Atheist-Communist Ban OK'd

Controversial Bill Passed

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By JAMES H. GILLIS
Times-Picayune Staff Writer

BATON ROUGE, La. — A bill banning atheistic and Communist activity from the campuses of state operated universities and colleges was passed by the House of Representatives by a 79 to 10 vote Thursday after more than two hours of debate.

Before passing the measure, Senate Bill 21 by Tahlahsin Sen. Charles Brown which the Senate passed by a 39-to-6 vote, the House approved an amendment requiring the Louisiana State University board of supervisors and the state Board of Education to define the activity which will be prohibited at the educational institutions under their respective jurisdictions.

The measure was introduced by Rep. John S. Garrett, chairman of the state Board of Education, which was the author of the state's higher education legislation which has not been amended this session.

The approved bill provides that: "Any money from state funds appropriated, allocated, or proposed to be used by any institution of higher education shall not be used or made available in any way to finance, sponsor, support, foster, conduct any program, activity, seminar or any other function, or hire any speaker, or support any campus activity or organization that is Communist or atheistic, or to be used for any purpose for the benefit of, or in connection with such Communist activity."

The House adjourned Thursday until 2 p.m. Monday after voting 86 to 9 to concur in the Senate amendments which would grant in aid measure, House Bill 161.


The hot words were hurled across the chamber when Anzelmo in a personal privilege address immediately prior to the vote on concurrence, accused Garrett of "an absolute lie" for asserting that Anzelmo had tried to "strangle" the bill by delaying House action until after the deadline for legislative consideration of appropriations bills.

"If the gentleman is talking about me, he better retract his statement." Garrett said rising to his feet and moving toward the microphone where Anzelmo was speaking. "It's going to be very personal soon."

Anzelmo, the smaller man, replied that he had never been accused of "strangling the debate if you want to take issue and fight me personally."

The Orleans Parish lawmaker then told the House that it was he who had suggested to Garrett that the bill be taken out of the bill and that Garrett had replied "I never thought of it." Garrett asserted that he had admitted for the suggestion. "He (Anzelmo) made every effort, and it doesn't matter if I raise my voice or not, to kill this bill," Garrett declared, adding "you are putting your authority and mine, and the authority of all the members of this body, in the hands of the lobbyist who was standmg at the microphone where Anzelmo was standing and said "I never thought of that.""

Speaker Vail M. Delauney, after the House had voted concurrence in the amendments, suggested that the two legislators patch up their quarrel. He asked that "Mr. Anzelmo go downtown shake hands with my friend, John Garrett."

"I never like to indulge in personalities and I will shake hands with my friend Sal Anzelmo and well always be good friends as far as the point." Garrett was standing at the microphone where he had been standing during the debate, the bill, replied.

Anzelmo then came forward from his seat and smilingly shook hands with Garrett, but Garrett made no comment.

Earlier in the day, in a speech to the House during a recess, Gov. John McKeithen told the House that he had realized until after the bill raising the salaries of district attorneys throughout the state was passed by the House on the preceding day, that nine of the district attorneys would get higher salaries than the governor.

McKeithen asserted that a $100,000 salary increase for the district attorneys and some of the judges was involved and that such raises for elected officials was "out of line" when the state couldn't raise its employees under Civil Service and the nurses at New Orleans Charity Hospital.

"SMELLING LIKE ROSE"

"I've prepared to call them and tell them I can't sign it," the governor said. "A number of them have called me up. I don't think we'll make the district attorneys mad. I think they'll understand it. I haven't talked to Jim Garrison. I'm going to come out, if I vote it, smelling like a rose."

Noting that the Senate had passed a resolution the day before calling for delay in raising elected officials' salaries until the provisions of the state Civil Service pay plan have been fully implemented, McKeithen said that any pay raises for these officials should be suspended at least until "we can raise our nurses."

The governor also made a plea for passage of Monroe Sen. Jamar R. AcLeod's Senate Bill 61 authorizing the commissioner of administration to contract for lease or space housing state agencies.

The bill had been returned to the calendar the day before it received less than the 35 votes required for passage, later Thursday was passed by a vote of 76 to 17.

The governor explained that the leases would be arranged "with our own office building corporation" and that the reason I set up that office building corporation was to keep from getting rich off the state.

"The amendment to Senate bill 31 providing the LSU board and the state education board the responsibility for defining the atheistic and Communist activity to be prohibited was offered by Rep. Reoderick L. Miller, Lafayette Parish Republican, and was accepted by the House without objection. However, the House engaged in prolonged debate over the amendment to eliminate reference to atheistic and Communist activity and prohibit instead the advocating of the violent overthrow of the government, which was introduced by Rep. Riceley C. Tichie, Assumption Parish, and was accepted by the House without objection."

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Grage Resolution Fails in Senate

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Sen. W. J. Rambo, Georgetown, failed 21-44 in a first attempt Thursday to pass a resolution asking that grading rights for any college be confirmed on the Saline Wildlife Refuge. Rambo took the required parliamentary step to reconsider the resolution when the Senate returns from the weekend.

