

financed privately with the cost of education soaring to such phenomenal heights?

Mr. NOE. I think that you had a report from the national Catholic organization, Father Hesburgh from Notre Dame, and that group, in which, if I understand correctly, they are thinking in terms of a policy of retrenchment, that they would eliminate some of their colleges and part of their elementary school program to give greater concentration and to work for quality education at the secondary level, which I think, if I understand correctly, is a change from the previous position when they wanted to stay with the elementary schools.

As I understand it, it is a matter of cost with them as it was in Cincinnati, that over half of their teachers were lay teachers and the competition salarywise is such that it was making it exceedingly hard for the parishes.

Mr. SCHERLE. Don't you feel in the future that you will see fewer and fewer parochial schools because of the fantastic cost involved in operating these on a private basis and almost complete abolition of your elementary grades as time goes on?

Mr. NOE. I am not prepared to answer that one. We have been trying to find out if they are going to drop the second grade and the third grade, you see, but they say not, that they think by doing this that they can hold the line. For how long I don't know. But if they are going to do this, this just makes the question that your chairman asked us a little while ago about facilities more important.

Even next year we are going to have to use some of their facilities to take care of the first grade. So, we will be renting some parochial facilities to house some public school first graders.

Mr. VANHOOSE. Mr. Scherle, we have a new Catholic school board in our community which has just been organized. It is a Catholic lay school board. They are currently attempting to collate several thousand questionnaires that came in from Catholic parents to determine just how the Catholic parents there are thinking along the lines of your question.

The few Catholic parents that I have talked to seem to indicate that they are going to be forced to back away from education at the lower grade level and possibly at the college level so they might concentrate on their programing maybe at the junior and senior high school level. However, this is pure conjecture on the part of a few parents that I have talked to.

Mr. SCHERLE. From what little knowledge I have, from what I have heard and read, this appears to be the trend because of the enormous cost involved of education today, that they just cannot make it. So there will be a slow but sure abolition of elementary school classes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Scherle.

Mr. Bell?

Mr. BELL. Mr. Chairman, I just have a couple of questions. One of them is for Mr. Pogue.

Mr. DODSON. I don't believe Mr. Pogue is back.

Mr. BELL. Perhaps one of you other gentlemen would like to comment on this. I note in his statement, Mr. Pogue referred to the Adult Education Act of 1966, some of the things he felt we should do. I was