

Mr. BRADEMAs. I am told by a constituent of mine at Notre Dame that a study is coming out suggesting in effect that the Roman Catholic Church leave the elementary school business.

Have you any comment to make on that?

Monsignor DONOHUE. Monsignor McManus is chomping at the bit here to get a word in. I very much doubt that the immediate future will see anything like this.

Monsignor McMANUS. Mr. Lee, to whom you referred, suggested the elimination of the Catholic elementary schools. If I were to tell Dr. James Redman the superintendent of the Chicago public schools tomorrow that we are going to drop only the first grade, he would have to prepare immediately for 27,000 additional children presently enrolled.

The point is that we are now not only under a religious compulsion but a civic compulsion to keep these schools going.

Drastic measures would have to be taken by the civil arm if we were to do what we were not even thinking of doing—walking out on these children.

Mr. BRADEMAs. Are you interested in teacher aids of the type we heard about from our Bank Street witnesses today?

Monsignor McMANUS. Yes, sir, we are most interested. I might cite an example. At Our Lady of Angels School where there had been a fire a few years ago, we have 125 volunteers, full-time aids. At 3 o'clock this afternoon a teacher can write a recognition for the kind of aids she needs—a stenographer, somebody to work with the group in the library or what-have-you. The result is we are turning in superior performance by the use of what is not too complementally called subprofessional help. I would say if the USEA laws or regulations are amended so a substantial number of teacher aids could be put into the central city schools this would free our dedicated professional help to work entirely on the business of education, not to be concerned with such sideline chores as taking the youngsters out to the playground, to the lavatories and so on.

Mr. BRADEMAs. Can you agree to my generalization at least from watching the situation in my own district that the passage of ESEA has significantly enhanced the degree of cooperation between local public school authorities and local private school authorities?

Monsignor McMANUS. I would say it is the historic event of this decade and I would say besides that categorical aid, although it may have its difficulties, is the approach that was the result of efforts on the part of men like Mr. Perkins and others to get a satisfactory solution.

Everybody adjusted as you know, and we have a working program. Here I would like to echo Dr. Redman's words that it would be well for the educational profession not to grumble too loudly about the complications of categorical aid least the end result be no aid whatsoever. It is just a little too soon to condemn this program. Let's see how it goes for a few more years and then we can all then have another study of perhaps another general approach to education.

Mr. BRADEMAs. Mr. Pucinski comes from your home area of Chicago and he has become chairman of a very important subcommittee and I think he will continue to give important leadership in the field of education.