

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE  
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**Parochial Schools Are  
Removed From Aid Bills**

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Current education bills in Congress have eliminated church-state problems and the proposals from both Houses are for public funds for public schools only.

The new House bill (H. R. 10128), which has been reported favorably from the Committee on Education and Labor, provides for \$975 million over a period of three years for the construction of public school facilities. This bill is a substitute for H. R. 22 that has been bottled up in the House Rules Committee since last year and is also the House committee answer to the Senate bill passed earlier this year.

Both the Senate passed education bill and the earlier House proposal provide not only federal funds for classroom construction but also for teachers salaries. The new House bill is for construction purposes only.

During the debate in the Senate efforts were made to pass an amendment to provide federal loans for parochial schools. It was defeated by a majority of 14 votes. The House committee considered the same proposal and voted not to include it in its bill.

The possibility always exists, however, that a parochial school amendment will be proposed on the floor of the House or that in the Conference Committee of the Senate and House such a proposal will be included.

The Department of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference has determined that it will be opposed to any school aid bill that does not include benefits for parochial schools. Thus far the Roman Catholic effort to gain support for parochial schools has not been successful.

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**Foreign Excess Property  
To Schools, Hospitals**

(4-8-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Religious as well as public educational and health institutions abroad would benefit by American excess property by a bill offered in Congress by Rep. John S. Monagan (D., Conn.).

The proposal is to permit the donation "for equitable distribution to nonprofit or tax-supported medical institutions, hospitals, clinics, health centers, schools, colleges and universities" such usable and needed properties of United States agencies abroad as may be declared "excess."

Under the proposal the foreign country would designate the agency to which American property would be given. Such excess property under this bill does not include real property.

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New College Loan  
Program Developing

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- A new development appears to be in the making for federal loans for colleges.

Similar bills have been introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives proposing loans for the total construction and equipment programs of both public and religious colleges and universities.

Heretofore, federal loans for college housing have been available, but this new proposal extends the loan principle to classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and related facilities, including initial equipment, machinery and utilities. It also includes the rehabilitation, alteration, conversion or improvement of such existing structures.

The new loan program would be for "any educational institution offering at least a two-year program acceptable for full credit toward a baccalaureate degree, including any public educational institution, or any private educational institution" that is a nonprofit school.

The Senate bill provides for \$125 million to be available to colleges for 50 year loans at an interest rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum, or  $1/8$  of one per cent per annum added to the rate of interest paid by the Secretary of the Treasury. One of the House bills calls for \$800 million for 50 year loans at  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cent interest, or  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent added to the federal cost of loans. Such funds would be available to schools that could not get loans on equally favorable terms or conditions elsewhere.

The loans available under this proposal would be restricted to the total cost of the project, including the cost of acquiring any land necessary.

A formidable array of sponsors in the Senate include three of the major Democratic candidates for the Presidency (Humphrey, Kennedy, and Symington), and a leading sponsor in the House is Rep. Carl Elliott (D., Ala.) who was one of the key figures in pushing through the National Defense Education Act of 1958.

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Note to Editors: In the near future C. Emanuel Carlson will have an editorial-feature article for you reviewing the development of the loan procedure for religious institutions, explaining what is involved and referring to a recent resolution of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs on the subject.

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SBC Executive Committee  
Invited To Washington

(4-8-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The nation's capital city has been proposed for the new headquarters of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, if it moves from Nashville, Tenn.

James O. Duncan, editor of the Capital Baptist, official organ of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, made the proposal in an editorial.

Discussion of a move from Nashville on the part of the Executive Committee and certain other agencies has been precipitated by the action of the city of Nashville to tax all of the properties owned by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, publication house of the Convention.

"There has been a feeling in the minds of many," Duncan said, "that the Executive Committee should not be too closely associated with any particular board or agency."

The advantages of the Washington location for the Executive Committee were listed by Duncan. Although not the geographical center of the nation, Washington is the symbolical center, he said. Adequate travel facilities to and from all parts of the nation are readily available from Washington.

In addition to the fact that Washington is the center of government, it is also headquarters for offices of leading industries, labor organizations,

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trade associations, and the like, Duncan pointed out.

Other denominations have looked upon Washington as an ideal spot for strong administrative centers, Duncan said. Specifically he named the Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Episcopalians, and the Roman Catholics.

"If there is to be a move by the Executive Committee, then we would suggest that they consider Washington, D. C. as their new home," Duncan concluded.

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Church-State Problems  
Challenge Nation Today

(4-8-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Separation of church and state is "the most creative idea ever introduced into human statecraft." This is an appraisal by a speaker at the annual meeting of the Associated Church Press here.

Fred S. Buschmeyer, director of the Washington office of the National Council of Churches and a Congregational minister, told the ACP that his denomination was not responsible for democracy or religious liberty in this country. "The Congregationalists in New England were not interested in democracy. They wanted theocracy, and they wouldn't even let a person vote unless he were a member of the church."

"It was the bludgeoning of the Baptists and the Quakers that brought Congregationalists to separation of church and state," Buschmeyer said.

In his interpretation of the Washington scene to the visiting church editors Buschmeyer said that the problem of separation of church and state is coming into sharper focus now and in the next few years than at any time in the past 100 years. He pointed out the overlapping role of the government and the churches in providing for human welfare.

"We have taken a negative attitude toward separation of church and state," Buschmeyer continued, by cutting off religion from life. This is not what our forefathers said. They did not separate religion from life, but they advocated the institutional separation of church and state."

"The resolution of the problems of church and state will come about from intelligent citizenship as well as intelligent churchmanship," he said.

Denying the need for church lobbies in seats of government, Buschmeyer said that the important thing is for the church to be the church and for church people to make the gospel "a living gospel that carries over into practical life." Since 99 per cent of the members of Congress are also members of some church, Buschmeyer continued, the churches are responsible to communicate the ideals and the standards to their membership.

"The miracle that is needed in American life is not in Washington," Buschmeyer asserted, "but it is out where the Nation is."

"It is the function of the churches to create climate," Buschmeyer concluded. A moral and spiritual climate is the particular responsibility of the churches, he said. "Each generation must win its heritage for itself."

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Colonial Policy Pops Up  
In Education Proposal

(4-8-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Another effort will be made in Congress to revert back to American colonial policy in education, which makes the "encouragement" of religion and education a responsibility of government.

Rep. Frank T. Bow (R., Ohio) has introduced a bill to reaffirm and re-enact a portion of Article III of the Ordinance of 1787, which was adopted by the Confederation Congress. His bill would also return 25 per cent of the federal tax on cigarettes to the states to be used for educational purposes.

An identical bill was defeated in the Senate earlier this year during the debate on federal aid to education. Bow's proposal will be considered when the House debates its education bill.

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The Ordinance of 1787 contained a complicated church-state arrangement, which was later repealed to eliminate the violation of separation of church and state.

The portion proposed for reaffirmation reads: "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

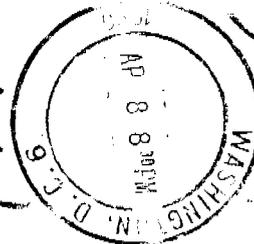
The method of "encouraging" religion and education under the Ordinance of 1787 as applied to the Northwest Territory was to set aside Lot Number 16 in every township, including 640 acres, for the support of schools. Lot Number 29 was for the support of religion and two townships were for the benefit of a university.

In explaining his proposition Bow said that it would provide about \$400 million a year for education, that it would recognize that the responsibility for education is a function of the states, and that it would eliminate the possibility of federal control of education.

Apparently no recognition of the church-state problem involved in the bill was recognized by either proponent in the Senate or the House.

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