

April 2, 1961

**Parochial Tuition May  
Get Supreme Court Test**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Can a school district constitutionally pay tuition for students at Roman Catholic parochial schools?

The answer to the above question is being sought in a petition to the United States Supreme Court filed by Paul M. Butler, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

The Supreme Court of Vermont unanimously held that such payments are a state assistance to religion and thus a violation of the first amendment to the constitution of the United States. The petition before the U. S. Supreme Court seeks a review of that decision.

The Supreme Court is not required to pass on the merits of the Vermont controversy at all. It can deny review without giving any reason. The effect would be to leave the Vermont court's decision standing.

The case rises from a test in the South Burlington Town School District, which has no secondary schools, and which pays tuition for all students in its area at any secondary school they chose to attend. Many of the students chose to go to Catholic schools in other areas.

C. Raymond Swart, a resident and taxpayer of the district brought a suit to enjoin the school district from paying such tuition. The school district did not choose to take the case to the U. S. Supreme Court, but the parents filed the petition for review.

The decision in this case will rank along with the Everson case in importance for the future church-state relations in the United States.

The Kennedy administration has taken the position that grants, loans and tuition payments for parochial schools are unconstitutional.

Citizens for Education Freedom and other groups are pressing for a tuition payment plan for pupils in parochial schools and have adopted the slogan, "A Fair Share for Every Child," urging that refusal to pay parochial tuition is discrimination against non-public school pupils.

In his petition to the Supreme Court, Butler said, "Review by the court in the instant case furnishes an opportunity which may never come again to enlighten the President, Congress, the states, the bench, the bar, the school authorities, the private educators and the country as a whole as to what the first amendment permits or prohibits in the form of direct financial payments of public funds to sectarian schools or to their parents."

Butler argued that a court decision in 1895 permitting federal aid to Catholic hospitals in the District of Columbia is precedent for aid to schools. He also cited a federal statute authorizing payment of tuition at private or parochial schools for pages of Congress and the Supreme Court.

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**Baptist Leader Returns  
To Diplomatic Service**

(4-2-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--A prominent Baptist leader and a career diplomat has returned to government service under the new Kennedy administration.

Paul Geren, former vice-president of Baylor University and more recently executive director of the Dallas (Tex.) Council of World Affairs, has been recalled to

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Washington. His position is deputy director in the Bureau of Economic Affairs, office of International Financial and Development Affairs.

A foreign service officer, class 1, Geren served the State Department from 1947 until 1956 as deputy director for Near Eastern affairs and served on diplomatic assignments in India, Syria and Jordan.

In addition to his previous State Department experience, he spent six earlier years in the Near and Middle East as college professor, ambulance driver in the Chinese army, and medic and intelligence officer with the U. S. Army in the China-Burma-India theater. When discharged in 1946 he was a first lieutenant, decorated with the bronze star medal for bravery.

Geren is well-known in Baptist circles for his book "Burma Diary," and other publications featuring Baptist work in the Far East and in Russia.

Although currently stationed in Washington, Geren's new duties may take him into various parts of the world and a foreign assignment may be given to him in the future.

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Catholic Letters Hit  
Hierarchy's Position

(4-2-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Roman Catholic letters on federal aid to education are running against the position taken by the hierarchy, at least according to one congressman's mail.

Rep. Frank Thompson (D., N. J.) told the House Subcommittee on Education that "I happen to be a Catholic and my mail indicates that more people of my faith oppose the hierarchy's position than support it." They want any proposal for loans to parochial schools to be considered separately from a general education bill.

The Roman Catholic bishops have insisted that they will oppose any federal aid to education bill that does not include loans to parochial schools.

Both President Kennedy and many members of Congress are seeking to have these two issues separated and each one considered on its own merits. The reason is that most legislators feel attaching anti-segregation amendments or aid to parochial school amendments to an education bill will result in its defeat.

Although Thompson is a Roman Catholic, he is a graduate of Wake Forest College Law School, a Baptist institution in North Carolina.

At the closing session of the House hearings on the education bill, two Jewish groups took opposing views on federal aid to parochial education.

Leo Pfeffer, general counsel of the American Jewish Congress, a community service organization, told the subcommittee that any federal aid to sectarian schools "most certainly would mark the beginning of the end of the American principle of religious liberty and church-state separation."

Rabbi Morris Sherer, executive vice-president of the 50,000-member Agudath Israel Orthodox Group, said Orthodox Jews supported 251 schools in 26 states and wanted federal aid for their own and other parochial schools.

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Parochial Loan Bill  
Introduced In Senate

(4-2-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--In spite of opposition by President Kennedy a serious attempt will be made in the 87th Congress to obtain federal aid to parochial school education through government loans.

Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D., Pa.) and Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.) have introduced the Private School Construction Loan Act of 1961 (S. 1482) which provides for \$351 million in long-term, low-interest loans for parochial schools.

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Both of these senators have long been proponents of governmental aid to private schools and colleges. Last year Morse unsuccessfully attempted to attach a parochial school loan amendment to the Senate education bill.

