

The public welfare contribution of the Catholic schools must, however, be seen in one further aspect. In the school years 1957 and 1958 the average current expenditure per public school pupil in average daily attendance in the United States was \$341.14.²² This means that the Catholics who supported the 5.3 million students in the Catholic elementary and secondary schools in 1960 absorbed what would otherwise have been an expense for all taxpayers in the order of magnitude of \$1.8 billion. Even this figure gives a wholly inadequate picture of the estimated savings to the country by virtue of the existence of *all* private schools, from the grade school level through college and the university. The total current expenditures, capital outlay, and interest of all private educational institutions in 1958 was \$4 billion.²³ For the period 1950-59, the same expenditures of all private elementary and secondary schools are estimated at \$13.9 billion.²⁴

This in turn throws into bold relief another aspect of the public welfare contribution of the Catholic school system: this immense financial value—attributable to, it must be borne in mind, the providing of essential citizen education—is a value accruing to the nation not only out of the pay checks and savings accounts of millions of Catholic citizens but out of the very lives of a legion of other Catholic citizens—priests, nuns and brothers—who have dedicated themselves without recompense to teaching generation upon generation of young Americans.

Up to this point, this study has not discussed the constitutionality of federal aid to church-related education. What appears beyond contradiction, however, is the immense contribution to the public welfare made by church-related schools through their providing essential citizen education.

The demands of the education crisis relate directly to this, since it is the clear imperative of the times that all of our means of education must be utilized to their fullest extent, consonant with constitutional requirements. It is equally imperative that the pluralist structure and the basic freedoms of the nation be not lost while the education crisis is sought to be resolved.

This study is not a brief on behalf of the principle of federal aid to education. But it would appear undeniable that, so far as the question

²² Biennial Survey of Education in the United States: Statistics of State School Systems 1957-1958, at 73 (1961).

²³ See U.S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare, Trends 68 (1960).

²⁴ See *id.* for figures on which this estimate is based.