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August 22, 1972

**Democratic Nominee Pledges
Aid to Parochial Schools**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Senator George McGovern, Democratic presidential candidate, told a group of Catholic educators and parents in Racine, Wisconsin that, if he is elected President, he will find some way "constitutionally" to help private school education.

"I am, at this time, exploring the means by which the federal government can help achieve that goal with aid distributed either directly or through the tax structure.

"I am convinced that we can find a way to save our non-public schools within the framework of our Constitution," the South Dakota senator said, according to a press release from his campaign headquarters here.

Thus, both the Republican incumbent, President Nixon, and the Democratic nominee have committed themselves to find ways to provide federal aid to parochial and other private schools.

Speaking at St. Edward's Rectory in Racine, McGovern discussed conversations he had had with parents and educators concerning the rising costs in private school education. He noted particularly statistics showing that "non-public schools are closing at a rate of six per cent per year."

"This sad trend must be stopped," McGovern declared.

During his meeting with Catholic parents and educators in Racine, the Democratic standard-bearer said he did not come there "to out-promise Nixon on what we're going to do for parochial schools."

McGovern was quoted by a Washington-based columnist as telling the group in Racine that the matter of aid to parochial schools "is an exceedingly difficult problem.

"I...want you to know by my presence here that I'm trying to find out more about the question and the problem and then try to reach a judgment that is in the interest of the country."

McGovern's stand on parochial aid had been expected. However, this is the first formal statement he has released in which he pledges to find some way to help private elementary schools.

McGovern's staff has said that they are still trying to develop a position on aid to financially pressed parochial schools without offending the Constitution, and without jeopardizing the financial well-being of public education.

Prior to the week of the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach, the Democratically-controlled House Ways and Means Committee held five days of hearings on proposed "tax credits" to aid parents with children in parochial schools.

Spokesmen for the Nixon Administration were cautious in their endorsement of this particular plan, although they repeated the President's plea that some way must be found to help private, parochial schools.

The Nixon Administration has been exploring the idea of "educational vouchers" a plan that would give parents a voucher worth a certain amount of money with which a child's education could be purchased in either a public or private school.

McGovern has talked with some enthusiasm about the voucher plan, but he has repeated that he "has sympathy but no solution." He has emphasized that the formula for aid to parochial schools is not known, and that "none of us will know until the courts rule."

In the statement released by his campaign headquarters, McGovern said further: "I know this. The framers of our Constitution desired and encouraged the diversity of intellectual, cultural and religious belief which has contributed so much to America's greatness...we cannot

forsake our heritage of diversity and pluralism. The parochial school system in America has been and continues to be an integral part of that heritage."

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Fast Action Aids Schools
Hurt By Hurricane Agnes

8/22/72

WASHINGTON (BP)--The federal government moved rapidly to enforce a key provision of the Disaster Assistance Act which permits private schools and colleges to apply for relief following damages from Hurricane Agnes.

President Nixon signed the act on August 16 after the House of Representatives completed Congressional approval two days earlier. On Saturday, August 19, regulations "effective immediately" were published in the Federal Register.

According to the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) the regulations will go into effect immediately in order to allow institutions to proceed with necessary reconstruction or repair for the opening of the fall school term.

To date, a total of 47 private institutions have been declared eligible for federal recovery aid, according to a news release from OEP. More than \$20 million will be spent to repair these schools, ranging from elementary and secondary schools to college level institutions, reported OEP Director G. A. Lincoln.

Estimated expenditures for damages to public elementary and secondary schools have reached a total of \$42,840,000 in six states, a spokesman for OEP said.

OEP Director Lincoln said the government has teams in the flood-damaged areas completing detailed estimates. Thus far, private institutions in only four states have been identified as eligible for assistance: Pennsylvania, where 31 institutions have damages estimated at \$19,150,000; New York, with 11 institutions reporting damages of \$1,931,000; Virginia, where one institution will receive \$6,000 and West Virginia, where four institutions will share \$7,500 in disaster relief grants.

If damages to private schools is found in three other states in the Agnes flood zone, Florida, Maryland and Ohio, they may be eligible under provisions of the Agnes Bill, Lincoln said.

