEARL, American Jewish Congress, etal, have waged an extensive campaign to oppose Tuition Tax Credits to PARENTS of students in Elementary and Secondary schools. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU CONTINUE TO WRITE TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN.

* thank them for past support and ask them to continue their support;

* request from the uncommitted their support and a written statement on their position;

* write to the opponents expressing your dissatisfaction;

* DON'T OVERLOOK PRESIDENT CARTER.

Tuition Tax Credit legislation provides the most effective and least complicated way to provide parents with financial relief from the increasing costs of education.

Call To Action

Continued from Page 1

Department. It will be recommended to Commissioner Ambach that a consultant, well versed in the workings of the Catholic sector of education, be appointed to assist in any evaluation of services to nonpublic schools by the Department.

In a most stirring moment, an administrator from Brooklyn arose to proclaim, "The Assembly is Called to Action." The administrators were charged with the responsibility to communicate what had happened to fellow administrators absent that day.

In reviewing the events of the day, many concluded that it had been one more instance of the low regard in which Catholics are held by most politicians and those in the public sector of education. Yet, by the Call to Action, the administrators witnessed that it was good for them to have been there through a re-commitment to the struggle for the rights of their students and Catholic citizens in New York State.

Evaluations Still Called For

If you haven't sent an evaluation, we would like to hear from you. Any decisions made by the Board concerning a future convocation will be determined by the response. One hundred evaluations are not enough.

We would also like to hear from those who did not attend. Your response to a future convocation, and, your reactions to the contents of this newsletter will be most helpful to the Board as they plan activities for the coming year. The Board will meet in Albany on June 11 and 12.

Our thanks to all who supported the Convocation by their presence and to those, who, unable to be with us, kept us in their prayers.