

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO READ CHURCH SCHOOL MATERIALS

We, the members of Bishop Cadigan's ad hoc Committee for Investigation of Church School Materials, submit the following report to the Bishop as of March 24, 1969:

(1) We accept the definition of racism printed below, as proposed by the national E.S.C.R.U. study committee, noting that it does not regard the practice of racism as limited to any one ethnic group --

"Racism is a belief, assumption, or attitude, whether stated, tacit, or even unconscious, that one race is superior to another."

(2) We concur with E.S.C.R.U. in detecting in the Seabury, Morehouse-Barlow, and Parish Press curricula an implicit white racist bias. This "slanting" of Christian Education materials, whether conscious or unconscious, we believe to be inevitable in a society which itself operates on the same racist assumptions, unless all such materials are constantly scrutinized and re-edited so that biased view points can be eliminated.

(3) We agree that the "Fun and Festival in Africa" Lenten study materials did represent patronizing attitudes towards persons in newly emerged African nations. However, we feel that the content of this material is not a serious issue in this Diocese, since, according to our recent study of the use of curriculum matter in the 56 parishes and missions of the Diocese, only three of the 35 parishes reporting used the "Fun and Festival" materials.

(4) In our study, we found that only six parishes in the Diocese use Seabury materials exclusively, while 16 more combine them with a variety of other curricula. We recommend that these parishes be informed by the Bishop either to discontinue the use of Seabury materials or to supplement them with other materials giving a fairer picture of inter-racial issues in the nation and world.

(more)

(5) We recommend further that the seven parishes which reported being in process of developing their own Church School curricula adopt as a major goal of such work the elimination of racial and cultural bias.

(6) In the light of the above facts and objections, we respectfully request the Bishop to continue this Committee as a sub-division of the Diocesan Christian Education Committee, with the option of enlarging itself upon approval of the parent body. The objective of the enlarged group would be to find unbiased materials for Church School use and to serve as a resource or clearing house through which such materials could be made available to parishes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Ray C. Baechle, Chairman
Mrs. Maurice Evans
The Rev. Canon James W. Evans