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A Federal School System?

The reports that President Nixon next year may propose massive—\$17.5 billion—new federal aid for public elementary and secondary schools is both encouraging and sobering.



NIXON

Massive Federal Aid Welcome, But Not Without Its Dangers

Mounting Pressures
While there is reason to hope that when the last of the "baby boom" children—now in high school here—have passed through the public schools, there will be some easing of the financial pressures on public schools, it is also apparent that other kinds of pressures are mounting to strain the public schools.

This isn't theory on our part. Consider what happened when the federal government reacted to Russia's Sputnik in 1957 with the National Defense Education Act which, among other things, placed great emphasis on mathematics, science and foreign languages.

How serious the situation seems at present depends on where one looks. In Charlotte-Mecklenburg, blessed with a solid, expanding tax base and a solvent state, the situation is uncomfortable, but hardly desperate.

The point is not to criticize a worthwhile program, but to note that the future is difficult to plan for, and to suggest that any attempt to use any new federal aid to mortgage local districts toward a national curriculum is fraught with danger.

But if massive federal aid is the clearest solution to the school financial problem, there are enormous risks if the aid program is handled poorly.

Delicate Decisions
At this point, it is not known what President Nixon and his committee studying school finance will recommend, or what the Congress will be willing to approve.

Actions Without Reasons?

Public officials in Charlotte have sometimes been heard to express frustration at the usually vigorous, sometimes venomous, criticism directed toward them when a discussion is held in private.

Council Should Explain The Courses It Sets
expanded to seven from five members, the council agreed unanimously and without discussion and then moved on to other, non-schooled business.

However, one need not theorize about what goes on in private to be concerned about what potentially falls to go in in public.

Some of those who read or heard of the action later probably wondered, why seven members? Why not six, or eight, or nine? Indeed, why expand it at all?

As it was, with practically no one in the audience, Councilman Alexander moved that the Housing Authority be

Congressional Quarterly

NIXON AND NEWS MEDIA

Tension between the White House and the news media is a fact of life in the United States. Ever since George Washington, then commander of the revolutionary forces complained that the patriot press was revealing military information to the British, chief executives have endeavored to censor, threaten and lambasted its criticism and indiscretions in practice.

The Nixon administration, like most, has tried to influence the news media to deal favorably with its actions. But its attempts have brought charges that the Nixon Administration is threatening the freedom of the press guaranteed by the Constitution.

Considerable Virtues Of The Disunited Nations

By FLORA LEWIS

Despite all the attention attracted by the entry of China, the United Nations hasn't changed from the quiet years of plodding frustration. There is something disingenuous about the American reaction of pique because a lot of small countries, and some big ones, resisted U.S. arm-twisting efforts to follow U.S. pro-Chinese logic.

But it only cuts against the pattern of an unregulated world community. It does not change facts. No amount of U.N. votes have toppled the white supremacist government of Rhodesia, nor won for Arab states the defeat of Israel. They cannot, because the U.N. has no more force than its member states are able and willing to apply, jointly or against each other.

This is a diverse world, full of antagonisms. The diversity and the hostility will be expressed somehow, if not in political struggle then in armed struggle. The major virtue of the United Nations is not that it tries to bring the peoples of the world into harmony.

preventing wars. One superpower, one government with dominion over all, could not result in either intolerable repression or cataclysmic explosions. This is a diverse world, full of antagonisms. The diversity and the hostility will be expressed somehow, if not in political struggle then in armed struggle.

I've Never Seen Anyone So Happy To Relinquish His Seat Of Office...

The contorted legal question was not the point, anyway. It seldom is in the United Nations. This is an assembly, not the legislature of a world government. It functions according to the complex interplay of international power, politics and small nation obfuscations.

One involves Hoffa's hand-picked successor, Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons who shows the same compliance as a member of the Pay Board as he always shows Hoffa. "Fitz's" laud approval of the Administration's effort to stabilize the economy is figured as a counterweight to the fuss AFL-CIO President George Meany makes.

lalo, in a few months, to the notion that Hoffa, hardly a lovable fellow, got out on a political deal. Moreover, the Teamsters Union, for all its huffing and puffing, and its fat political fund (Mrs. Josephine Hoffa is paid \$40,000 annually for helping to run it), has an impressive record of ineptness in political campaigns.

Some of the only possible benefit to the administration is having Fitzsimmons on the payroll. Hoffa is bound by the conditions imposed by President Nixon to steer clear of the union or union business until March 6, 1980. But in Detroit, and in other Teamster centers where Jimmy and Fitz are well known, seasoned Teamster officials aid Jimmy will soon be telling Fitz what to do.

A Freed Jimmy Hoffa - Liability For Nixon?

By NICK THIMMESCH

WASHINGTON
The Brothers Kennedy put him in jail and President Richard M. Nixon got him out. Jimmy Hoffa figured big in the politics of the Sixties, but Republicans are foolish to expect comparable gains as a result of President Nixon freeing the ex-Teamster leader at Christmas.

came gaunt and grim in federal prison. He even got sympathy when his wife, Josephine, became seriously ill, and he was given an unescorted leave to visit her last spring. The obsession with the "evil" Hoffa, John N. Mitchell encouraged the ex-Teamster leader recommending that Hoffa's sentence be commuted. He also saw political benefits in 1972.

Hoffa, who served better than one-third of his 13-year sentence, might have been a worthy candidate for commutation. But supporters of several hundred other federal prisoners and ex-prisoners hoping for commutation or pardon fees feel they have worthy candidates. Congressman Robert McCloy (R-Ill.) was discouraged last week when he failed again to get a full pardon for Dr. Milton Margolis, a physician who did his time for tax evasion, and who has tried for eight years to clear his name so he can regain full professional standing.

The goodwill that people feel at Christmas about presidential clemency could trans-

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The Washington Merry-Go-Round Racketeers Find Haven in Israel?

By JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON
The Zionists and religious aren't the only Jews who look upon Israel as the promised land. A disturbing number of Jewish racketeers have also sought sanctuary in Israel.

Joe "Doc" Slacher, an underworld habitue, who was allowed to immigrate to Israel after his conviction on income tax charges; James Schmetzler, alias Max Courtney, a former big-time gambler; Gamblers Al Moses, Hyman "Hyman" Segal and Frank Ritter, alias Rod Ross; Claude Lipsky, a French Jew wanted in France in connection with a real estate scandal.

Now the law, intended to guarantee a place for any homeless Jew, is being used by racketeers to create a criminal sanctuary. Some Israeli authorities hold the Law of Return as sacred and are determined to preserve it no matter what the price.

\$5 dollars from Swiss to Israeli banks. He has spoken to top bankers in the U. S. and Switzerland. We have also learned that the Justice Department is investigating how certain Swiss banks transfer underworld funds to Israel.

When the new Jewish state was proclaimed in 1948, therefore, its doors were thrown open to all returning Jews, and their right to remain was sanctified by the famous Law of Return.