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TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1949

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

FRANCIS Cardinal Spellman's blistering attack on Rep. Graham Barden's Federal aid to education bill brings into clear focus a fundamental question of the greatest possible significance: How far shall we go in breaking down the traditional separation of church and state in our democracy?

Cardinal Spellman is apparently somewhat mollified on the Barden bill. He charges discrimination against parochial school children because, he said, the Barden bill would ban the use of Federal money in non-public schools for health benefits and transportation services while it permits the use of such purposes in public schools.

Actually, according to the Associated Press, the Barden bill forbids the use of the money for such things as transportation and health services for either public or private school pupils. It would appear, therefore, that there is no discrimination that exists.

Nevertheless, the Barden bill would, in effect, nullify, certainly at the national level, the controversial 1947 Supreme Court case of the case of Board of Education which upheld state laws authorizing the use of public tax funds for school buses serving parochial schools.

This fabled decision was one in a series of court decisions and interpretations which have been gradually whittling away at one of the basic foundations of the American democracy.

Among the first was the 1925 ruling in the case of Pierce v. Society of Sisters which established the right of Catholics or other religious bodies to send their own school children outside the public school system.

Subsequently, the system of "released time" for religious education at public expense came into vogue over the nation. This equally dangerous inroad was dealt a blow by the Supreme Court's decision last year, in the case of McCollum v. Illinois, that it is unconstitutional to release school children in the absence of legal injunctions to the contrary.

Finally, Federal school subsidies were extended to private and parochial schools.

Thus we have had a gradual chipping away at the edges of the church-state barrier. If the courts should hold that any part of the present Federal aid to education must be extended to public and non-public schools alike, the barrier itself would be down.

The separation of church and state is a doctrine which has a double meaning: (1) the state must leave the churches alone, and (2) the churches must not interfere with the state.

REORGANIZATION IS STARTED

The prompt exercise by Mr. Truman of his new Presidential authority to submit sweeping reorganization plans for the Federal Government is an encouraging indication that the Hoover Commission recommendations will be acted upon.

Within an hour after he had signed a bill permitting him to restore some efficiencies in the Federal Government, he sent along seven reorganization plans which are in line with the Hoover Commission reports.

The President expressed his regret that the Congress had reserved the right to veto any of the plans by a majority of the whole membership of either house. But he did not criticize Congress in this reorganization plan.

Under the new bill, each of the plans will automatically become effective unless one of the two houses nullifies it within 60 days. Congressional approval as such is not necessary.

It is not necessary. That means there is no chance that the reorganization plans will get bogged down in the mass of legislation now pending.

Some of the proposals will doubtless have opposition. For instance, the placing of the Government's job-finding and unemployment services under the Labor Department will be further weakened.

As long as the recommendations have pretty closely to the Hoover Commission findings, we can safely assume that the nation, in the best interest of all the nation, even though they may stir objections from certain groups.

And it is important that we all keep a close watch on both the executive and legislative branches of the Government to see that neither falls us in this great opportunity to trim the monstrous waste and reduce the gross inefficiency in our sprawling Federal empire.

interfere with the state. And especially must we use state money to propagate a particular form of religious dogma. It was clearly written into the Bill of Rights that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," a provision which reflected the famed battles of James Madison and George Mason to establish religious freedom as an inherent right of the individual, not something to be merely tolerated.

It is argued that the ban against state funds for parochial schools discriminates against the students in parochial schools. This fallacious argument has been clearly and forcefully answered by one of the staunchest of Federal aid to education proponents and a foremost fighter against discrimination, Dr. Max Eastman. He says:

"No one is proposing that Catholic children in the public schools be treated differently from others. That would be monstrous. The fact that the parochial schools are not part of the public school system in a democracy. They are part of a religious establishment. Democracy goes as far as it can go in allowing them to break away from public school system, and withdraw their children and indoctrinate them along lines determined not by the democratic community but by the religious authorities. It is to insist that the granting of a special privilege must not carry in its wake the subsidizing of it."

"Schools exist in a democracy in order to be kept out of a process of cultural heritage, to mingle youngsters of every race and religion, so that they can learn to live together. When public funds are used they are used for these purposes.

"Any religious group that wants to second any other religious group in its own expense, it can, if it wishes, develop non-public schools of its own. It can, if it wishes, refuse to contaminate the children by contact with the community's schools.

"But if a church makes this choice it must stand by it. It can scarcely expect that the rest of the community will be asked to take place, but underwrite it with public money. That is not a demand for equality for the minority."

Cardinal Spellman, we think, misses his high religious office when he condemns Mr. Barden as "a new apostle of bigotry" and "a man whose public life is a lie." Congressman Barden and all who lend their names and their efforts to provoke and promote prejudice against children of any religious faith are bigots.

If Americans need to pray for anything concerned with Federal aid to education, it is that the principle of separation of church and state, which has proved so successful in the past, be further weakened by any use of Federal money for non-public schools, no matter what their classification.

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men he was been waiting for. Other owners of residential, business, and industrial property all over the country are waiting for the same thing. It'll take some work, and maybe a few dollars.

But if the Queen City can also be the Clean City, we'll have all the more reason to be happy living here.

It may have been the influence of courtesy week, but a young woman of Shelby County is riding a very old fellow. She asked the old codger why it is that old men prefer the company of younger women. "Simple enough in my opinion," he replied, "just prefer smelling perfume instead of liniment!" - Shelby (N.C.) Daily Star.

Here's something that may give you a jolt. The number of persons in Mississippi who own automobiles is three times as large as the number of persons who file income taxes. Perhaps it takes most of their money to buy automobiles going. - Jackson (Miss.) Daily News.

