

Survey Finds Parochial Bill Support Weak

How do people feel about such issues as prayer in public schools, whether parochial schools have outlived their usefulness, and whether nonpublic schools should get state money? Denise Krager of Beaverton, Susan Krager of St. Joseph, and Don Roland of Ann Arbor, all University of Michigan graduate students in education, decided to find out.

As a research project, they constructed an opinion questionnaire, and distributed it in the Ann Arbor area. It presented controversial statements on current religious issues and asked whether respondents agreed, disagreed, or were neutral.

They got answers from 54 U-M students, eight professors, 50 public school teachers, 12 teachers in a Catholic school

and a Lutheran school, and 77 persons who did not fall into any of those categories.

OF THE 201 respondents, 80 had attended nonpublic schools and 121 had gone to public schools.

Differences arose when the issue was public money for nonpublic schools. Most such differences could be traced to where the respondent or his children attended school.

"Results of the survey indicate that most people are not in favor of the bill which is presently before the Michigan Legislature, which would give \$100 a year to parents of children attending nonpublic schools," she said. Stronger opposition to the bill came from those who had attended public schools.

"Surprisingly, even the non-

public school teachers were not greatly in favor of the bill," Miss Krager said. "One explanation might be that these people would rather see the money given to the schools themselves."

ON OTHER SUBJECTS: "There are indications that many people want religion in the form of devotional services to be kept out of the public schools but that some aspects of religion are acceptable in the schools—the display of religious symbols, such as Christmas trees, the dismissal of individual students from

school for holy days such as Yom Kippur or Good Friday. There also was general agreement with the teaching of the fundamental beliefs of the major religions as a part of the academic program."

ONE SURVEY statement concerned state monetary aid to nonpublic schools.

Those who had attended public schools opposed this idea rather strongly. Those who attended nonpublic schools had a wide range of opinion. The college professors and the nonpublic school teachers, in general, endorsed such aid.

"It is interesting," said Miss Krager, "that the public school teachers and the lay people were in strongest discord with such a measure, even though they themselves have attended a nonpublic school or their children have."

No group expressed strong support for a state tax deduction for parents whose children attend a nonpublic school. Those who did attend nonpublic school were generally more in favor than those who did not. There was general agreement that the present system of school taxes based on property value is inadequate and unfair.

One statement presented the idea that people who do not have children in school or whose children attend nonpublic schools should still have to support the operation of public schools. About the same majority of both attendance groups agreed.

ANOTHER LAST statement dealt with the part-time use of public school facilities by students attending nonpublic schools.

Both groups generally tended to agree with such a practice, the exceptions being the college professors who had not attended nonpublic school and the public school teacher who had.

"This last could be explained by the assumption that public school teachers could be assigned additional work loads," Miss Krager said.

Finally, respondents were asked whether parochial schools are valuable and should be encouraged. Those who had not attended such schools were mostly neutral, but those who had attended them were generally convinced of their value.



THREE FARMINGTON vacationers joined a Rocky River, Ohio, angler for an excursion into Gulf Stream waters off Pompano Beach, Fla., and shared the laurels credited to the Ohioan, Thomas Sheehan, left. His sailfish, caught from the cruiser King David, weighed in at 47 1/2 pounds. The Farmington trio is comprised of Mary Daily, Dick O'Donnell, and John Daily, right.

Auxiliary Sets Up Library

Residents of the Oakhill Nursing Home may now spend their leisure time reading due to the efforts of the Farmington Jaycee Auxiliary. Members of the auxiliary have just completed setting up a library in the home as one of the group's community projects.

Next on the agenda for the group is a rummage sale, Bargain Boutique, to be held beginning at 9 a.m. May 25 in the Wheeler Street Fire Hall. For sale will be furniture, clothing, kitchen equipment and white elephant items.

Among other auxiliary community projects are sponsorship of Helping Hands, collection of winter clothing for needy children and the "Easter Needy Family" effort.

A bank cashier had the names of 25 girls in his little 1 1/2 x 6 inch book but was only short \$2,000 at the bank. What a cheap skate!

In a house without a husband, men people have to put things where they belong.

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