Under provisions of the act, which President Nixon urged upon Congress early in August, private schools may receive grants of one hundred per cent to repair, replace, restore or reconstruct eligible facilities.

The Federal Register regulations describe eligible "educational facilities" as including "classrooms and related facilities; and equipment, machinery, and utilities necessary or appropriate for instructional purposes."

Facilities used primarily for sectarian purposes or worship are not eligible. Excluded also are facilities for athletics.

The regulations further list as eligible equipment items such as "instructional equipment and necessary furniture, printed, published and audiovisual instructional materials, and books, periodicals, documents, and other related materials."

Not included in the eligible equipment list are supplies which are consumed in use or which may not reasonably be expected to last longer than one year.

The Federal Register listed several assurances the government asks of the private institution applying for the disaster assistance grants: the institution must own and control the facility; adequate and separate accounting must be made of funds obtained from the government; competent and adequate architectural or engineering supervision must be on hand to see that completed work conforms with approved plans; and adequate financial support must be available for maintenance and operation when the damaged facility is restored.

Further, guarantees must be given that the grants will not be used to pay any part of the cost of facilities, supplies or equipment which are to be used primarily for sectarian purposes. The monies cannot be used to restore or rebuild any facility used primarily for religious worship, or in connection with the building program of a theological school or a department of divinity.

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Physician Scores Poor
Health of Ministers

FORT WORTH, TEX. (BP)--"The group in the poorest health condition of any I've found is ministers," Kenneth H. Cooper, M.D., told a crowd of approximately 250 ministers of education and other religious educators at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

According to Dr. Cooper's research, over 77% of men over 29 years old have blood vessels clogged with fat. He stated that there is developing an "alarming increase" of heart attacks affecting men in the 25-44 age bracket, and that for women under 40, there is an 11% increase in heart attacks.

Dr. Cooper cited obesity, cigarette smoking and inactivity as factors contributing to heart disease.

Exercise is at least one possible deterrent, he claimed.

Benefits accrue to any professional group from a safe, regular exercise program, Dr. Cooper discovered, range from increased stamina, weight reduction, and more adequate sleep and rest to decreased despondency, greater productivity, more positive mental attitude, and a changed self-image.

Dr. Cooper addressed the fifty-second annual meeting of the Southwestern Baptist Religious Education Association. More than 325 Baptist educators registered for the three-day conference.

"In one university study," Dr. Cooper said, "we found that the students making the best grades were also the most physically fit."

He stressed that for anyone over 40, including workers in religion, before beginning an exercise program to first have a physical examination, complete with a stress-electrocardiogram, and once begun, to try not to get back into shape too fast.

"Anyone--whatever their age--can safely enter an exercise program," Dr. Cooper said. "Even if a person already has clogged vessels, his chances of surviving a heart attack are five times better after exercising on a regular basis."

An older person does not experience ill health because of what we term "old age," Dr. Cooper said, but because we do less as we grow older.

"Exercise will not only help you add years to your life," he concluded, "but life to your years as well."

Sessions for the conference closed with the election of next year's officers. James D. Williams, professor of adult education at Southwestern Seminary, is the 1972-73 president.

President-elect for 1973-74 is Bob Hines, minister of adults, Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas.

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Politicians, Students Eye
National Election Issues

8/22/72

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Two veteran campaigners assailed the high cost of running for office and then attempted to lay out the prime election year issues before an enthusiastic crowd of college students.

Speaking before a Christian citizenship seminar at the twentieth annual Baptist Student Conference here, Ralph Yarbrough, former Democratic senator from Texas, and David Cargo, former Republican governor of New Mexico, demonstrated that many of the contemporary political frustrations cross party lines.

Cargo charged that presidential primaries are "ridiculous." They are expensive, grueling, and they expose candidates to the danger of assassination, he said.

Yarbrough, when questioned whether he has any interest in future political offices, said he hasn't--primarily because he owes \$90,000 from past campaigns.

Cargo said that "the mother's milk of politics is money. As long as you have privately financed campaigns, you are going to have politicians who owe political debts."

