

OUTLOOK

A report from the Council for American Private Education, Washington, D.C.

December, 1975

FILER COMMISSION REPORTS
DECLINE IN GIVING; MAKES
RECOMMENDATIONS ON HILL

With the decline in total dollar giving, the cut in individuals' budgetary allotments to giving, and cutbacks in government funding, our charitable institutions are endangered unless measures are taken to reverse the trend, reports John H. Filer, Chairman of the Commission on Private Philanthropy and Public Needs. Filer, Chairman of Aetna Life and Casualty Company, who formally presented the Commission's report to government leaders December 2, discussed the 2-year benchmark study at a National Press Club luncheon that day. "This report is of critical importance," said Treasury Secretary William E. Simon. He plans an interagency task force to study its findings and recommendations, giving that study the "highest order of priority."

Establishment of the 28-member Commission was encouraged by private citizens, Congressmen, and members of the Administration. It was formed with private funding in November, 1973, to make an in-depth study of charitable giving in the U.S. An Advisory Committee of more than 100 authorities from the academic and professional sectors was formed; Robert L. Lamborn, Council for American Private Education (CAPE) Executive Director, was a member.

Over 75 new research studies were commissioned. Donald A. Erickson, Professor of Education at Simon Fraser University, authored a paper under CAPE sponsorship. Cary Potter, National Association of Independent Schools, Al Senske, Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, and Lamborn authored another. Both studies explored philanthropy and its effect on the private school and became a part of the Commission's final report, GIVING IN AMERICA: Toward a Stronger Voluntary Sector. The report, as it speaks to the significance of philanthropic giving for private education, treats the group generically, dealing with private schools, colleges, and universities without distinction.

The report points out that total dollar giving has dropped from 2% of the Gross National Product in 1969 to 1.8% in 1974 and that individuals' budgetary allotments to giving have decreased by 15% over the last decade. Wishing to broaden the base of charitable giving--and the role of the less affluent in determining public needs to be served--the Commission recommends that, in computing taxes, families with incomes of less than \$15,000 be allowed to deduct twice what they give. Families with incomes between \$15,000 and \$30,000 would be allowed to deduct $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the amount of their giving. The Commission predicts that the trade-off from such a policy would be a reduction of \$9.1 billion in government revenues and an increase of \$11.7 billion in charitable giving in 1976.

Other major recommendations directed at increasing openness and accountability included proposals that tax-exempt organizations with annual budgets over \$100,000 should prepare readily available annual reports and that all larger grant-making organizations should hold annual public meetings to discuss programs, priorities, and contributions. Religious organizations would be exempt from these requirements. The Commission recommended, further, a focused mechanism for overseeing fund-raising solicitations on the state level, a system of federal regulation to govern interstate solicitations, and the establishment of a permanent national commission on the nonprofit sector.

SUPREME COURT SCHEDULES
RACE DISCRIMINATION CASE
INVOLVING PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The Supreme Court will decide whether or not blacks may be barred from private schools solely because of their race. The case, brought by the McCrarys and Gonzaleses against two private schools in Alexandria, Va., hinges

on the right of all citizens to make and enforce personal contracts under the Civil Rights Act of 1866.

The 1866 statute in no way prohibits the right of a school to teach unpopular theories concerning race; it places no limitation on the right to meet in private for educational purposes; it places no limitation on any other admissions criteria a private school wishes to adopt; it places no limitation on a school's right to appeal to a particular religious or national group. It only prohibits discrimination on the basis of race.

Last April the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in McCrary, Gonzales, et al. v. Runyon, Fairfax-Brewster School Inc., et al. upheld by 4-3 a lower court decision that the two private schools were in violation. CAPE, along with the National Association of Independent Schools and the Southern Association of Independent Schools, had filed an amicus brief in the case supporting the prohibition against racial discrimination in admissions practices. CAPE's 11 member organizations all support nondiscriminatory admissions policies.

MOORESTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL
COMMUNITY RECREATES 18'x20'
FRAME ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

Parents, students, and faculty of Moorestown Friends School in New Jersey will build an 18' x 20' one-room schoolhouse in which costumed multi-aged groups of students, warmed by a wood-burning stove, will use

quill pens, recite their lessons, and work on "sums." The structure, modeled after a frame school building which once stood in Moorestown, will be used through the Bicentennial year, housing rotating groups of children, each for at least a day.

Through history classes and elective courses, researching students, after discovering what type school clothing was worn 200 years ago and what "curriculum" and texts were used, will sew copy books, make costumes, and join teachers in furnishing the school with desks and learning materials (including old tests). When all Moorestown students have attended, they will act as hosts and hostesses to neighboring public and private school students who will use the school and share in this unique exposure to living history.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT URGED
FOR "NEW PARTNERSHIP" OF
PUBLIC, PRIVATE EDUCATION

"Foundation support could be helpful in building a new partnership between public and nonpublic education," Brother John Olsen told foundation representatives recently in Cleveland. Invited to address spokesmen for

foundations with interests in precollegiate education, Olsen, Exec. Sec., Secondary School Department, National Catholic Educational Association, discussed how foundations might promote useful relationships between public and private American education.

Olsen posed as a basic question: What value do Americans and their institutions place on the diversity of educational opportunity that Catholic and other private schools have traditionally provided? Historically, he said, public and nonpublic schools have met their problems separately, but there are increasing signs that the two sectors are learning to work together to achieve mutual objectives. Foundations could help in building this new partnership, he indicated, by providing funds for inner-city tuition support and subsidy programs and for development and public relations training programs. Additional funding could support specific collaborative efforts in research concerning the effectiveness of present programs, in teacher and administrator in-service training, and in planning for a broad range of cooperative educational programs.

