

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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August 11, 1960

Private Schools Aided
By School Lunch Act

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Private schools will receive \$5,445,777 from the Federal government in the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 1961, as welfare service under the National School Lunch Act, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture.

An additional but undetermined amount will go to private schools through the allotments to the various States. The laws in some States prohibit the distribution of public tax monies to private schools. In such cases the Federal government withholds a certain percentage of that State's allotment and administers the program directly with the school.

The total amount to be distributed through the School Lunch program will be \$93,600,000, of which amount \$88,154,223 will be handled through State departments of education. The remainder will be administered directly to private schools through the Agricultural Marketing Service.

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Retiring BWA Secretary
Honored by D. C. Baptists

(8-12-60) (8-11-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Arnold T. Ohrn, retiring general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance with headquarters here, will be honored at a dinner, Sept. 9, sponsored jointly by the District of Columbia Baptist Convention and the First Baptist Church of Washington.

Ohrn's retirement became effective at the Baptist World Congress at Rio de Janeiro earlier in the summer. In the fall Mr. and Mrs. Ohrn will move to Berkeley, California, where he will serve on the faculties of Berkeley Baptist Divinity School (American Baptist) and the Golden Gate Baptist Seminary (Southern Baptist.)

M. Chandler Stith is the executive secretary of the District of Columbia Convention and Edward Hughes Pruden is pastor of the First Baptist Church.

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President Asks Nation
To Observe Prayer Day

(8-12-60) (8-11-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- America enjoys the blessings of liberty "by the grace of God" according to President Eisenhower in his proclamation of a day of prayer for the people of the United States.

Wednesday, October 5, is the National Day of Prayer as set by the President under instruction from Congress.

In his proclamation the President called upon his countrymen to remember that "the abundant gifts of our Creator" are not deserved "by our own righteousness," that the heritage of faith lays upon its recipients a responsible stewardship, that the Nation should place its trust in the keeping of God's commandments, and that the Nation should strive for the achievement "of the world that is meant to be."

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Complete text of the President's proclamation is as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE
(Newport, Rhode Island)

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 1960

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS by the grace of God we live in a good land where each citizen can enjoy the blessings of liberty; and

WHEREAS our forebears did establish in this land a Nation whose law defends and whose spirit ever nourishes that liberty; and

WHEREAS the Congress, by a joint resolution approved April 17, 1952 (66 Stat. 64), sought to remind our citizens of this heritage by providing that the President "shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation":

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, President of the United States of America, do hereby set aside Wednesday, the fifth day of October 1960, as a National Day of Prayer; and I call upon my countrymen to observe it, remembering:

First, that it is not by our strength alone, nor by our own righteousness, that we have deserved the abundant gifts of our Creator;

Second, that the heritage of a faith born of hope and raised in sacrifice lays upon its heirs the high calling of being generous and responsible stewards in our own and among the kindred nations of the earth;

Third, that in this time of testing we shall ever place our trust in the keeping of God's commandments, knowing that He who has brought us here requires justice and mercy in return;

And finally, that as we lift our thankful hearts to Him, we will see clearly the vision of the world that is meant to be and set our hearts resolutely toward the achievement of it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this twenty-second day of July in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-fifth.

(SEAL)

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

By the President:

CHRISTIAN A. HERTER

Secretary of State

BAPTIST FEATURES

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activities, trends, and newsmakers.

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Parochialists Continue Demand For School Aid

By W. Barry Garrett*

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The heat is on! The pressure never lets up! Whenever there is talk of Federal aid to education the advocates of public tax aid to parochial schools are in there fighting.

An aid to education bill in the post-Convention session of Congress is conceded by political observers on both sides of the fence as a "must" piece of legislation. Those who want public aid for parochial schools take the attitude that while there is life there is hope, and regardless of the odds against them they continue to hammer away at the idea that private schools must share in the public funds.

Both houses of Congress have passed aid to education bills, but the measures are tied up in the House Rules Committee, which will not agree to a conference committee with the Senate. However, political pressure is mounting for some sort of an education bill during this session of Congress, and the outlook is that some maneuver will be attempted to get action in the near future.

Although the attempt to add an amendment to the Senate bill to provide loans for parochial schools was defeated by a narrow margin, and although a similar proposal in the House was ruled out of order, the private school forces are piling up pressure on the Congressmen to include the parochial schools in whatever measure may be agreed upon.

The organization, Citizens for Educational Freedom, a non-sectarian group largely under the domination of Roman Catholic interests, is calling for a nationwide letter campaign to Congressmen and to newspapers demanding aid to parochial schools. A letter to the editor of the Washington Evening Star from James P. Bick, president of CEF, urges that any bill that provides aid only to public schools be defeated unless it is amended to provide equal or near-equal benefits to parochial schools.

With the heat of the election campaigns pressing heavily on Congress, with the effort to adjourn Congress at the earliest possible moment, and with the heavy legislative schedule confronting them, the members of Congress may not take time to do as careful a job as they otherwise would do, and some unfortunate legislation may be allowed to slip through. Among such possibilities is Federal aid to parochial schools.

Congressmen usually will do what they think their constituencies are demanding. If the proponents of the public schools and the advocates of continued religious freedom are not as militant as the parochialists, there is serious danger that a new philosophy of education will be sold to the American people and public tax monies will be used for the religious education program of the churches.

This is a perpetual and continuous battle, the issues of which are not settled when some bill or amendment in Congress is defeated. New bills can be introduced at any time. The basic problem is to sell and resell the American

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public on the values of the public school system, the rights of private groups to maintain their own schools at their own expense, and to understand what is involved in the principles of freedom of religion and freedom of education.

In the meantime, it would be very effective if another stream of letters to members of Congress and to newspapers throughout the nation could remind those in responsible positions of the fallacies in the arguments for public aid to parochial schools and insisting that church and state be kept separate and that religious liberty be preserved.

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*Mr. Garrett is associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C. He is also the regional editor of the Baptist Press in the Nation's Capital.