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Churchmen Say Carter Shows
Partiality to Catholics.

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Representatives of leaders of 11 Protestant and Jewish denominations have charged that President Jimmy Carter did not make a serious pledge during his campaign to be a President of all the people.

In a press conference at the National Press Club here, John T. Conners, moderator of the United Presbyterian Church, U. S., read a statement saying that President Carter has refused to meet with the representatives of 11 national religious bodies while he has repeatedly met with Archbishop Joseph Bernardin and other top officials of the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

The 11 religious bodies have formed the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights (RCAR). The coalition says that the United States government has no right to impose by law on all citizens the theological viewpoint of the Roman Catholic Church on the subject of abortion. The Catholic hierarchy is pressing for a constitutional amendment to prohibit abortions.

The RCAR insists that when a deep theological division exists on a question such as abortion, the government should not seek to legislate in this area. Rather, people should be allowed to exercise their own consciences, instructed by their own religious convictions, and in consultation with their own physician, the churchmen insist.

"For us the issue is one of religious freedom, and we are prepared to defend that freedom vigorously," Conners declared at the news conference.

The RCAR spokesmen charged that both during the presidential campaign and since the election they have sought an audience with President Carter. Such a meeting has been refused, they said, while at the same time the President has had meetings with Roman Catholic representatives and discussed their viewpoint on abortion.

"It was not our intention to attempt to change the President's personal moral convictions on abortion," the RCAR statement said. "He has the same right as all American citizens to follow his own conscience and religious beliefs on this issue. But we do wish to increase his awareness of the various theological viewpoints of abortion which are held by millions of thoughtful, religious Americans."

In addition, the RCAR spokesmen said, "We wish to state our unwavering support for his position in opposition to a constitutional amendment banning abortions. Such an amendment would deny our basic right to religious freedom by imposing upon all Americans one religious viewpoint on when life begins. Because abortion is basically a theological question, it must not become a matter of civil law."

Denominational members of the RCAR include: The American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., American Ethical Union, American Jewish Congress, American Humanist Association, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church in the U.S., Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Unitarian Universalist Association, United Methodist Church, and United Presbyterian Church.

Catholic, Private Educators
Press For More Federal Aid

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Private school and Roman Catholic educators boldly pushed for "full partnership" in the nation's educational program during hearings before the House Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education here.

At the same time, the National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) asked the Congress to provide public funds for public programs only.

U. S. Rep. Carl D. Perkins (D.-Ky.), a Baptist, is chairman of the subcommittee as well as of the full Committee on Education and Labor. U. S. Rep. Michael T. Blouin (D.-Ia.), a Roman Catholic, presided at the hearing at which only the United States Catholic Conference, the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) and PEARL testified. Hearings on other days were held for spokesmen for public school interests.

The hearings were for the purpose of recommending legislation for the extension and revision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), which was the first major breakthrough for federal aid to education. ESEA has been amended several times before.

Patrick Farrell, the U. S. Catholic Bishops' representative for elementary and secondary schools, told the subcommittee that "We would be very supportive" of efforts by Congress to eliminate bottlenecks that "inhibit the services being provided to children.

"However," Farrell hastened to say, "our support must be conditioned by our concern that any changes of this nature would have to include adequate provisions for the effective participation on an equitable basis of nonpublic school children in all federal education programs."

The Catholic spokesman praised Congress for expanding ESEA in earlier revisions to include increasing aid to private school children. But he complained bitterly that previous revisions of ESEA had not included "adequate provisions for the effective participation on an equitable basis of nonpublic school children in all federal education programs."

In addition, he complained that the U. S. Office of Education (USOE) and state departments of education which are staffed by public school experts, have not implemented "the intent of Congress" in providing aid to nonpublic school children in certain education programs. Explaining the attitude of "responsible officials within the USOE," he said, "they have informed us in no uncertain terms that unless a federal education statute makes specific provision for the participation of nonpublic school children, they will not consider it possible."

The Catholic educators selected three specific areas of the ESEA in which they charged that pupils in parochial and other private schools are not receiving a fair share of federal funds. One is the provision for "comparable" services for disadvantaged children as are provided through public schools. Another is the neglect of private schools by public school administrators in providing educational equipment, instructional materials, guidance, counseling, and testing as well as text books and library resources.

A third area of complaint by Catholic educators is that public school authorities plan and design programs to meet the needs of their own children and then invite the nonpublic school students to participate. The ESEA requirement is that such programs are to be worked out in consultation with private school educators.

Farrell, in his testimony, spelled out in detail the recommendations of the Catholic educators. He said, "The Catholic school community urges that certain specific actions be taken by Congress to insure that the long standing inequities which we have described may be corrected and that the congressional mandate for the participation of nonpublic school children will finally be fully realized. In our opinion, the problem basically stems from a lack of adequate procedures and personnel within HEW to implement this mandate."

Robert L. Lamborn, executive director of the Council for American Private Education (CAPE), fully endorsed all of the testimony and recommendations of the Catholic Educators and added some of his own. Specifically CAPE recommended:

(1) Equitable participation of students in private schools in all federal pre-college programs; (2) Full partnership of private and public school educators in establishing policy, developing legislation, drafting regulations, and in monitoring and evaluating programs in all areas that relate to private schools and their students; (3) Creation of specialist

offices in the U. S. Office of Education to be filled by people who have had extensive experience in private schools; and (4) Legislation and supporting regulations relating to private schools, with particular attention to procedures to deal with "impediments imposed by constitutional constraints."

