

Celebrezze Prepared to Fight for Federal Aid to Public Schools

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International
Washington (UPI)—Anthony J. Celebrezze, the new secretary of health, education and welfare, is prepared to fight for federal aid to public schools. But he can see no constitutional way to include parochial schools in the program.

The former mayor of Cleveland, in an interview with United Press International, spelled out for the first time his stand on the controversial issue of aid to parochial schools, which has brought President Kennedy into sharp conflict with Roman Catholic bishops.

Celebrezze, like Kennedy, is a member of the Catholic church. When he was appointed to the Cabinet last July to succeed Abraham A. Ribicoff, there was speculation that he might work for a change in the administration position on parochial school aid.

Supreme Court Speaks
But Celebrezze said that he is convinced, after a close study of the whole question, that "the Supreme Court has spoken quite clearly."

"Aid to private elementary and high schools is unconstitutional," he said. "The court has made that clear, and we have no alternative but to follow its rulings." But he said the Supreme Court has not ruled out the use of tax funds to aid private institutions of higher education, and there are many long-standing federal programs which provide a precedent for such aid.

An administration-backed bill to aid both public and private colleges was rejected by the House last month after opponents protested against the inclusion of church-related institutions.

Celebrezze said it was unfortunate that the religious issue was raised against the higher education bill, and that he is hopeful the legislation will eventually be passed.

Have to do Something
"We have to do something for higher education soon," he said. "The nation has a critical need for expanded facilities in our colleges and universities."

Russia Launches Cosmos Satellite
Moscow (UPI)—The Soviet Union launched an artificial satellite Wednesday, Cosmos 10, in a continuing series of probes of the cosmos, the official news agency Tass reported.

Its path ranges from 235 miles to 120 miles from the earth's surface, Tass said.

The instruments aboard Cosmos 10 "will continue the exploration of outer space in conformity with the program" announced by Tass March 16.

The Cosmos 10 radio transmits on the 10.995 megacycle frequency, Tass said, and data gathered during the orbits is sent to a Soviet receiving station.

The equipment is functioning properly, Tass said, and the earth-bound computers are receiving and processing Cosmos 10 data.

Tass said Cosmos 10 is circling the earth every 90.2 minutes at an angle of 65 degrees to the equator.

PROMOTED
Byron W. Cordes of Rogue River has been promoted to airman first class in the U. S. Air Force while serving with the 737th combat support group at Sculthorpe Royal Air Force station in England.

Cordes, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William D. Newell, Rogue River, is an aircraft instrument repairman.

He said he expects the administration to renew its fight for aid to public elementary and high schools in the next session of Congress.

Q. Do you think there is any chance of getting such legislation enacted without some settlement of the religious controversy over inclusion of parochial schools?

A. I think it will be passed eventually. I think we are making some headway on this, and that it will come in time.

Lacks Rapier Wit
Celebrezze speaks slowly and deliberately, in a low, rumbling bass voice. He lacks the rapier wit of his predecessor, Abe Ribicoff, who left the Cabinet to run for the Senate in Connecticut. You could count on Ribicoff for a sharp quote every second sentence. But Celebrezze's discourse tends to plod unimaginatively from subject to predicate, with no breath wasted on fine phrases.



Massive sincerity is the first thing a visitor notices about him, and it is a trait that may stand him in good stead when he goes to the Capitol to plead for the bills that Ribicoff was unable to push through. Congressmen are notoriously distrustful of Cabinet officers who are witty enough to make them look foolish.

Celebrezze was born 31 years ago in Anzi, Italy, where his naturalized American parents had returned for a visit. He is the first American of Italian descent to serve in the Cabinet. The White House evidently regards this circumstance as a political asset. It has booked Celebrezze for a cross-country speaking tour between now and election day that will take him into virtually every major U.S. city with a large Italian population. That Ital-Americans are proud of their new representative in the Cabinet is plain from the fact that Celebrezze received more than 250 invitations to deliver Columbus day addresses.

Serves As Mayor
When he came to Washington, after serving nine scandal-free years as Mayor of Cleveland, Celebrezze was billed as a conservative Democrat, some yards to the right of this fellow New Frontiersman. There was talk that he might have a hard time swallowing some of the administration's legislative proposals, such as the hotly-disputed plan to provide medical care for the aged through Social Security.

After three months in the HEW department, Celebrezze has become as strong an advocate of "medicare" as Ribicoff. But his reasons for supporting the program demonstrate that he's still a conservative at heart.

"I'm for the Social Security approach," he said, "because I think it's good fiscal policy for people to provide for their health care in old age while they're able to work."

The administration plan is based on the same concept as insurance. People would pay Social Security taxes during their earning years, and would be covered with health insurance after they retire.

Much Sounder
"That is much sounder, in my opinion — than proposals for the government to finance health care for the aged out of general tax funds. I don't think we can afford to do that on anything like an adequate scale."

