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September 24, 1971

**Nixon Administration Pushes
Aid To Parochial Schools**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Office of Education for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has scheduled a meeting here designed to explore ways of further implementing President Nixon's pledge to assist nonpublic schools to the maximum legally possible.

The invitational meeting, scheduled Nov. 15-17 at the Airlie House Conference Center near Warrenton, Va., will discuss cooperative means of providing federal school aid benefits to all eligible children.

Public and nonpublic school leaders from more than 40 cities throughout the country have been invited to attend. Also participating will be federal education officials and members of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Washington Conference of Nonpublic Schools, a coalition representing the broad spectrum of nonpublic schools.

"This is the first time we have ever brought together the leaders of both the public and nonpublic schools," said U.S. Education Commissioner Sidney P. Marland Jr.

"The meeting is part of the Office of Education's continued effort to foster good working relationships between these two groups, and to insure that all eligible children share equitably the benefits of federal education aid, regardless of what type of schools they attend," he said.

"The growing inability of nonpublic schools to meet the expenses of urban education from traditional sources of funds is assuming the dimensions of a nationwide crisis," Marland added. "At the same time, the public schools in large cities could be financially swamped if required to educate substantially greater numbers of students due to the continued closing of nonpublic schools."

John W. Baker, acting executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, pointed out that this meeting is a further development in the Nixon administration's drive to provide support for the nation's parochial schools from the public treasury.

"President Nixon," Baker continued, "both in his education messages to Congress and in his repeated pledges to the Roman Catholic hierarchy has made it clear that he intends to find some way or ways to aid the parochial schools."

In addition to the meeting of educators in November, the President's Commission on School Finance is slated to bring its report in 1972. Within this commission is a panel on nonpublic education under special instruction to explore all ways within the constitution to give public aid to nonpublic schools.

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**Congress Extends Draft
Exemption For Clergy**

9/24/71

WASHINGTON (BP)--Ordained ministers and divinity students will continue to be exempt from military service under the final version of the draft bill passed by Congress and sent to the President for his signature.

Students who are satisfactorily pursuing full time courses of instruction leading to their entrance into theological or divinity schools in which they have been pre-enrolled shall be deferred also from training and service.

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Under provisions of the bill, which President Nixon is expected to sign, divinity students and duly ordained ministers would hold their military deferments until they are 35 years of age. If their student or career status changes and they drop out of school or full-time ministry, they would be eligible for military service.

President Nixon and the House Armed Services Committee had asked that divinity students lose their exemption along with other students.

Under the new law, undergraduate student deferments will be abolished, but with the provision that any student who was academically eligible for deferment during the 1970-71 school year can complete his four-year college career. Students beginning this fall as freshmen could complete this school year, but then would be eligible service.

Another section of the new draft bill keeps a two-year term of alternate service for conscientious objectors. A move was underway in the House of Representatives to extend this to three years. In a conference report finally worked out and accepted by both Houses the conferees wrote at length about the need for a conscientious objector who is assigned to alternative civilian service "to parallel in his experiences, to a reasonable extent, the experiences of the young man who is inducted in his stead.

"The committee is therefore adamant in its view that the Selective Service System should place the conscientious objector in an alternative work program which genuinely contributes to meeting valid national requirements for work that conscientious objectors are capable of performing, regardless of the location of such work," the conferees said.

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President Proclaims Drug
Abuse Prevention Week

9/24/71

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Richard Nixon designated the week of Oct. 3, 1971, as Drug Abuse Prevention Week and has called upon national and state leaders of many professions to intensify their efforts to communicate among all Americans the dangers of drug experimentation.

The President's proclamation contained a special message to religious leaders along with an appeal to parents, to national and state government officials, educators and members of the medical profession.

Clergymen and other moral and spiritual leaders were encouraged by President Nixon to make a special effort during this week to take up the problem of drug abuse and "to offer those answers of the spirit which alone can fill the void where drug abuse begins."

To state and local governments, business and civic groups, the President asked cooperation in seeking out new methods and programs to communicate the risks and dangers of drug use.

To parents, the proclamation continued, "I appeal above all...that all of us may rededicate ourselves to the well-being of America's youth; and that we may so teach them, so guide them, so reach out to them in understanding and compassion, as to help them avoid the problems that arise from abuse of drugs and to attain the full promise of their maturity."

Introducing the proclamation with "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?," the President said that the biblical quotation "is a question which the menace of drug abuse poses anew to all of us."

Using again the same reference from the Bible, the President cited the nation's technology and material wealth which permits people "to drift into the chemical modification of mind and mood at grave risks to their health--to their very lives.

"What can a nation profit from its unparalleled individual freedom, if that liberty becomes license and that license leads to drug dependence which controls the bodies and warps the minds of men, women, children and even the unborn?" he asked.

"Drug abuse is nothing less than a life and death matter for countless Americans and for the moral fiber of this nation. The drive to meet this threat must command from us our very best, our attention, our energies, our resources and our prayers," the President declared.

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