

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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Juvenile Delinquency Bill Passes Senate

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- A \$25 million bill seeking a solution to the problem of juvenile delinquency has been passed by the Senate.

Jointly sponsored by Sens. Joseph S. Clark (D., Pa.) and Lister Hill (D., Ala.) the bill states that "the policy of the Federal Government shall be to assist in the prevention, control, and treatment of juvenile delinquency." It authorizes for appropriation \$2.5 million a year for five years for demonstration and study projects and \$2.5 million a year for five years for training personnel to work in the field of juvenile delinquency.

Widely supported by many parent, social and religious groups, the measure contains church-state problems similar to those that have appeared in legislation on housing, urban renewal and public health. The bill provides for grants or contracts to carry out its purposes.

Specifically, grants may be made to "States and municipalities and to other public and private nonprofit agencies, including institutions of higher education or research." This includes church-sponsored agencies.

According to the bill the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare at his discretion shall determine whether or not the organization receiving a grant shall contribute money, facilities or services to match the Federal share.

Acting upon the assumption that the churches and the government are partners in matters of mutual concern, the Congress increasingly considers legislation that will aid the churches and their agencies to accomplish social welfare objectives.

The House of Representatives has similar juvenile delinquency legislation pending before the House Education and Labor Committee. Although no bill on the subject has yet been reported out of the House committee, it is expected that some action will probably be taken before the end of this session of Congress.

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World Friendship Day Proposed For Churches

3-2-60

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The first Sunday in May has been proposed as World Friendship Day by Rep. Harlan Hagen (D., Calif.) in a bill introduced in the House of Representatives.

The purpose of the day would be to stimulate the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples.

The bill as proposed would make the first Sunday in May a legal holiday and would invite the people of the United States to participate in the observance of such a day with appropriate ceremonies in schools, churches and other suitable places.

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Agitation Continues
For National Lottery

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Agitation for the establishment of a national lottery for the purpose of reducing taxes continues periodically on Capitol Hill. Bills for this purpose have been introduced in the House and the sponsors continue their agitation by occasional inserts in the Congressional Record.

Rep. Paul A. Fino (R., N. Y.) recently urged the House of Representatives to stop talking about taxes and start doing something about it by passing his national lottery bill which, he claims, will produce \$10 billion additional revenue for the national treasury.

In another insert in the Congressional Record Fino used the growing horse-racing business, the natural desire for gambling and the practice of some of the States as arguments for a national lottery. He urged Congress to "remove the blinders" and establish a lottery that "could easily satisfy the natural gambling spirit of the American people" and that would result in a tax cut for hard-pressed wage earners.

There is no indication at the present moment that Congress will seriously consider these proposals, but church and civic groups are asked to be on the alert to maintain a public sentiment against a national lottery. Economic pressures, efforts of the gambling interests, and lack of a strong public opinion create a situation in which such measures can be passed without too much difficulty.

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Asks For Conferences On
Narcotics, Obscenity

3-2-60

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Senators and Representatives are calling for White House Conferences on the traffic in obscene matters and on the illicit use of narcotics. Resolutions have been introduced in both Houses of Congress to provide for conferences on these subjects similar to the White House Conference on Education and the approaching Conference on Children and Youth.

Such conferences which convene at the call of the President of the United States are composed of Federal, State and local officials and members of public and private groups or organizations. Observations indicate that the Roman Catholic Church makes extensive preparation for its representatives to participate freely and effectively in these conferences, while much less interest and preparation is shown by Baptists and other Protestant groups.

The purpose of such conferences would be to secure information, explore methods of control, work out programs of coordination, and formulate recommended legislation both for the states and for the federal governments.

Church-state problems are involved in such programs in the manner in which the churches and the government cooperate to combat these evils.

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Hospitals Ask Exemption
From Transportation Tax

3-2-60

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Nonprofit hospitals have joined other groups in asking exemption from the communications and transportation taxes. Rep. Frank E. Smith (D., Miss.) has introduced a bill calling for such an exemption.

In 1958 nonprofit educational institutions were granted exemption from the 10 per cent transportation and communications tax. Immediately other church-related institutions began to ask for similar exemption.

The transportation and communication excise tax was imposed as a Korean wartime measure, and it has never been repealed. However, last year a law was enacted that will reduce from 10 per cent to five per cent the tax on passenger transportation, effective July 1, 1960. Also effective July 1, 1960 is the repeal of the 10 per cent tax on local telephone service.

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Prayer Room Dedicated
In New Senate Building

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- A special prayer room in the New Senate Office Building has been dedicated for the use of the Ladies Prayer Group and for others.

