

Private School Aid Dying, But The Issue Remains

By DON HOENSCHELL

Parochial schools are in trouble in Michigan and need at least \$21 million.

Public schools are in trouble in Michigan and need at least \$70 million.

Education in Michigan is in trouble.

Teachers are demanding an equitable salary at least relating to those paid by other districts. Signs are multiplying of massive strikes in the spring and fall.

Teacher strikes are illegal in Michigan but legal means have been found to give them sanction—a refusal to agree to new contracts, holdouts, in the lexicon of professional baseball.

The children are the pawns in an economic confrontation that agonizes school board members and parents, legislators and laymen.

JAMES O'NEIL, a Livonian on the State Board of Education, proposes year-around schools. Some public schools are threatening half-day sessions and a cutback in curricula.

Parochial schools, driven to a similar financial wall, are threatening to close and force up to 330,000 more students into the public schools.

Under the state constitution, the state is responsible for the education of children from kindergarten through the 12th grade. After that, parents must foot the bills for college.

Michigan has struggled with the school problem.

Two of the four cents paid on each \$1 sales dollar in state tax goes automatically to the schools. When the pinch came in 1959, a portion of the liquor and cigarette tax was diverted to the schools.

The bill in Lansing proposing state aid for nonpublic schools is in a coma. It will not be officially dead for 1968 until the Legislature adjourns. The heart of the bill reads:

“EDUCATIONAL grants of \$100 shall be paid annually to the parent or guardian or person standing in the place of parent for each child enrolled in grades nine through twelve in nonpublic schools in Michigan. Provided that the nonpublic school of attendance certifies in writing that the child is regularly enrolled in such school and is enrolled in any four of the following courses of study:

“English, mathematics, science, American history, government, commercial courses, vocational training courses, foreign languages and physical education.

“If the child is enrolled in grades kindergarten through eight, educational grants of \$50 shall be paid annually to the parent of each child; Provided that the child is regularly enrolled in the nonpublic school on the fourth Friday after Labor Day and is enrolled in any two of the following courses:

“English or reading, arithmetic or mathematics, science and physical education, as shall be certified in writing by the nonpublic school of attendance.

“If the child is enrolled in less than two of the courses the educational grant shall be \$25 per course attended. No educational grants shall be paid or used for any course of religious doctrine or worship.”

The bill further states that if the nonpublic school is a racially integrated innervity with substantial numbers of economically and educationally deprived children, the grants will be \$150 for grades nine through 12 and \$75 for grades kindergarten through eight.

Clergymen throughout the northwest suburbs of Detroit issued a bulletin to parishioners in school-supporting churches stating the case for

the nonpublic schools.

THE BULLETIN said it would cost the public schools \$205 million a year to educate the 330,000 nonpublic school students. Capital outlay to provide buildings a classrooms would be \$712 million.

Nonpublic school enrollment has dropped 28,000 in the past three years at a cost of \$18 million to public schools. The trend, it said, will cost taxpayers \$90 million in the next four years.

In Plymouth, priests in Catholic churches used an example: “There are 598 children enrolled in Our Lady of Good Counsel grade school. In addition, 50 children of our parish attend Catholic high schools.

“The total savings to the taxpayers of Plymouth annually is \$393,600. If (the bill is passed), the assistance to parents in Plymouth (would be) \$35,700.”

Of that amount, it said, \$29,900 would go for secular courses, \$5,800 would go to

secular courses in Catholic high schools.

“The possibility of nonpublic schools in Michigan being forced to close for financial reasons is a very real one,” the bulletins said.

Present trends point toward an abandonment of nonpublic schools in 10 years, the bulletins said.

“If Plymouth residents will weigh the asked-for \$35,700 against the possibility of having to come up with more than 10 times that amount should our schools be forced to close, then the legislation proposed becomes a real bargain.”

The bulletins said the church-state separation issue is not involved since the bill closely resembles the GI Bill of Rights.

They also pointed to the auxiliary services act, passed in 1965, which offers public school services in bus transportation, special education and health and safety areas.

“Others will wonder if state aid will bring state control,” the bulletin said. “The simple

answer is that the control is already here without the aid.”

IT CITED state control over curricula, the length of the school year and the school day, certification of teachers, health and safety standards, new buildings and extra-curricular activities.

“To educate your children according to your conscience is a guarantee of both the state and federal constitutions,” the bulletin said.

“If, because of economic pressures, you cannot afford to send your child to the school of your choice, you are being denied a basic civil right.”

The trouble in the public schools is financial.

Most need money to meet teacher salary demands for the next year. The want to retain present student-teacher ratios or improve them. They need money to enrich curricula for children.