TENNESSEE PRIVATE SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION FORMED: 17th
SUCH STATE ORGANIZATION

With formation of the Tennessee Association of Nonpublic Academic Schools (TANAS), Tennessee brings to 17 the number of states with CAPE-type organizations. Msgr. James R. Hitchcock of the Diocese of Nashville was chosen as the Association's first president at the organizational meeting in October. TANAS joins national CAPE in its "commitment to diversity," according to Robert D. Lynn, President, Tennessee Association of Independent Schools, the sponsoring organization.

Broadly representative state private school groups have been forming since 1966 when the Iowa Association of Nonpublic Schools and the Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools organized. Since then the number of such groups has increased steadily. Now they criss-cross the country from Virginia to California, from Texas to Wisconsin. Their reasons for forming vary from state to state, but schools usually band together for similar purposes: to provide a forum for private schools, to help communications efforts among the various segments of private education, to work for an adequate understanding and consideration of private school interests and concerns in state educational policy-making and program activities, and to disseminate state education agency policy to member groups. Some develop statewide private school promotional programs; some battle prejudicial legislation.

TANAS lists 10 educational organizations among its members, representing the Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Church of Christ, Episcopal, Jewish, Lutheran, Seventh-day Adventist, independent, and non-affiliated school groups. It will serve mainly as a communications link between private schools and the State Department of Education. North Carolina has a meeting scheduled in January to discuss the formation of a CAPE-type group. Other states considering such an organization are Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Georgia.

INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION
MEET TO EXPLORE STATUS,
POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION

Spurred by the growing need for cooperation between those responsible for management of America's economic resources and those responsible for development of its human resources, the American Cyanamid Company and the National Education Association (NEA) sponsored The NEA/Industry National Forum, November 19, in Arlington, Va. Represented were 66 leading businesses and industries and 20 associations and government agencies.

Forum participants discussed concerns, identified issues and program possibilities, and considered the priorities of industry and the schools in determining "next steps" toward establishing promising cooperative efforts. Suggestions included: industry-education cooperation in developing teaching aides (films, filmstrips, mock-ups, print materials, among others); industry provision of equipment and supplies to schools (free, or at reduced cost, or for cannibalization upon obsolescence); and industry-education personnel exchanges for in-service training and specialized instruction. Another possibility is the pro bono application of industrial expertise and capabilities in public relations and dissemination activities to related education efforts.

"The greatest shortage in education is in counseling in career opportunities," said one of several distinguished panelists, Representative Albert H. Quie, ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. Helen D. Wise, Past President of NEA, said, "The story of labor has been told well in our texts; the story of corporations has been told very poorly." Other problems and suggestions developed in the course of the Forum discussions will be reviewed by an NEA/Industry Study Group which by April, 1976, will present recommendations for action to the governing boards of NEA, American Cyanamid, and other corporations invited to participate in the action program.

Robert L. Lamborn, Executive Director of the Council for American Private Education, a Forum participant, assured those present that private schools, which educate 10% of the nation's school children, would wish to cooperate in this promising joint effort.

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE LOOKS
AT ROLE OF CHURCH SCHOOLS

The Sixth Triennial Conference of the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES), held recently in San Antonio, Tex., drew over 1,000 people from 10 countries to consider the role of Episcopal schools in the work of the church. NAES is of "great importance," said the Rt. Rev. John Maury Allin, Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S., in knitting together the educational aspects of the Christian Mission with the entire Episcopalian effort.

NAES membership has risen from 200 schools in 1950 to 1,000 now, reported The Rev. John Carter, Executive Director. Growth in programs was also reported, with future thrusts including urban education, youth worship research, cooperation with other elements in education, curriculum research, and overseas student exchange.

James Billington, Director, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars at the Smithsonian Institution, urged church school educators to look closely at the role of education in this "period of pessimism" concerning social institutions. "The old and nagging problems can no longer be swept under the rug," he stated. Individuals involved in NAES' "Colloquium on Curriculum," begun in March, 1974, to create a new curriculum, presented a 4-way conversation. Chaired by Allen Becker, Headmaster, St. Andrew's School, Jackson, Miss., the group discussed the need for a "sense of global citizenship." Our students have an understanding of Western Civilization, the panelists agreed, but rarely do they have a "deep sense of belonging to the family of man."

PRIVATE SCHOOL LEADERS
ENHANCE NAESP PRESENCE

Seeking to develop "the unity that exists in diversity," private school leaders continue to fashion a constructive role for themselves in the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). In a memorandum to the Association's State Presidents, William Pharis, NAESP Executive Director, urges the formation of state-level Committees on the Concerns of Nonpublic School Principals (CCNSP), "testifying" that the existing national committee formed in 1971 to deal with these concerns has made "significant contributions" to NAESP programs and to public-private school understanding.

Pharis' memorandum implements a resolution passed last Spring by the NAESP Delegate Assembly which urges state action "to permit all educators to find areas of cooperative activity and mutual interest." Its spirit is evidenced by a second action: plans call for devoting an entire issue of The National Elementary Principal to nonpublic education in America, with articles by scholars as well as elementary school principals. The issue will stress not only contributions made to society by nonpublic education but also the commitments shared by the public and private sectors.

Of NAESP's 28,000 membership, private school heads constitute approximately 15% and the numbers are increasing. Sister Mary Barbara Sullivan was the first CCNSP chairperson. Sister Mary B. Maguire is her successor.

OUTLOOK is published monthly (September through June) by the Council for American Private Education.

Council members: The American Lutheran Church • American Montessori Society • Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States • Friends Council on Education • Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Board of Parish Education • National Association of Episcopal Schools • National Association of Independent Schools • National Catholic Educational Association • National Society for Hebrew Day Schools • National Union of Christian Schools • U.S. Catholic Conference.

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