As John pays most of the stuff out now in taxes, we no longer can accurately refer to Mr. Per Capita as an anonymous character named Dough. - Nashville (Tenn.) Banner.

In times like these, when sheep-like the leaders follow the voters and voters have no leaders, the country is unsafe. - Charleston (S.C.) News & Courier.

Oppenheimer Case

WASHINGTON (AP)—It is getting to be very unprogressive to believe that the rights of Americans who are loyal to their country are being sacrificed by the case of Dr. Oppenheimer.

Frank E. Oppenheimer and his wife, Elizabeth, are the latest casualties of the most recent of the House Un-American Activities Committee's notorious hearings. Last week the committee disclosed that the Oppenheimers had briefly belonged to the Communist Party, when they were both young and foolish, in the time before the war.

It did not matter that both Oppenheimers had learned better; and that the party membership was terminated when he was one of the physicists engaged in the Manhattan District project.

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Hoover Commission Reports Treasury & Interior Departments

(Eighth in a series of articles explaining the Hoover Commission report on reorganizing the Federal Government.)

With the rise of big government, the task of managing it has become increasingly complex. In twenty years Federal revenues have swelled from \$4 billion to \$40 billion. The Treasury Department has grown from a mere office of the War Department to a vast organization with 80,000 employees. Its organization and management have been scattered outside it. To make the Treasury again the real focus of the Government will require a thorough rehaul and reorganization.

Specific Items

Bank examinations are conducted not only by the Treasury's Controller of the Currency and the Federal Reserve Board but also by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, an independent agency which protects some 80 million depositors in 14,613 banks.

The Treasury manages the Stabilization Fund and administers the British loan. But the important foreign financial transactions of the export-import bank are outside the Treasury.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is another fiscal agency outside the Treasury and responsible to the President. Since he properly supervises their affairs, these agencies are in practice outside the Treasury's control.

Recommendations

1. The department must undergo a sweeping internal reorganization to enable it to do its work efficiently. A proposed core of 10,000 employees in 1943 internal revenue and the Bureau of Customs should be combined in a new Federal Revenue Service.

2. To reduce the Treasury's size, the following shifts are proposed: (1) The Bureau of Federal Reserve operations be transferred to the Federal Reserve Board; (2) The Coast Guard, and probably certain marine functions of the Bureau of Customs, to the Department of the Interior.

3. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Report on the Reconstruction Finance Corporation should be transferred to the Treasury.

4. To coordinate the policies and operations of the thirty agencies of the Federal Reserve, the Monetary and Credit Council should be organized with the Federal Reserve Board.

5. An Accountant General should be established in the Treasury.

6. To insure the political appointment of Collectors of Internal Revenue, Collectors of Customs, and certain other officials who require Treasury and certain other qualifications, the President should be authorized to appoint them from the career service without Senate confirmation.

Department of the Interior

In 1924 the Joint Congressional and Presidential Committee on Reorganization proposed that most of the agencies of the interior be consolidated in a single Cabinet department. The proposal was adopted by President Hoover in 1932, again by President Roosevelt's Committee on Administrative Management in 1937. "Had such a department been created twenty-five years ago," says the report, "it would have saved the Government from the present confusion."

People's Platform

HOEYM AND SCOTISM

HOEYM AND SCOTISM are antipathetic. It was the people who were so-called. It was the people who were so-called. It was the people who were so-called.

Government's Task

THESE 150 agencies of the Hoover Commission would be reduced to 10,000. To complete the job, Congress must act. Within five years, Federal plants will probably be producing 15 to 20 per cent of the nation's electricity.

Hoover Commission now, "hundreds of millions of dollars would have been saved to the public over these years. The savings would have been used for the "disastrous conflicts and overruns" of the Hoover Commission. The savings would have been used for the "disastrous conflicts and overruns" of the Hoover Commission.

The major conflict is between the Hoover Commission and the Army's Bureau of Reclamation and the Army's Bureau of Reclamation and the Army's Bureau of Reclamation. The Hoover Commission and the Army's Bureau of Reclamation and the Army's Bureau of Reclamation.

The present division of authority for public works has also resulted in an overall Government failure to check properly on the worth of proposed construction projects, and to determine their proper timing. Eisenhower agrees that the Government should "hold its purse strings to a minimum in progressive times, saving them to stimulate the economy when private job and construction begin slacking off. But such planning and control are difficult when several rival agencies are trying to promote their individual building programs."

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Nearly five million acres of land are now watered by U. S. irrigation projects.

The Bureau of Reclamation each drew up plans for a project at Hells Canyon, Idaho. Each set of plans cost about \$500,000, and each set of plans cost about \$500,000.

Recommendations

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3. The following agencies should be shifted from Interior to other departments: (1) Bureau of Land Management (except minerals); (2) Department of Geographical Names; (3) Department of Geographical Names.

A Board of Impartial Analysis for Engineering and Architectural Facts should be set up to review and report on the economic, social, and technical worth of all projects proposed by the Interior Department. It would also periodically review authorized projects and advise as to their progress or discontinuance. Though the Hoover Commission tactfully refrains from mentioning it, such a board, with sufficient prestige, might materially diminish congressional bickering and post-haste grants.

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Robert C. Ruark To See Them Killed

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The pilgrims who came to Indianapolis to see the race, they will see them killed. The race, they will see them killed.

Nylon has been racing, big cars and little, for sixteen years. In 1933, a five-man tangle that broke up the race, they will see them killed.

Billy Devore, a slim veteran driver who was in the race, they will see them killed.

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Francic Replied

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