

## Study Parochial School Problems

By LOUIS CASSELS  
United Press International

In 1884, the Roman Catholic bishops of the United States met at Baltimore, Md., and adopted an historic declaration: "Near each church where there is no parochial school, one shall be established. All parents shall be bound to send their children to a parochial school."

In the 60 years since that policy was decreed, American Catholics have built the world's largest private school system. Today it includes more than 13,000 elementary and secondary schools, with a replace-

ment cost estimated at \$7 billion. It is educating 5,565,000 students — one-eighth of all the nation's children. It costs Catholics about \$825 million a year to maintain, and by their calculations saves the taxpayers upwards of \$2.7 billion a year.

In spite of this massive effort, Catholics never have come close to the goal set by the Baltimore council: "Every Catholic child in a Catholic school."

**Percentage Shrinks**  
Nearly 60 per cent of the nation's Catholic children are now attending public schools. And the percentage enrolled in parochial schools is shrinking rather than growing. Last month the Archdiocese of Cincinnati announced that it would drop the first grades of its 149 parochial schools next fall. Ten other U. S. archdioceses and dioceses already have taken steps to curtail lower grades.

Even with this kind of retrenchment, Catholic school systems across the nation are running into serious difficulties. They cannot get enough nuns for their teaching staffs, so they are compelled to compete with public schools in hiring salaried lay teachers. They have been building new classrooms as fast as the money is available, but not quite as fast as the Catholic youth population is growing.

The inevitable result is understaffing and overcrowding. Many Catholic schools today have 50 children per classroom, compared with 25 or 30 in public schools.

**Possible Remedies**  
There is widespread agree-

ment among Catholics that something has to be done about parochial schools. But what? Four possibilities are currently being debated in the Catholic community. They are:

1. Abandon the whole parochial school system, send all Catholic children to public schools, and concentrate the church's

resources on the task of providing really first-rate religious education. This solution is proposed in a new book, "Are Parochial Schools the Answer?" (Holt, Rinehart & Winston) by Mary Perkins Ryan. Mrs. Ryan is a distinguished Catholic lay leader, a director of the National Liturgical Committee and an executive of the National Council of Catholic Women. Her book bears the imprimatur of Bishop Ernest J. Primeau of Manchester, N. H., who says in a foreword that Mrs. Ryan's "provocative" suggestion warrants intelligent discussion among Catholics though "not a few will disagree" with her.

2. Eliminate the lower grades of parochial schools, and try to provide enough well-staffed Catholic high schools to accommodate ALL Catholic teenagers. This plan was advanced by Archbishop Lawrence J. Shehan of Baltimore. In situations where "it seems impossible to provide full Catholic education for all Catholic children," he said, it would be better to let parents oversee the religious training of younger children and focus the attention of church schools on adolescents.

3. Enroll Catholic children part-time in parochial schools, and part-time in public schools. This "shared time" plan has been warmly endorsed by ma-

for Protestant bodies, and many public school educators. Shared time experiments are now under way in about 150 American communities. Legislation is pending in Congress to provide \$15 million in federal aid funds to encourage such trials.

4. Obtain public funds for parochial schools. This solution is unquestionably the one that the Catholic hierarchy would prefer, if it ever should become politically feasible. Whether or when that day will arrive is a subject on which opinions differ sharply.

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

**KINGDOM HALL**  
Corner Monroe and Ninth  
Sunday 3:00 p.m.: "What Does 'God's Kingdom Come' Mean to You?" is the name of a public Bible lecture to be given by R. W. Olson, circuit supervisor of Indiana circuit no. 5.

Sunday 4:15 p.m.: Watchtower Bible study and discussion on the subject, "Of Which God Are You a Witness?" One of the scripture texts for consideration will be Isa. 43:12, "So you are my witnesses," is the utterance of Jehovah, "and I am God."

Tuesday 8:00 p.m.: Area Bible studies in study aid, "Babylon the Great Has Fallen, God's Kingdom Rules."  
Friday 7:30 p.m.: Theocratic Ministry School followed by the Kingdom Service Meeting.

## Seek End To Labor Flareup At Moonport

CAPE KENNEDY (UPI) — Picketing guards maintained a vigil at entrances to the nation's vast moonport today while government labor specialists sought ways to end the labor flareup now in its third day.

The dispute — started by the union guards and complicated by iron workers — has kept about half of 4,000 construction workers away from their jobs. Most major space building has slowed to a crawl.

The matter went before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Thursday on the basis of industry charges that the picketing was illegal. A team of NLRB experts studying the situation was expected to report to the board later today.

The situation worsened Thursday when 400 iron workers refused to report to work because their union and contractors have been unable to work out a new contract to replace one that expired Tuesday.

The guards, members of the United Plant Guard Workers of America, threw up the picket lines Wednesday to protest the hiring of non-union security men by the Wackenhut Corp., to replace a handful of union guards at the Merritt Island moon base.

## Report Cyprus On Verge Of Ending Pact

NICOSIA, Cyprus (UPI) — President Makarios today was reported on the verge of nullifying Cyprus' 1960 treaties with Britain, Greece and Turkey in a move aimed at ousting Turkish troops from the war-scarred island.