Sen. Spencer Myrick, Oak Grove, won an amendment to set a two-year time limit for cattlemen to get their animals off the refuge.
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Also speaking in favor of the bill was all that was needed to make the bill a good one.

"Is or is not urban renewal renewal in our state," Triche said in advocating approval of his amendment.

CHRISTIAN OPPOSES

Rep. Benny G. Christian, Richland Parish, who was handling the bill on the floor, opposed Triche's amendment, contending that Miller's amendment was all that was needed to make the bill a good one.

"Is or is not urban renewal renewal in our state," Triche said in advocating approval of his amendment.

Supporting Triche's amendment, Rep. Edward F. LeBrec\ton Jr., 11th Ward, Orleans Parish, said that while he personally was a Roman Catholic "how you believe in God as far as I am concerned is your business. I don't see how we can pass legislation saying that this is a free country, but a man can't be an atheist if he wants to."

Also speaking for Triche's amendment, Rep. Patrick T. Caffrey, Iberia Parish, asserted that it was designed "to prevent that type of activity which has proven li-

self to be deleterious to the fabric of American society.

"By raising the issue of religious freedom, Caffrey asserted that Adolph Hitler, Nazi Germany's Fuehrer, launched a campaign against the Jews and wound 

an exterminating some 6,000,000, 

because their beliefs were different." But the bill was intended to keep the state's college students from "being exposed to too much evil."

Rep. Ford E. Stinson, Bossier Parish, in opposing the Triche amendment, said that the bill was intended to keep the state's college students from "being exposed to too much evil."

Rep. Algie D. Brown, Caddo Parish, also opposing the amendment, said that "anybody who knows what communism is knows that to begin with Commu

nism takes the young intellect in the colleges and universities and the basis that they begin with is that there is no God."

Brown asserted that "I think anything we can do to stop Communism we should do."

ATHEISM

"Do you advocate legislation relative to the area of atheism," inquired Rep. Salvador Anzelmo, seventh ward, Orleans Parish.

"If our public funds can't be used to teach God and the Bible, then they shouldn't be used to teach anti-God," Brown replied.

If anyone wants to be an atheist, it's all right with me, but I don't think he ought to be subsidized by the state to teach that philosophy. We're not saying in this bill that a person can't be an atheist. Communism is a false doctrine. It's the greatest hoax that was ever perpetrated on the world."

PROFESSORS

Rep. S. T. Dewitt, Tensas Parish, asserted that "in a lot of colleges they have professors that when they take the fresh-

men in the first thing they tell them is that there is no God."

Also opposing Triche's amendment, Rep. Delos H. Morgan, East Feliciana Parish, related that he knew of an instance where an LSU professor had told his class: "I don't want to hear God or the Bible mentioned in this class. They've had their day."

"I ask you to support Mr. Triche's amendment because I am against regimentation of the mind, I am against regimentation of the soul, I'm against regimentation of the heart," Rep. Salvador Anzelmo, Seventh Ward, Orleans Parish, told the House.

Calling the bill an effort "to legislate censorship of ideas to restrict academic freedom in all areas," Anzelmo said that the next step would be "censorship of reading."

"MORAL FIBER"

"Our young people are not as impressionable as the people who came to this microphone would like you to believe," Anzelmo said. "What is the moral fiber of this country? Is it that weak that we cannot expose it to ideas?"

Opposing Triche's amendment, Rep. John G. Schwegmann Jr., Jefferson Parish, asserted that "if we don't believe in God it's going to be a hard time to get along in this country. I feel so strong that we should teach religion in the schools. The day we teach there is no God in our school system we are going to need 10 million policemen."

Exposing the belief that fear of punishment "you can't be an atheist, Communism or any other ideal on our campuses" acts as a deterrent to wrongdoing, Schwegmann proclaimed that "good old time religion is good enough for me and you ain't never going to satisfy the Supreme Court."

Also speaking against Triche's amendment, Rep. Taylor W. O'Hearn, Caddo Parish Republican, asserted that "I can't see anything in this bill that puts a strait jacket on academic freedom. Mr. Triche's amendment isn't going to do anything but take the guts out of this bill."

O'Hearn said that he could not "condone teaching atheism, Communism or any other idea on our campuses" and that "all this bill says is we won't use tax funds to support these programs."

Rep. Richard E. Talbot, supporting Triche's amendment, asserted that "we who believe in God and the free enterprise system can withstand the challenge of any other ideology."

REJECTED

Triche's amendment was rejected by the House, the vote being 37 for and 50 against.

Triche told the House that a similar bill was adopted a few years ago by the North Carolina Legislature, that it had an injurious effect on the standing of the University of North Carolina and that as a result the legislature had to return in a special session and repeal the law. Triche expressed the fear that if the bill became law it would jeopardize the accreditation of the state's colleges and universities.

Urging passage of the bill, Rep. James P. Smith, Union Parish, said it was directed against those individuals who "to contaminate the minds and lives of our greatest resources—our children God Bless America. It's later than you think."

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