

Tuition Tax Deduction-Credit Bills Gain Support

Draney to Catholic League. Board Delays Replacement

Brother Draney has accepted the post of Director of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights in the New York region. The League, a national organization founded in Washington in 1973, has been called the Catholic B'nai B'rith.

Its purpose is to alert and protect against anti-Catholicism in America. It has taken groups to court for defamation and has organized boycotts of advertisers who support magazines which defame our religion. The League got Xerox Corp. to withdraw financial support of a population control pamphlet which misrepresented and ridiculed some Catholic doctrines.

Brother's advocacy of Parent Power in education and politics will be continued in his new role, through both writings and talks. Development of teaching aids on this subject will be one of his top priorities.

"I am very pleased to be asked to set up a regional office for the League," said Brother Draney, "because I feel it is the most viable organization for Catholics today. And I am grateful to my superiors for permitting me to undertake this new and challenging assignment."

The office will be in the Bronx, but Brother will do a great deal of traveling in the state, speaking to groups and organizing support for the League.

The Board, after much in-pur from the staff and the search committee, made the difficult decision to leave the position open for the present. Brother Draney's continuing availability as a speaker, the pressure of rising costs and necessary capital expenses this year, plus the need for re-evaluating goals and priorities in the light of present job descriptions were all factors in this decision.

While there was a wide range of opinion in this decision, there was a unanimous feeling that the people who had applied were excellent prospects, which made the decision more difficult.

Financial aid for parents paying tuition in nonpublic or public schools is on the horizon. It is in the form of tax deductions or tax credits based on the Buckley-Delaney Bills which almost succeeded last year. The Delaney-Schweiker Bills provide up to a \$1,000 income tax deduction or a \$250 tax credit for education costs from first grade through graduate school in both public and nonpublic institutions. The costs may be for the taxpayer himself, or for a spouse, or for dependents.

Co-sponsors growing fast

As of April 22, Delaney's bill has been strongly supported through co-sponsorship by 23 members of the House; Schweiker's bill in the Senate by 7 fellow Senators. New York State has 39 representatives, the following 7 have given their support:

Thomas Downey, West Islip
James Delaney, Long Island City
Leo Zeferetti, Ft. Hamilton Park
Hamilton Fish, Millbrook
Donald Mitchell, Herkimer
Jack Kemp, Hamburg
John LaFalce, Kenmore

Neither Senator Javits nor Moynihan has co-sponsored Schweiker's bill, but Moynihan has indicated interest.

We hope parents will write their elected representatives, telling them of parental

Buckley-Delaney last year, which was taken as opposition in some political quarters. Never clearly stated, the reason seemed to be a belief that B-D would not really help our parents because they were in the lower tax brackets.

Studies done last year here in N.Y. showed this to be false. The March newsletter of CAPE shows that most of the nonpublic school children in the U.S. are from middle-class parents with average incomes.

There was also some speculation that the USCC preferred the Roth bill for higher education. In any case, it is hoped that the USCC will use its communication network with the schools to make principals across America aware of the Delaney-Schweiker bills, and through them, the parents.

All members should have received a flyer produced by CEF on these bills. Any principal who wishes another copy of the flyer or further information, please write this office.

**Don't Forget:
Amsterdam Workshop
Monday, May 9th.**

needs. Officers of parent groups could phone the local offices (or the Washington offices) of their legislators to speak for their group.

Support from Sen. Roth

One of the problems of last year's effort to help parents was that there was a "competing" bill by Senator Roth, which applied to higher education only. Last year he refused to merge his bill with Buckley's, but this year he is co-sponsoring Sen. Schweiker's bill which, of course, includes higher education.

Lack of support from USCC

The USCC, the administrative arm of the Bishop's Conference, did not support

Electrical Rate Problem

In its research on electrical costs, CSAANYS discovered that in spite of the law saying that "religious institutions" be given the residential rate, some schools are charged commercial rates.

A questionnaire was mailed to 90 high schools in the dioceses of Brooklyn and N.Y. Thirty-six responded. Sixteen of these are on the higher commercial rates; their electrical bills for 76-77 will total over \$650,000. The residential rate would produce a savings of around 30% for them.

Practically all schools under Niagara Mohawk are on commercial rates; the vast majority of schools under the other utility companies are also under commer-

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Returns on Transportation Query Disappointing and Inconclusive

To provide a factual basis for a revision of some aspects of the transportation law and regulations, CSAANYS sent a questionnaire to the membership. Only 37 out of the 900 sent were returned. The returns indicate that—

- only 13 families in the state have been denied the opportunity of sending their children to the parish school because it is not the "nearest available."

- only 52 families live beyond the 15 mile limit.

- only 10 schools have a problem over late buses for activities.

- only a few schools, a half dozen or so, are denied transportation on certain holidays, including the Jewish Holidays.

It is true that the questionnaire was worded in such a way that if a school had no problems, it did not have to respond. But can we believe that only 37 schools had difficulties?

