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(The following news story was written by W. Barry Garrett, associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and regional editor for the Baptist Press in Washington, D. C.)

## Jesuits Seek Aid

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Catholic educators meeting here have made a bid for Federal aid to their educational system.

A Washington Post news story (Jan. 5, 1958) states, "Presidents of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities called for across-the-board Federal aid 'for all students and for all institutions' if this aid is used to meet critical educational needs in the United States.

The Jesuit educators made their statement in connection with the Eisenhower Administration's program to step up scientific education.

Meeting on the campus of Georgetown University, the Jesuit educators issued their statement at a news conference Jan. 4. They proposed that where the constitutions of the various states preclude the use of public funds for sectarian purposes direct grants from the Federal Government should be made to the persons or institutions involved.

Reaction to the Catholic proposal was immediate. The Post quoted a spokesman for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare as saying "there would be a serious question about using Federal funds to directly support educational programs as in science and mathematics in private secondary schools."

C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, commented, "that this plan should arouse aspirations in the minds of the administrators of denominational colleges is understandable, particularly so on the part of those whose philosophy approves the taxation of people for the support of religious instruction. That is what the Jesuit presidents have said.

"The United States Congress, however, is not likely to act hastily toward discarding the American tradition which leaves religious instruction with the churches, supported by voluntary contributions."

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The Post quotes C. Stanley Lowell, associate director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, as saying that "the First Amendment will have been sidetracked and the laws of most of our states cavalierly overridden" if the Jesuit's proposals concerning Federal aid are accepted.

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FOR INFORMATION AND USE OF THE EDITORS

Text Of Statement  
By Jesuit Educators

"The presidents of Jesuit colleges and universities are in agreement that the lost potential talent from our elementary and high schools should through testing, counseling and a scholarship program, be given the opportunity to complete their education; that the improvement and expansion of the teaching of science and mathematics should be provided for both at the secondary and college or university levels; that the critical shortage of Americans proficient in certain currently significant foreign languages should be corrected.

"If these objectives can be attained only through Federal aid, then that aid should be made available on an across-the-board basis, for all students and for all institutions. Where, because of state constitutional provisions such across-the-board distribution is precluded, provision should be made for direct grants from the Federal Government to individuals or institutions affected. Unless such provision is made, the program could not achieve its purpose, because it would by-pass a very large pool of individual talent and of educational facilities."

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Statement By Dr. C. Emanuel Carlson, Executive Director  
Baptist Joint Committee On Public Affairs

The Administration's program for the strengthening of scientific education proposes to leave the administration of the federal aid funds with the state Departments of Education. That this plan should arouse aspirations in the minds of the administrators of denominational colleges is understandable, particularly so on the part of those whose philosophy approves the taxation of people for the support of religious instruction. That is what the Jesuit presidents have said.

The United States Congress, however, is not likely to act hastily toward discarding the American tradition which leaves religious instruction with the

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churches, supported by voluntary contributions. The debate on this subject will certainly take note of several facts:

1. Parochial educators as well as students of the educative process have frequently and persistently admitted that parochial education has on the average produced meager results in scientific personnel. Father Cavanagh's recent address in which he asked, "Where are the Catholic Salks, Oppenheimers, Einsteins?" is the latest case in point. Here is a field in which the catechism and the nuns will be of little help.

2. The Russian educational program, the results of which are the present American concern, is a "crash" public educational program. Since the federal funds available for education will be of limited amount they will need to be used with care to make the greatest possible contribution to the objective in view.

3. The distinctive and important contributions that are being made by private and denominational schools could easily be endangered by turning those institutions into public agencies dependent upon and therefore subservient to the federal government.

4. Scientific knowledge and skills are functions of modern society rather than of the Christian churches. Many European and Latin American nations have suffered scientific backwardness by failing to recognize and to provide instructional programs for these dual emphases.--(BP)--

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