

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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College Aid Bill
Is Not Dead Yet

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The bill to provide federal aid to colleges is showing signs of new life as the last days of the 87th Congress approach.

The Senate and House conference committee has been in a deadlock for months. For some time it has appeared that college aid is dead this year. But observers are now seeing that there may be signs of life yet.

The two houses of Congress passed different versions of a college aid bill early this year. The House bill was passed on January 30 and a week later the Senate passed its bill.

Due to conflicts between the Senate and House it was not until May 9 that a Conference committee was agreed to by the House. The two committees in the intervening months have had difficulty getting together, but a few meetings have been held. No progress was made, however, in reconciling the two conflicting bills.

Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.) chairman of the Senate education committee, recently told a group of college lobbyists that there was no hope of a bill this session unless the House conferees showed some signs of compromise. The House conferees indicate that the Senate committee had not given them a chance to offer their changes.

A series of private conferences have taken place since this latest public exchange between the committees, and it is possible that a number of compromises have been reached so a formal committee meeting can be called for approval. There is no indication what these compromises might be.

The Senate bill provides for loans and grants for academic facilities to public colleges but only loans to private schools. The House bill would make both loans and grants "across the board" to all qualified institutions.

The Senate version provides scholarships for students, but the House is adamant in its determination that there shall be no scholarships. Both bills forbid use of public funds for facilities used for sectarian instruction, worship or educational programs for the training of ministers.

Some of the Senate conferees are known to oppose any program that provides public funds for church-related colleges. Some of the House conferees insist that whatever program is agreed upon shall be "across the board" to all colleges.

It is not likely that enough compromises can be agreed upon to put a college aid bill through this year. But in Washington "all things are possible," and the nation should not be surprised at anything that happens in the area of higher education.

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Interfaith Day Idea
Revived In Congress

(9-14-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A new effort to create by Congressional action an annual "Interfaith Day" has been made in the House of Representatives.

Rep. Leonard Farbstein (D., N. Y.) has introduced a resolution calling an "Interfaith Day" the fourth Sunday in September each year.

A similar resolution was passed by the Senate in the closing days of its session

more

last year, but the House has taken no action on it. The Senate bill was introduced by Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R., N. Y.) who has been an advocate of such a movement for several years.

Several similar resolutions were introduced in the House during the first session of the 87th Congress, but they have all been tabled by the House Committee on the Judiciary.

An inquiry to the House Committee on the Judiciary revealed that no action is being contemplated on the new resolution by Farbstain. But, a staff member explained, "there is no way to predict when a member of the Committee will seek action."

The text of the resolution is as follows:

"Whereas the United States of America was founded on the firm basis of freedom of thought and conscience; and

"Whereas the fomenting of antagonism between Americans on a basis of sectarian creed is contrary to American traditions and to the spirit of the guarantees of freedom of worship embodied in the Constitution of the United States; and

"Whereas it ought to be, and is hereby declared to be, the policy of Congress to encourage the mutual understanding of all people of good will; and

"Whereas the program of the interfaith movement offers a practicable means for encouraging such mutual understanding:

"Therefore be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the fourth Sunday in September of each year is hereby designated as 'Interfaith Day,' and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue annually a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such a day, and urging the participation of all Americans and all religious groups in the United States, regardless of sect or creed, to participate in the observance of such day by such means as they may deem appropriate."

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President Deplores
Church Burnings

(9-14-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- President John F. Kennedy attacked church burnings and shooting of Negroes because of efforts to register their people to vote as both "cowardly and outrageous."

At his press conference the President said, "I don't know any more outrageous action which I have seen occur in this country for a good many months or years than the burning of a church, two churches, because of the effort made by the Negroes to be registered to vote."

Similarly, the President deplored the shooting of two Negro young people in Mississippi who were involved in an effort to register people to vote.

His reference to church burnings were to two Negro Baptist churches in Georgia that were recently burned.

The President assured the Nation that the Government has several FBI agents in Georgia seeking to find out who burned the churches. "As soon as we find out who did it, we will arrest them and we will bring them before a jury, and I am sure they will be appropriately dealt with," he said.

The Constitution of the United States guarantees the freedom to vote and the freedom to worship, the President pointed out. "The right to vote is very basic. If we are going to neglect that right, then all of our talk about freedom is hollow," he said.

Mr. Kennedy commended the efforts of people to register voters. He hoped that every citizen would register and vote. He said that the Government would do all it could to protect such people, "and if it requires extra legislation and extra force, we shall do that."

The 86th Congress passed legislation making it a Federal offense to bomb or burn churches or synagogues.

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