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**Nixon Pledges Support
To Catholic Educators**

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WASHINGTON (BP)--President Richard M. Nixon told a group of Catholic educators here that he would support extended aid to parochial schools, according to a release from the National Catholic Educational Association.

The President urged the Catholic educators not to get out of the work of education, the release said. "If you retreat from the field, I see only a vacuum" the President was quoted as saying.

He continued: "You cannot retreat, you must retreat. We must find ways to get public opinion behind you."

Professing belief in the "great value" of two educational systems, public and private, the President is reported to have said that it would be "a tragedy if either one should collapse."

The White House meeting with members of the board of directors of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) was by special invitation from the President. C. Albert Koob, chairman of the NCEA board, described the special invitation and hour-long session with the President as "unprecedented."

The Catholic report said that President Nixon told the educators of plans to establish committees to study educational finances. He enlisted their cooperation "in an advisory capacity in this area."

Further, according to the report, the President said that "he expects their cooperation on a special task force on private education that will be developed."

Bishop Raymond J. Gallagher of Lafayette, Ind., headed the delegation that called on the President. He said after the meeting that "the President's encouragement and guarantee of support must be considered a challenge to Catholic education and to the National Catholic Education Association to follow through in identifying areas of cooperation and in developing programs of cooperation with the public system."

The Bishop further noted that Nixon's attitude "relative to the absolute importance of continuing a private educational system would seem to carry a message to those in the Catholic community...who insist on writing the obituary of Catholic education."

The NCEA release continued: "Besides opening up additional forms of direct assistance to private schools, the President said he also hoped to develop aid for Catholic educators in programs for 'children under five' and in educational activities for Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans, many of whom are in the Catholic schools."

Specifically, the President pledged support of consolidation of the Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 with Title III-A of the National Defense Education Act of 1958. Title II provides library books and the textbooks for private school children. Title III-A provides equipment, such as visual aids, for private schools.

The Catholic educators told the President that Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was the "first effective program that the federal government launched that substantially aided private schools" through the disbursement of textbooks. They urged an "extension of this concept."

Koob said that "Mr. Nixon's emphasis on improved reading programs, better library facilities, modern teaching aids and instructional tools gave heart to all of us who want to see education for all children improve."

Ten members of the NCEA board met with the President, according to the report. NCEA is the largest and oldest professional organization of Catholic educators in the United States. Its national headquarters is in the Center for Higher Education on Dupont Circle in the nation's capital.

Baptist Ministers, Laymen
Join Virgin Island Crusade

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VIRGIN ISLANDS (BP)--Fifteen Baptist ministers and laymen recently completed an evangelistic crusade described by Southern Baptist evangelism leaders as "successful" in terms of a total ministry to persons.

As part of the crusade, Dr. Otis Hill, a medical doctor from Lawrence, S.C., carried medical supplies to Tortola and set up medical services for the local people. The doctor was "paid" with fish, and one woman even gave him six limes for his medical service.

The laymen lived in the homes of black pastors (the seven were from South Carolina and Georgia), and there was "no condescension--it was a natural expression of Christian love," according to Harold Lindsey, associate secretary of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's division of evangelism.

Lindsey, who led the crusade, said the effort was successful as an example of "total evangelism."

Numerical success, he observed, was irrelevant because the Virgin Island crusade was an instance of the kind of evangelism often overlooked by persons critical of all evangelistic efforts.

"We emphasized lay evangelism," Lindsey said in describing the approach of the effort. Laymen distributed copies of "Good News for Modern Man," Today's English Version of the New Testament during the day, and the ministers preached at night.

As a result of the lay effort, Lindsey told of seeing a group of men in a road-building gang reading the Bible during their lunch break.

The 15 men visited St. Thomas, the major tourist center, St. John's and Tortola, three of the 100 islands.

Southern Baptists have no missionaries in the Virgin Islands. Two independent Baptist groups, who came to the islands 16 years ago, have about 20 Baptist churches, a Bible college, a small seminary and a camp on the islands.

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Baptist Layman Found Shot
To Death, Bound and Gagged

2/27/70

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PINE BLUFF, Ark. (BP)--A prominent Southern Baptist layman, Amos E. Palmer, of Conway, Ark., was found in the back seat of his automobile dead with a bullet in his head.

Palmer, 49, a Conway land developer and sporting goods distributor, was an active member of First Baptist Church, Conway, Ark.

His body was found bound and gagged in the back of his 1969 Lincoln Continental, in the parking lot at Holiday Inn here.

A note in Palmer's handwriting was found stating, "I am being robbed, maybe murdered."

Sheriff Joe Martin of Conway said the murder weapon was a 38 caliber pistol. The sheriff said police found \$29 in the victim's pockets, and \$40 in one of his suits in the motel room. Mrs. Palmer said her husband usually carried a large amount of money with him.

Palmer had gone to Pine Bluff Monday, Feb. 23. Police said the death occurred sometime between Monday night and Tuesday.

Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church, Conway, on Friday, Feb. 27, with Pastor William Flynt in charge.

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