Such a unilateral abrogation of the treaties by the Greek Cypriot archbishop, diplomatic sources said, would almost certainly bring bitter reaction from Turkey and create a new crisis even before United Nations mediator Sakari S. Tuomioja begins his peace efforts.

Tuomioja, a Finnish diplomat, arrived Thursday night to try to settle the political dispute that has precipitated intermittent fighting between Greek and Turkish Cypriots since Christmas.

The mediator was conferring with top U. N. civilian and military officials today before arranging his first meetings with Makarios and Vice President Fazil Kuchuk, leader of the Turkish Cypriots. Some observers believed Tu-

mioja was beginning his peace task at an opportune time when both sides are weary of fighting and aware of the need for peace to save the Mediterranean island's economy.

But the squabble over the Turkish troops dampened any immediate hopes for smooth sailing in the peace negotiations.

## Fire Extinguishers Termed Dangerous

LA PORTE, Ind. (UPI) — Authorities warned Thursday that fire extinguishers sold door-to-door were found to be dangerous around fires.

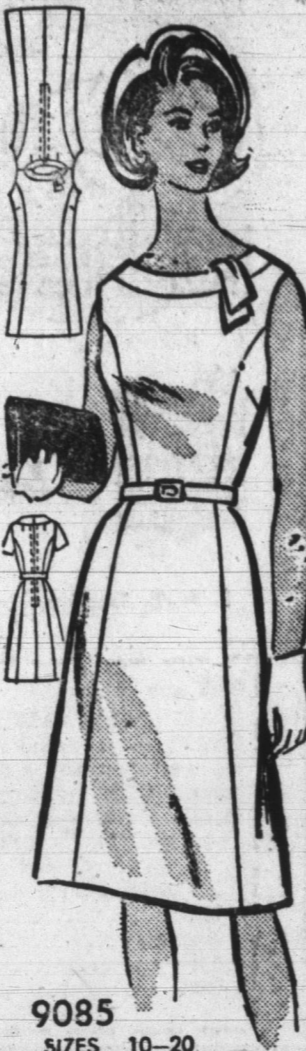
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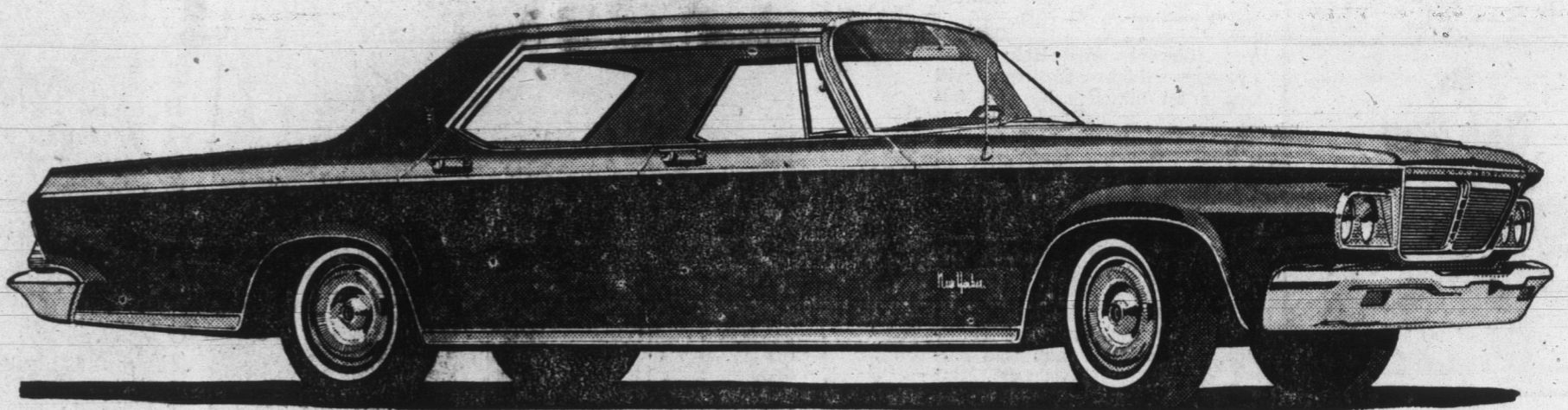


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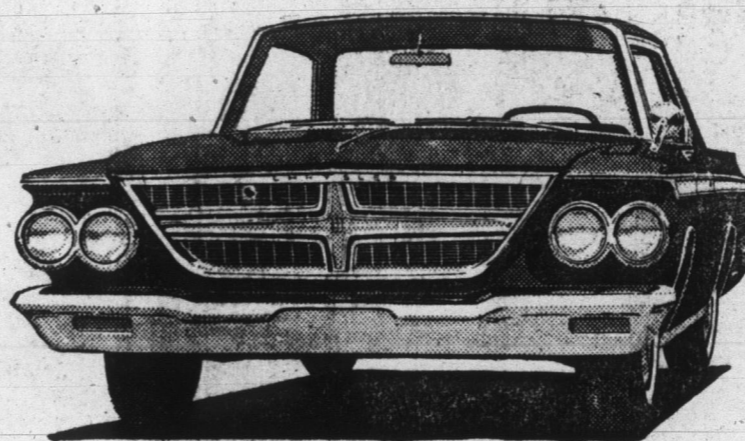
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