

**The Private Elementary
and Secondary Education**

OUTLOOK

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

March, 1976

PRESIDENT'S "BLOCK GRANT"
PROVIDES PRIVATE SCHOOL
STUDENTS FIRM ASSURANCES

Because Federal aid has been channeled into "too many narrow and restrictive categorical programs," President Ford, in his education message, proposed a block grant to states. The bill (H.R. 12196), introduced by Rep. Albert H. Quie, ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor, consolidates 24 existing programs: elementary and secondary, handicapped, and adult education; vocational education; several existing programs for research and innovation; and certain special services related to vocational education and education of the handicapped.

Requirements in the bill for the participation of private (nonpublic) school children are similar to those now contained in Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the strongest mandate written into any prior legislation. The bill requires private school children to be given equitable opportunities to participate in programs assisted by the bill, providing they need the services and live in areas served by the programs. State plans, which must be approved by the U.S. Commissioner of Education, would have to describe the means by which private school children will be served. If a state is legally unable, or fails, to provide for participation of children as required by the legislation, the Commissioner would arrange for services to such children by contract or otherwise and deduct the cost from the state allocation.

BELL ADDRESSING LUTHERAN
EDUCATORS, STRESSES ROLE
OF MORAL, SPIRITUAL VALUES

U.S. Commissioner of Education Terrel H. Bell maintains that in the national effort to eliminate ignorance, we need "educational variety, diversity, and contrast."

Our children and parents must have the opportunity for choice, and private education gives them that opportunity, the Commissioner recently told members of the Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools (ALSS).

Bell told the Lutheran educators, "A strong private sector enhances and strengthens public education." We intend, he said, to work with the private schools, giving them our support "within the constraints of the law." He stressed, as he did in his Jan. 23 talk to public school board representatives in Birmingham, the necessity to teach moral values, a code of conduct, and ethical standards. "We need," he told ALSS members, "a rebirth of the moral and spiritual values and the discipline you have in your schools."

ALSS members gathered from throughout the country for meetings in Baltimore and Washington, Feb. 29 - March 3. Congressman Paul Simon discussed education-related matters from his viewpoint as a member of the Education and Labor Committee. Theodore Sky, Assistant General Counsel for Education, DHEW, discussed legal ramifications of legislative provisions for the equitable participation of private school children in federally funded programs; and Lee Wickline, Director, OE Division of Supplementary Centers and Services, explained the "National Diffusion Network," an exemplary program dissemination activity in which private schools are participating. At the U.S. Catholic Conference, where one meeting was held, USCC Secretary for Education Rev. Msgr. Olin J. Murdick, welcoming the group, stressed the importance of understanding and cooperation within the private (nonpublic) school community. Martin Wessler is ALSS president.

SUIT AIMS TO HALT TITLE I
SERVICES ON PREMISES OF
CHURCH-RELATED SCHOOLS

In a New York suit seen sure to require a ruling on the constitutionality of using Federal funds to provide "on premises" educational services to children attending church-related schools, the National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) contends that funding ESEA, Title I, services for private school children during the school day within religious schools is unconstitutional. PEARL maintains such use violates the First and Fifth Amendments and argues last year's Supreme Court decision in Meek v. Pittenger, a Pennsylvania case, supports this view. The suit asks for a temporary and permanent injunction. In Barrera, the only prior ESEA-related case, the Court did not address the constitutional problem.

Title I authorizes support for educational programs for deprived children in attendance areas where low income families are concentrated. It specifies that in order to qualify for support under Title I, a local educational agency must provide for participation of private school children "to the extent consistent with" the number of educationally deprived children in the district enrolled in private schools. In New York these services are provided "on premises" to assure equitable participation by private school students. Should the injunction be granted, all federally funded on-site services to children attending church schools would be ended.

"I see this suit," says Alan Davitt, Executive Director, New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents and member of the National Advisory Council on the Education of Disadvantaged Children, "as an attack upon the minority poor in private schools who are receiving benefits rightfully due them as economically disadvantaged children." They should have the same range of freedoms and services as all other children, states Davitt.

"BICENTENNIAL" MENU ITEMS
ENLIVEN SCHOOL BREAKFASTS

"Confederate Nectar" and "Betsy Ross Crunchies" may soon appear on Bicentennial Breakfast Menus in schools across the country as School Breakfast Program officials strive to encourage disadvantaged children to eat more nutritious breakfasts. The program, permanently established with the passage of Public Law 94-105, provides healthful breakfasts--either free or for no more than 10¢--to the Nation's public and private school children who are unable to pay the full price.

The American Medical Association reports that nearly 80% of American families skip breakfast. The Iowa Breakfast Study reveals that less than 20% of children in American schools have an adequate breakfast. By midmorning, according to the study, these children are listless and apathetic, with limited attention spans. School breakfasts contain milk, fruit or juice, and bread or cereal; schools are urged to serve protein-rich foods often.

Schools must operate the breakfast program without profit and comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 to be eligible. The U.S. Department of Agriculture administers the program nationally; state educational agencies, locally. Program officials seek increased private school participation.