Serious debate is in process about the constitutionality of government loans to parochial schools.

A special legal report from the administration's attorneys in the Department of Justice and Health, Education and Welfare expressed the opinion that such loans along with grants and tuition payments to parochial school children are unconstitutional.

On the other hand Sen. Morse, a former law school dean and a recognized constitutional lawyer, is of the opinion parochial school loans are constitutional.

In order to obtain a quick test in the courts a provision for judicial review has been written into the bill now before the Senate. Morse has indicated that if the bill passes he will press the matter through the Supreme Court as quickly as possible in order to reach a settlement of this problem.

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D., N. Y.), chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, has indicated he would favor the provision for parochial schools, either as a part of the education bill or as a separate bill.

Others who are opposed to the inclusion of the parochial school loan amendment in the general federal aid to education bill have indicated they would favor such legislation if considered separately.

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EDITORS:

(4-2-61)

The following additions or corrections should be made to Pastors' Conference program at St. Louis previously sent through Baptist Press.

Harold W. Seever, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., will replace Charles Howard of North Carolina at 10 o'clock Monday morning on the subject "The Unsearchable Riches of Christ."

H. Franklin Paschall, First Baptist Church, Nashville, will bring the Monday morning address at 11:20 on the topic, "According to the Power That Works In Us." Speaker was not named in previous copy of program.

A medical doctor, not yet named, will fill the 10:40 spot on Tuesday morning with the subject: "Know Ye Not That the Body Is the Temple of the Soul?" The only new reference here is that a medical man will deliver the address.

Thank you.

Baptist Press, Nashville

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Folks and Facts.....

(4-2-61)

.....First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., observed the 15th anniversary of the pastorate of W. Douglas Hudgins with a series of special services, beginning on Easter Sunday. (DP)

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Editors' Information

The following should be noted concerning the program of the Religious Education Association at St. Louis May 22-23 as changes from the original copy sent through Baptist Press several weeks ago.

Monday afternoon

Panel discussion "The Use of Music and Education in the Growth and Development of a Child."

Moderator--Graves (as reported)

Members--Robert Stroble (as reported)

James Berry, Charlotte, N. C., is the minister of music.

Dr. Ann Bradford (as reported)

Panel discussion "Pastor, Minister of Music, Minister of Education--A Team."

No members were listed previously. Here they are:

James Potter, pastor, Charlotte, N. C.

Taylor Bowers, minister of education, Miami, Fla.

Joe Santo Jr., minister of music, Tulsa, Okla.

Tuesday morning

Sectional group conferences (completing list of names where several missing)

Ministers of education, less than five years--Gene Crane, Fort Worth

Children's workers--Miss Judy Knox, William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

Teachers: Findley B. Edge, Louisville, Ky.

Baptist student directors: M. Elgin Lee, Missouri Baptist Convention,

Jefferson City.

Tuesday afternoon

Speech: "Religious Education and Foreign Missions" by Baker J. Cauthen (Not on full mimeo sheet but sent you subsequently as a separate memo)

Baptist Press

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A later report shows that Southern Baptist Convention theological seminaries have an increase in regular (full-time) students for the first time in three years. The number of ministerial students in seminaries increased by 505, although the number in pre-seminary training in Baptist schools fell 345 below the previous year.

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Havana--Gifts to Baptist churches in western Cuba have increased by 20 per cent over the previous year, despite national tension. Gifts for the year recently ended amounted to \$210,000. There was no indication how much effect the inflationary economy had on the increase.

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United Nations--Southern Baptist Convention needs an unofficial observer at the United Nations, former Convention president Brooks Hays said. "The United Nations is as fine a forum as can be found for (Christian) witnessing because all nations of the earth are represented there," he declared.

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Cape Canaveral--Churches near this American space-launching base plan to hold continuous prayers when the first American astronaut goes into space. The prayers will continue till the man returns or is officially given up for lost, Joseph E. Boatwright, pastor of the First Baptist Church at Mims, Florida, one of the prayer effort leaders, reported.

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Atlanta--Sixteen more home missionaries were commissioned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here. The appointees will go to various home fields including Alaska, work with American Indians, and juvenile rehabilitation work.

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St. Louis--Baptists here are preparing to play host to the 1961 session of the Southern Baptist Convention May 23-26. About 15,000 messengers and visitors will attend the Convention and four related meetings. One of the main items of business will be election of a new Convention president succeeding W. Ramsey Pollard of Memphis, Tennessee.

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A large-scale pulpit exchange between ministers of the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention may be about to take place. A proposal first made by Editor E. S. James of the weekly Baptist Standard in Dallas, Texas, has been endorsed by a Baptist Jubilee Advance committee. James proposed 1000 ministers of each Convention trade pulpits for one year to foster better interConvention relations.

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Washington--President John F. Kennedy continued to be praised by Baptists. After receiving 62 foreign missionaries of the Southern Baptist and American Baptist Conventions in his office, the President announced his concern for religious liberty at home and in the whole world. A few weeks later he followed through with resistance to a Roman Catholic Church bid for government subsidies for Catholic schools.

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