Joanne T. Goldsmith, executive director of the National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty, appealed to the Congress to follow the U. S. Constitution "which speaks to the basic right of all Americans to practice religion without government involvement and interference."

The PEARL spokeswoman told the subcommittee that "the great majority of Americans firmly oppose the use of government funds to help finance religiously affiliated schools." She then said, "We express the hope that you will give full hearing and consideration to our point of view before taking action in this sensitive area."

Goldsmith reviewed a long series of Supreme Court decisions relating to "parochialism" and said that PEARL is opposed to all public funding of private schools and all unconstitutional financial support of religion.

She warned that public funding for private and religious schools would inevitably lead to public regulation of such schools and that this would be bad both for religion and for government.

Further, Goldsmith charged, "the often heard view that a way must be found, somehow or other, to finance sectarian schools should be seen as what it is--an attack on the Bill of Rights." She further charged, "those who make such statements are saying, in effect, that the guarantees of the Bill of Rights may be circumvented whenever the demand for circumvention rises to a high enough level to make public officials uncomfortable. None of our constitutional rights would survive if this cynical approach were accepted."

PEARL is composed of 30 national and state religious and civil liberties organizations, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

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SBC Sunday School Board
Divests ABC Stock

Baptist Press
9/22/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has sold 2,500 shares of American Broadcasting Company stock because the board does not approve of programming "related to the abuse of human sexuality, violence and perversion."

Grady C. Cothen, president of the world's largest publisher of religious materials, said a professional money manager which invests board funds was instructed to sell the stock in three stages because of the state of the market.

"During the controversy over the sex-oriented program 'Soap,' we discovered the 2,500 shares in an examination of our portfolio held by one money manager," Cothen told Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. "Since we do not approve of the program in question, nor of some other programs related to abuse of human sexuality, violence and perversion, we decided it was not proper to hold ABC stock."

The stock, worth nearly \$100,000, represented only a small portion of some \$33 million invested by the Sunday School Board, which operates on an annual budget of \$77.3 million and employs some 1,500 persons. The board, Cothen said, "invests funds of its contingency reserve plan as authorized by the SBC and also manages its pension plan. These two require massive investments."

He added that professional money managers invest the funds for the board "according to guidelines which exclude stocks related to liquor, gambling, tobacco and other ethically questionable business activities."

The board president said that his agency, the largest in the Southern Baptist Convention, "will continue to examine investments, as we have in the past, to make sure Sunday School Board guidelines are maintained."

As for "Soap," Cothen declared that the program "should disgust intelligent people."

ABC Reportedly Giving
Free 'Soap' Advertising

NASHVILLE (BP)--ABC-TV appears to be peddling its controversial new show "Soap" to potential sponsors at no cost or at reduced advertising rates, according to the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, one of the most outspoken opponents of the adult sex comedy series.

The chairman of the New York City advertising agency for American Home Products, which advertised on the second episode of "Soap," Sept. 20, has told the Christian Life Commission that American Home Products did not pay ABC "one penny" for its prime-time Anacin commercial.

"We did not pay, and will not pay, one penny," Dan Rodgers, chairman of the John F. Murphy advertising agency told the commission. "They gave us a free ride."

Harry N. Hollis Jr., the Christian Life Commission's director of family and special moral concerns, said ABC's offer to American Home Products raises serious questions about the future of the new program.

"Will ABC," Hollis asked, "offer other advertisers a 'free ride' in order to conceal the fact that 'Soap' is in deep trouble? Why does ABC want to save a show that majors on sex miseducation and immorality?"

An ABC spokesman, Richard Connelly, vice president for public relations, declined to confirm or deny any aspects of the Christian Life Commission's report because the network has a policy of not discussing financial relationships with advertisers.

How much American Home Products' "free ride" is worth is difficult to estimate, commission officials say, because advertisers have told them that ABC has offered advertising time on the program at various reduced rates.

The initial set price for a 30-second commercial spot on "Soap," which the network expected to earn high Nielson ratings, was approximately \$75,000, according to the advertising manager for one company which sponsored the Sept. 20 episode of "Soap."

Although most of the advertisers appear to be buying commercial time on "Soap" as a part of a package of programming time, the "free ride" for American Home Products was worth about \$40,000, according to Rodgers.

Rodgers told the commission that at the present time American Home Products does not expect to be a sponsor of "Soap."

Commission officials said they have been unable to learn whether other "Soap" sponsors have received free commercial time.

Sponsors which have appeared on at least one of the first two episodes of "Soap," are Lee Filter Division, Edison, N. J.; Mem Company (English Leather), Northvale, N. J.; Bic Pen Corporation, Milford, Conn.; Vlassic Foods, Inc., West Bloomfield, Mich.; Max Factor, Hollywood, Calif.; Jovan, Inc., Chicago, Ill.; American Home Products, New York, N. Y.; Manischewitz Light Wines, Atlanta, Ga.; Preference by L'Oreal, New York, N.Y.; and Presto Industries (Presto Fry Baby), Eau Claire, Wisc.