Q. Opponents charge that the medicare plan would lead to "socialized medicine."

A. That's nonsense. The government wouldn't have a thing to say about the patient's choice of a physician or hospital, or about the course of treatment.

Q. Why can't private health insurance do the job?

A. Because the insurance rates aren't fixed. The older a person gets, the more he needs the insurance, and the

Medford Man Retires Following Long Service
L. L. Rentz, 1925 Sunset dr., Medford, has retired following 42 years of service with the National Cash Register company. He has spent the past 21 years in Medford, which is a branch of the Chicago, Calif., office of the firm.

Rentz, a serviceman and salesman, started as a member of the company in 1920, later attending repair school. He has worked in Elmira, N. Y., New York City, Boise, Idaho, Stockton, Santa Barbara, and San Diego area. In 1936 he became senior salesman in Chicago where he remained for three years.

Q. How do you find the sudden transition from city hall to Cabinet?

A. I find this job a terrific challenge. Everything you do affects so many lives. The thing I miss most is the closeness to the people which I had as mayor. I used to enjoy walking down the street and talking to people, asking them about their problems. Here I don't get much chance to talk to people except in a formal way, at staff conferences and things like that.

The Secretary and Mrs. Celebrezze — her name is Ann — have settled into a house in the Chevy Chase section of Washington. Two of their three children are in college, and their youngest daughter is a freshman at Stone Ridge, an exclusive Catholic girls school here.

Plunged into one of the government's largest departments, just at budget-preparation time, Celebrezze has had little time for the Washington social circuit or for any activities except work.

Q. How do you find the

less he may be able to pay for it. But that's just when the premiums become the highest. And they can cancel the policy on him after his benefits run out — just at the time he needs coverage most.

Deep-Seated Sympathy
In Celebrezze's approach to welfare programs, a basic conservatism of temperament is offset by a deep-seated sympathy for poor people. The ninth child in a family of 13, he grew up in one of the worst slums of Cleveland. He hawked newspapers on street corners and worked on railroad section gangs to help support his family. After graduating from a public high school, he worked his way through John Carroll university, and later got a law degree from Ohio Northern university.

After Navy service in World War II, and a stint of private law practice, he went into politics in 1950, getting elected to the state senate. He was elected mayor of

Cleveland three years later, and during his long tenure at city hall won a bipartisan reputation as an honest and dedicated public servant.

The new secretary is a big, heavy-set man, with thinning black hair, enormous black eyebrows, and a grey-flecked mustache. During the interview, in his capacious office on the fifth floor of the Health, Education and Welfare building on Independence avenue, he sat straight up in his desk chair, his right hand in his trousers pocket. He has a characteristic gesture of tapping the side of his face with the forefinger of his left hand when he is concentrating on a question.

Laughed Only Once
Although he is extremely polite and friendly, he is not given to easy small-talk with visitors. He laughed only once during an hour-long interview, and that was in response to a broad, almost desperate, attempt to levity on the part of his visitor.

Q. How do you find the

'Great Imposter' Finds Self in Role Of Plain John Doe

Sacramento (UPI)—Ferdinand Waldo DeMara, the "Great Imposter," found himself in a new role today: that of plain John Doe.

But it's not a part that came easily. Without an assist from the law, he might never have made it.

DeMara, a tall and portly man of 40, has posed in a variety of roles, including that of a navy ship's surgeon, a deputy prison warden, a learned zoologist and a Trappist monk. His exploits were so extraordinary that they inspired a book entitled "The Great Imposter," which later became a movie.

Last year he arrived at the New Life Youth Ranch, a home for boys run by a religious organization about 30 miles east of here in the Sierra. In April, he became the ranch supervisor.

Asks State's Advice
DeMara, who says he has now "gone straight," became involved with the law two months later when he wrote a letter to the California Attorney General's office.

"May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always!" it began. "The undersigned would appreciate an opinion on the following matter."

In essence, he wanted to know if the camp needed a license from the State Department of Social Welfare.

After a lengthy investigation, the department concluded that it did need a license if its inmates included boys under 16. DeMara learned this Oct. 9 and immediately removed four of six boys who were under the age limit. The other underage boys remained on a technicality, but one of them has since left.

By this time, however, the case had become public and DeMara's past was once more

drawing national attention. Jack R. Winkler, district attorney of El Dorado county, where the camp is situated, became edgy.

Plagued by dozens of calls and by the fact that the law itself is not absolutely clear on the point, Winkler wondered if DeMara and his employees should be prosecuted for operating the camp without a license while the underage boys were there. To get an answer he conferred Tuesday with Rudolf H. Michaels, attorney for the Welfare Department, and Richard L. Mayers, deputy state attorney general.

No Special Treatment
The three men agreed that DeMara had done his part to avoid breaking the law, that he had acted quickly after learning that he was breaking it, and that there would be no thought of prosecution if he were an ordinary man.

"We should look at this as if he were John Doe down the pike and not Ferdinand DeMara, a con man extraordinary," said Michaels as the group agreed not to prosecute.

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