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SCHOOL HEALTH LAW VICTIM OF BUCK-PASS

Kids denied benefit of 4-year old act

Chicago's school children are the whirling passengers on a gruesome merry-go-round, while two city departments, a state office and the City Council dawdle over responsibility for a school health program.

While an off-key calliope plays "Let George Do It," in the middle of the carousel and motionless is a four-year old state law requiring full periodic physical examinations of all school children. The law has never been complied with in Chicago, nor does compliance appear anywhere on the horizon.

An investigation just completed by *The Standard* shows:

- Chicago schools have no effective program for examining school children with an eye to prevention of disease, malnutrition or emotional disorder. Teachers are saddled with non-professional guesswork in health matters. Part-time physicians, covering several schools apiece, check children after absences of several days, to close the door after communicable disease has walked in.

- Chicago is the only major city in the country without a

school nursing program.

- Chicago schools have been condemned by United States Public Health Service as being "almost completely without a systematized and effective medical and nursing service," with no appreciable follow-up action by city officials to observe the state law.

- An "adequate beginning" of a program to examine school kids every four years, as required by the state statute, would cost about \$1,000,000. This comes to less than one percent of the Board of Education's annual budget.

Charged with the responsibility of enforcing the state law, Vernon Nickell, Superintendent of Public Instruction, told *The Standard* by phone from Springfield:

Here's cost of school health

Alexander Ropchan, health director for the Council on Social Agencies of Chicago, gave the following as an acceptable lineup of personnel to get a school health program moving:

- 200 nurses at \$3,000 annually.
- 50 full-time doctors (or 100 part-time) at \$4,200.
- 10 supervising doctors at \$5,000.
- 29 full-time dentists (or 58 part-time) at \$3,600.
- 6 supervising dentists at \$4,500.

This staff would cost a total of \$991,400 for salaries for public schools. An additional \$283,000 would cover similar personnel for private schools.

"The Board of Education in Chicago says it has no funds. I

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THESE ARE NOT YOUR CHILDREN

if you live in Chicago. Chicago's schools hire no doctors for systematic health examination of children, even though a state law requires such examination every four years. It is the only major city without a school nurse program. Kids in these photos are from Cook County suburbs, whose school health setup is far advanced over Chicago's, even though County schools lack funds to fully comply with the state law.

'Lie!' says Chicago bishop of House committee charge

"It's all a lie!"

That's what the Bishop of the Methodist Church in Chicago had to say this week of the House Un-American Activities Committee's latest bender which pinned the red tag on two Methodist organizations and the magazine, *Protestant*.

Bishop J. Ralph Magee told *The Standard* exclusively, "I'm against the Un-American Activities Committee. I guess they want to stand for Wall Street. I don't think it's American."

The House committee poured most of its fire on the Methodist Federation of Social Action, whose headquarters are in New York. It saved some attack for the People's Institute of Applied Religion, of Birmingham, Ala., which, fumed the committee, is "one of the most vicious" of so-called Communist outfits, in that it "preaches Communist ideas pretending they are Christian ideas."

Of the *Protestant*, most of whose columns are taken up

with matters of racial and religious equality, the committee said it "fanatically spreads Communist propaganda." The magazine is published by ministers headed by Rev. Kenneth Leslie.

Bishop Magee declared he has known about the Methodist Federation "for years and years. The Methodist Church," he continued, "was the first religious organization to set forth a creed of social ideas. These have been brought about by our federation, acting as an independent group."

He pointed out that the church was attacked early in the century when it openly favored collective bargaining.

"This is an accepted thing today," asserted the bishop. "Just step by step, we are a little bit

ahead of the rest of the procession toward social justice. We are merely looking for human justice."

Describing the Rev. Jack R. McMichael, executive head of the federation, Bishop Magee stated, "He is a fine young man and a fine Methodist."

The bishop laughed roundly at the Un-American Committee's additional blast at the Epworth League, third organization named in the committee's opus. The Epworth League has been out of business for nine years.

Meanwhile, in New York, Rev. McMichael said that "Federation members seek to develop attitudes and actions which conform to the principles of Jesus, John Wesley and Thomas Jefferson. Obviously, they cannot at the same time try to satisfy men like J. Parnell Thomas and John Rankin of the Un-American Activities Committee."



How Truman won in Illinois

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