Pressures of time and priorities are understandable, yet our effectiveness in speaking for the nonpublic school is only as great as the input we receive.

The issue of freedom of choice for parents is of great concern to us. The "nearest available" and the 15 mile limit are obstacles in exercising that freedom. They must be changed.

Statistics are essential to this effort, not only to us as we present our case, but to those legislators willing to support us and show the justice of our cause to their fellow legislators.

Electrical Rate Problem

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cial, and we think the savings would be in the same general area.

A presentation was made by Br. Draney on March 2 to the Superintendents' Council, outlining a proposed action to rectify the situation. This included engaging attorneys, meeting with the utility companies, possible petitions to the PSC with resultant hearings, and eventual litigation if all else failed. Also mentioned was the possibility of a new rate for all schools, public and nonpublic, based on an entirely new conservation-oriented approach to pricing.

A task force is to be formed to look into the problem and proposed solution. CSAANYS is urging that a single unified approach be made, because the problem involves seven major utilities and schools in eight dioceses.

It is not too late for administrators to report their transportation problems. We would be happy to send another form if they should need it.

NEWSBRIEFS

Regents and Calendar Study

The Regents, through Deputy Commissioner Thomas Sheldon, has asked CSAANYS to thank all of its members who wrote expressing their view (generally negative) about the proposed extended winter recess. The Regents has withdrawn its recommendation for the 1977-78 school year and asked for an in-depth study of possible changes in the school calendar.

Nondiscrimination Certification

Private schools exempt from income tax must file an annual certificate of non-discrimination with the IRS. Since our schools do not have to file Form 990 (a report of income), and therefore can not certify on it, we must use Form 5578.

Diocesan offices can certify for all schools under their jurisdiction. No doubt such schools will be advised by their diocesan authorities if anything is required of them in this regard.

Independent school listed in the Official Catholic Directory are exempt from income tax under the group exemption letter issued annually to the USCC. They should list the group exemption number as 0928 and the employer identification number of USCC as 53-0196617.

Health Services Challenged

An individual in Port Washington is challenging the constitutionality of the health and welfare services provided to our schools under No. 912. The parents of St. Peter's school in P.W. will be involved in the defense of the services. Thomas Ford, the attorney who won the Grieve Case regarding the rights of religious agencies to consider religious background in adoption procedures, will probably represent the parents.

ECOS Workshops

If administrators wish to get in on an ECOS workshop, there are three scheduled before the end of June:

Ulster County, May 17-19.

Harbor Fields, L.I., May 31-June 2.

No. Bellmore, L.I., June 28-30.

Shell Oil Denies Exemption

Customers of Shell who received notification that they were no longer exempt were the victims of shoddy clerical practice. The letters were never intended for our schools.

Schools that get further letters or problems should call Shell at its expense on 800-331-3703.

Dues To Go Up

An increase in the "per capita" factor of figuring dues was approved by the Board at the March 25 meeting. Starting on September 1, dues will be figured on 15¢ times the enrollment, plus the \$10 per administrator placed on the mailing list.

The cost of mailings, phones, and travel has climbed sharply. The feeling of both the staff and the board is that CSAANYS, if it is to be effective, can not cut back in expense related to direct service of the schools.

Administrators whose membership expires in the fall may send in their renewal before Sept. 1 to take advantage of the lower rate. Those due before Sept. 1 but paid after Sept. 1 will be on the new higher rate.

Committee for Finances

At the same meeting a committee was established to examine all aspects of our financing. It will evaluate our present procedures, look for new sources of revenue, including grants, and analyze our "attrition" problem.

A sizeable amount of revenue and support is lost each year because "new" principals are often unaware of our work and history; since they are too busy to read the file on CSAANYS, we often lose their membership for a year or more.

We continue to ask present administrators to RENEW FOR THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATOR, who will at least then get the information we send and have a basis for making a decision the next year. Unfortunately, many fail to do so, and the in-coming principal is lost to us for at least a year.

Since there is, state-wide, a large number of new principals each year, the problem is a serious one. New membership is just about cancelled out by this attrition.

Free Teaching Aids re: Abortion

High school principals should have received information from the Catholic League on a free tape-slide presentation, along with an instruction manual and a copy of "Handbook on Abortion" by Dr. and Mrs. Willke. If you were skipped, write to the Catholic League at 1100 West Wells St. Milwaukee, Wis. 53233.

Electrical Savings

Archbishop Molloy H.S., Jamaica, reports savings of \$1,000 per month on electrical costs, despite rate increases in March and July, since it installed around 550 fluorescent fixtures throughout the building, and 36 sodium lamps in the gym. Expenses should be recouped in three to five years.

Inner-city Guidance Grant

The Edward W. Hazen Foundation has indicated some interest in guidance programs aimed at the problems of the inner-city high school student. Please contact Sr. Catherine for details.