The two revealed their party spirit when Cargo charged the Democrats with being "a fortuitous concurrence of otherwise unrelated prejudices."

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Yarbrough chided the Republicans by alluding to the recent breakin of Democratic headquarters. He said "If they are not any more adept at spying on the Russians than they are at spying on the Democratic National Convention, then God help our intelligence operation."

In a lively two-hour dialogue with the Baptist students, Cargo and Yarbrough touched on such issues as the Vietnam war, the economy, welfare reform, ecology, drugs, and the need for legislative reform.

Cargo defended the Nixon administration on its war record, stating that Nixon has done essentially what he had promised to do--reduce troop strength in Vietnam. Yarbrough took issue with Nixon's war record. He said that Nixon only began to deescalate after pressure from the media and that one must fact the reality of the Laos and Cambodian invasions and the current unprecedented level of bombing of North Vietnam.

In a strongly worded attack on the morality of U. S. involvement in Indo-China, Yarbrough said "Hitler declared war on the countries he bombed. We haven't. Technically we are at peace with North Vietnam."

He charged that with American withdrawal, we are leaving South Vietnamese troops virtually as our hired mercenaries and that because of our Vietnam involvement, American world prestige is at the lowest point since our own civil war.

When questioned about the administration's success in domestic areas, Cargo said that the principle accomplishment of the Nixon administration was to "curb the excesses of the previous administration." He emphasized the need for implementing the Republican's plan for Federal revenue sharing and the need to overhaul the welfare system.

Yarbrough, on the other hand, charged that the Republicans have made a shambles of the economy. Rather than curbing inflation, they imposed a wage and price freeze that squeezed the middle class and favored the corporation executives. Yarbrough said that as the budget deficit has soared, Nixon has frozen the money already appropriated for education and health so funds could be channeled into military spending.

Cargo and Yarbrough agreed on the need for welfare reform. Cargo cited the fact that 22 per cent of the people in New Mexico are on food stamps and that 29 per cent receive some form of welfare assistance. He emphasized the need to institute a form of "workfare" instead of welfare. He stated that a high priority of government should be daycare centers to allow welfare mothers to work and to give the children a chance to get out of the welfare environment.

Questioned on the ecology issue by some of the 2,200 students participating in the conference, Cargo said that corporate conscience is on a direct line between the pocketbook and the heart. Speaking of the industries who have been polluting the environment, he said "you've got to hit them where it hurts, in a way that's not deductible."

Cargo also chided youth for the sometimes inconsistency of their attitudes. He said he felt it was incongruous to support the ban on cyclamates and at the same time push for the legalization of marijuana. Pollution of the environment also includes pollution of the mind, and we should be protected from both.

Speaking to a question about drug problems, Cargo said that he considered drug abuse a problem of major importance. He said that he estimated that 80 per cent of the burglaries in Albuquerque were related to drugs and that 70 per cent of those in the New Mexico state prison were there because of alcohol or drug-related charges.

"Drug addiction is essentially a medical problem," he said. "We need a system of involuntary commitment where people are treated and not punished."

Cargo and Yarbrough agreed on the need for reform in the legislative system. Cargo said that the legislatures he has known run about ten years behind the needs of the public.

He added, "We need total reform in state government. When committee chairmen have an average age of seventy-six it is difficult to keep in tune with youth."

Yarbrough portrayed society as people on the march. The philosophers and thinkers lead out as a vanguard, followed by the masses of people. The police and legislators bring up the rear, trying to keep order, he stated.

During the year following his retirement, he served as pastor of an English-speaking Baptist church in West Berlin under auspices of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He was the first Baptist Student Secretary for Nashville colleges, serving Vanderbilt, Peabody and Scarritt from 1932 to 1933.

His religious work also included service as minister of education, pastor, and youth leader.

Burnett is survived by his wife, Anita Florence Vaught Burnett, sister of W. O. Vaught, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock; and two children. Sibley Charles is a scientist at Los Alamos, N. M. Mary Roanna is the wife of Trent Butler, a professor at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

(Photo mailed to Baptist state papers)



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