CAPE-PRODUCED OE HANDBOOK
USEFUL, ADMINISTRATORS SAY

"The most useful handbook published for administrators of federal education laws," says an assistant OE regional commissioner, describing the CAPE-produced "Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators: For Effective Participation in Federal Education Programs administered by the U.S. Office of Education." In the last six months over 6,000 copies have been issued; 5,000 requests have been referred to the Government Printing Office, according to Dwight Crum, OE Director of Nonpublic Educational Services. The publication is available for 75¢ through Superintendent of Documents; GPO; Washington, D.C. 20402. (Publication #HE-19.180:P93; Stock #017-080-01489)

NAIS CONFERENCE SPEAKERS,
TYACK, BOK, DISCUSS MORAL
EDUCATION, PARENTAL CHOICE

"Not all families want the same kind of education; not all children learn best in one manner," believes David Tyack, Professor at the Stanford University Center for Advancement Study in the Behavioral Sciences. Speaking to the need for parental choice in education, he said it is time to recognize that some degree of family choice in education may help the school improve its job. "Parents care about their children," he added. Tyack advocates the use of vouchers, especially to benefit the poor.

Tyack spoke to over 4,800 at a general session of the annual conference of the National Association of Independent Schools, which was held February 26-28 in Boston. Over 180 sectional meetings were held on such topics as: curriculum, finance, governmental relations, innovative practices, and value education. Another featured speaker, Derek C. Bok, President of Harvard, discussed moral education. "We have a clear responsibility" as educators to contribute to our students' moral development, he said. We must prepare them intellectually to deal with important moral problems and help them acquire a determination to put their ethical principles into practice. This preparation and determination is vital, he believes, to the "quality of the society in which we live."

PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDY PART
OF NIE'S CONSIDERATION OF
FALLING STUDENT ENROLLMENT

A CAPE-directed study of the relationships between private schools and the general school enrollment decline is being undertaken as part of a broader study by the National Institute of Education (NIE) of the implications of declining enrollments for American schools. There is "mounting concern" over the problem, according to NIE's Robert J. Cunningham, who is responsible for the investigation.

Three members of the Scholars Advisory Committee to CAPE are conducting the private school study. Donald A. Erickson, Professor of Education, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., is principal investigator. Working with him are Bruce S. Cooper, Assistant Professor of Education, Dartmouth College, and Richard Nault, Assistant Professor of Education, Washington University. Robert L. Lamborn, CAPE Executive Director, serves as consultant.

An NIE-sponsored workshop bringing together the policy makers, practitioners from education organizations, and academicians involved in the various studies will be held in Salt Lake City March 31 - April 2. Papers will be presented, areas of concern will be identified and discussed, and NIE's future agenda for dealing with the declining enrollment problem will be further refined.

ENERGY TASK FORCE HAS
\$200,000 EXXON GRANT;
3-PHASE PROGRAM BEGINS

The Energy Task Force (ETF), dealing with energy matters of concern to educational institutions, has received \$200,000 and an offer of technical assistance from the Exxon Corporation. ETF is concentrating on three projects: accumulating relevant conservation information and disseminating it to educational institutions; developing an educational program in energy conservation for school and college management and operating personnel; and designing an energy audit program to help institutions evaluate their conservation programs. In addition, ETF will continue to monitor and comment on energy activities in Washington, according to David I. Newton, ETF Executive Director. "It is only by careful scrutiny of emerging energy policy that we can protect educational institutions from the inadvertent discrimination which has characterized past energy policy," he said.

The task force is sponsored by the American Council on Education, the National Association of College and University Business Officers, and the Association of Physical Plant Administrators. John F. Embersits, Energy Advisor to the Yale Corporation, is Chairman. CAPE has worked with ETF since the task force was organized in March, 1975.

OE SPONSORING CONFERENCE
ON PRIVATE SCHOOLS' ROLE
IN U.S. EDUCATION, SOCIETY

An OE-sponsored national conference on private education will be held June 24 and 25 in Washington, D.C. The conference theme will be "Private Education: Fact and Future." Its purpose will be to provide information about the history and condition of the Nation's private elementary and secondary schools and, through the presentation of papers and subsequent discussion, to stimulate consideration of public policy matters related to private education and the importance of educational diversity in a pluralistic society.

U.S. Commissioner Terrel Bell will be the keynote speaker. Otto Kraushaar, former President of Goucher College and authority on American nonpublic schools, will provide a historical perspective on private education; Donald A. Erickson, Professor of Education, Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, will address related sociological considerations; and Rep. Albert H. Quie, ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor, will deal with the development of relevant public policy.

Representatives from professional associations, foundations, government, schools, and universities will be invited to attend as participants; individuals from these groups will serve as panel respondents to each of the major addresses.

HEW REGULATORY PROCEDURES
UNDER DEPARTMENTAL STUDY,
PRACTITIONERS PARTICIPATE

Concerned about delays in the drafting and publication of HEW regulations and the lack of sufficient public participation in the development of regulations, Secretary F. David Mathews is giving top-priority attention to review and reform of the Department's regulations drafting procedures. He has created the Office of Regulatory Review and assigned Special Assistant to the Secretary Douglas Harlan to serve as its first Director.

At the first of a series of meetings designed to acquaint interest group representatives with the function of his office and to solicit their suggestions concerning procedures and their continuing cooperation in drafting regulations, Harlan stressed Mathew's determination to establish procedures which will assure that HEW hears from those who are going to be regulated early enough to make a difference. "We look forward to a more open process wherein people in the public at large will have adequate opportunity to make their views known to us as we develop our regulations," he commented. HEW will learn from early conversations with practitioners and draw better regulations. The Secretary feels strongly, Harlan stated, that regulations should be as simple as practical, that we should do no more than we absolutely must to achieve the intent of the legislation.

Education representatives attending the meeting included executives of the American Council on Education, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the American Association of School Administrators, and CAPE.

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