The Ladies Prayer Group is composed of wives of Senators. The Men's Prayer Group is made up of certain Senators who have a special interest in strengthening the religious and devotional life. Both groups are affiliated with the International Christian Leadership, a national organization composed of more than 200 such prayer groups.

Sen. Olin D. Johnston (D., S. C.), an active Baptist deacon, spoke at the dedication of the ladies' prayer room. He said, "Man requires and demands a divine power as a source of help and guidance. Here in this room you may gather. In its quietness you may ask for divine intercession, spiritual guidance and seek forgiveness for the errors of the flesh."

This is the second such room on Capitol Hill. The other is in the Capitol itself and is for the use of the members of Congress.

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Congresswoman Resents
Charges Against Clergy

3-2-60

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Rep. Edith Green (D., Ore.) has expressed indignation in the House of Representatives over the false charges that a large segment of the Protestant clergy has been infiltrated by Communism.

Speaking of the now famous Air Force Training Manual Mrs. Green said, "I share the indignation which has arisen as a result of the printing of this manual, and I must say that I do not feel the Air Force can do enough to undo the harm which was done by the incredibly bad judgment of someone in authority in that Department in clearing this manual."

In her remarks Mrs. Green pointed out that charges of Communism in the clergy arose from "extreme right wing" agitators. Speaking against the source of information for the Air Force Manual she asked, "Since when did an obscure rightwinger, whose comments are found quoted approvingly in some of the worst racebaiting and undemocratic periodicals in the Nation, become the infallible spiritual adviser of the Air Force?"

Mrs. Green called for a complete investigation "into the responsibility for this affair." She then quoted from leading newspapers and columnists throughout the United States that condemned "McCarthyite thinking" that leads to a smear of the Nation's clergy.

Pointing out the sources of the current drive to discredit the National Council of Churches, Mrs. Green said that opposition comes from diehard segregationists who resent the position taken by the National Council on race relations and from those who oppose the position of the Fifth World Order Study Conference in Cleveland last year that recommended a restudy of the possibility of admitting Red China to the United Nations.

Mrs. Green spoke favorably for the National Council of Churches for speaking out "against the continuation of the un-Christian and un-democratic practices of segregation and discrimination."

She further stated that she had participated in the World Order Study Conference in Cleveland. She said, "I came away feeling that the conference had taken a wise and thoughtful middle position, between those who would have us immediately recognize Red China, unconditionally, and those who would have us close our minds to the possibility and our eyes to the realities."

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Priest Answers Question
About Catholic President

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Roman Catholics should not charge non-Catholics with "bigotry" when they express fear of a Roman Catholic president according to Fr. Raymond Wm. Gribbin in an article in the Feb. 28, 1960 issue of Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic weekly newspaper.

Neither should the Roman Catholic respond to such fears as "the unfounded phantasms of ignorance," Gribbin declared. "To label those who possess these fears as bigots is unjust. To consider the fears themselves as unfounded is unreal," he said.

The priest, a former associate editor of the Baltimore Catholic Review and at present assistant pastor at St. Matthew's church in Baltimore, urged Catholics to take advantage of the current discussions about a Catholic president as an opportunity "to clarify the errors" and "to spread a greater knowledge of the Faith."

Gribbin asked Roman Catholics to suppress the desire to respond to charges with angry indignation, to listen to and answer all arguments against themselves, and to vote for a candidate because of his qualifications for office.

Pointing out that the most widespread objection to a Roman Catholic president is that "as a Catholic he owes first allegiance to a foreign ruler," Gribbin acknowledged that there is no simple way to answer this charge. He said that every Catholic must give complete allegiance to the Pope and that the Pope is a foreign ruler, but that "as the ruler of an American Catholic the Pope remains only a spiritual ruler."

In a reference to Senator Kennedy's declaration that as president he would put nothing above his oath of office, Gribbin explained that there is nothing in the oath taken by the president of the United States that would prevent any Catholic from taking it in all good conscience. He said that a faithful Catholic has the highest regard for oaths and that he cannot violate an oath without turning his back on God.

Gribbin candidly faced the question, "What if the Pope commanded a Catholic president to do something that would not be to the best interests of our country?" He said that Catholics found it difficult to imagine how such a situation may arise, but that the question deserved an answer.

The answer is: "If the Pope would command a Catholic president to do something that would not be to the best interests of this country, then that president would be forced to resign his office. In no other way could he continue to live in the friendship of God."

Explaining the Roman Catholic obligations in oaths Gribbin said that a Catholic "must be perfectly sure that there is nothing in the oath which is contrary to what he believes, that there is nothing in the oath which will bind him to actions which he cannot perform." Only when these facts have been established may he take the oath without committing a sin."

"Once he has taken the oath," Gribbin continued, "he is bound by the full force of the Second Commandment to carry out that oath faithfully and rather die than violate it."