Nonpublic school parents pay property taxes to support the public schools and feel they should get some of it back to finance secular education for their own children.

Public school parents feel they are paying enough in property taxes and should not be asked to support students whose parents want a particular religious education for their children.

Public and nonpublic schools in Michigan are in trouble. The Legislature probably won't solve the problem this year.

But the issue will remain.

Save ends Sunday 5 P.M.

Open Daily 10 to 9
Saturday 9:30 to 9
Sunday 12 to 5

MODEL 1580

Save \$20 5-HP Tiller with Power Reverse

Does all your tilling, hoeing, spading. 16 self-sharpening bolo tines, fast foot-proof recoil starter.

\$149

Reg. \$169

Save \$20! On Our 4-HP 25-in. Riding Mower

199⁹⁹

Reg. 219.99

• fast, easy-spin recoil starter • dependable Powr-Kraft engine • versatile floating rotary means no scalping

Relax... ride your way to a beautiful lawn! Swirling 25-in. blade takes tall grass in stride. Rear wheel differential makes it as easy to handle as power steering. Convenient, separate blade clutch.

\$5 deposit holds purchases up to \$200 on lay-away until May! Only \$10 holds purchases over \$200!

MOW 'EM DOWN! 3 1/2-HP, 20-in. VACUUM ACTION ROTARY MOWER... CUTS CLEAN!

69⁹⁹

Reg. 79.99

Just see what you get for this low price! Impulse starter, wind and release! Instant height adjuster, front and rear! Exclusive automatic engine control! Whirling contour blade and turbo chamber deck create a suction action that lifts up grass for a clean cut and then swoops up clippings. Handle swings up and away for easy storage.

Use Your Charg-All Credit

HEIGHT ADJUSTERS
Located on the deck, away from the blade for added safety and convenience.

SAVE \$8!

3-HP, 19-in. ROTARY Economy mower. Easy-spin starter.

39⁹⁹

Reg. 47.99

SAVE \$7!

SELF-PROPELLED ROTARY 3-HP 20-in. Vacuum action power.

47⁹⁹

Reg. 54.99

SAVE \$10!

SELF-PROPELLED ROTARY With grass catcher. 3-HP 20-in.

89⁹⁹

Reg. 99.99

SAVE \$5!

18-in. POWER REEL A great buy! Precision cutting ease.

99⁹⁹

Reg. 114.99

SAVE \$20!

25-in. RIDING MOWER Full differential. Two speed. 5 HP.

239⁹⁹

Reg. 259.99

• Expensive overstocking of finishes can be avoided if certain figures are kept in mind during the purchase. Finish coats of paint normally can be applied to about 500 square feet of surface area per gallon. Primer can be applied to about 450 square feet per gallon.

• To maintain a beautiful, glossy enamel surface, washing the finished product with a mild detergent solution or a special product designed for washing paint is recommended by the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Assn. Test the solution on an inconspicuous surface before you begin.

SAVE \$3!

SILENT HAND MOWER 18-in reel... easy to operate.

35⁹⁹

Reg. 38.99

SAVE \$8!

3-HP, 19-in. ROTARY Economy mower. Easy-spin starter.

39⁹⁹

Reg. 47.99

SAVE \$7!

SELF-PROPELLED ROTARY 3-HP 20-in. Vacuum action power.

47⁹⁹

Reg. 54.99

SAVE \$10!

SELF-PROPELLED ROTARY With grass catcher. 3-HP 20-in.

89⁹⁹

Reg. 99.99

SAVE \$5!

18-in. POWER REEL A great buy! Precision cutting ease.

99⁹⁹

Reg. 114.99

SAVE \$20!

25-in. RIDING MOWER Full differential. Two speed. 5 HP.

239⁹⁹

Reg. 259.99

ALLEN PARK 16470 Southfield Rd., 386-9440 ■ DETROIT GRAND RIVER AT GREENFIELD 835-4200 ■ FARMINGTON DOWNTOWN SHOPPING CENTER 476-6350 ■ MT. CLEMENS 15 MILE AT GRATIOT 791-2000 ■ DEARBORN MICHIGAN AT SCHAEFER 584-0500 ■ DETROIT GRATIOT NEAR 7 MILE RD. 371-1100 ■ LIVONIA PLYMOUTH AT MIDDLEBELT 427-1600 ■ PONTIAC MALL TELEGRAPH AT ELIZABETH LAKE RD. 462-4946 ■ SOUTHFIELD TELEGRAPH AT 12 MILE RD. 358-1200 ■ SOUTHGATE TRENTON AT EUREKA RD. 285-4400 ■ WARREN 12 MILE AT DEQUINDE 755-7500