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The First Amendment guarantee of freedom of religion protects church schools from interference by state education officials, Judge Cyr ruled in a twoyear lawsuit filed against the state by the Maine Association of Christian Schools (MACS).

The effect of Judge Cyr's ruling, which was handed down in Bangor Dec. 20, seems to free all church schools from state interference with respect to course offerings, teacher qualification requirements, and building, health and safety codes. "This wipes out certification, prescription of curriculum and accreditation of schools," explained Ralph Yarnell, executive director of MACS. "These schools are able to continue to operate just as they have been operating."

Judge Cyr's ruling apparently did not address the state's assertion that government has a compelling interest in the education of its citizens, and therefore, has the right to insure that all schools, both public and private, meet minimum educational standards.

embraced by the Nebraska Supreme stitutionally enmeshed in religious affairs. Court in the Sileven case after the first closing of Faith Christian School in 1979. In 1981, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case.

Since then, the church Sileven and his followers conduct has been padlocked several times by officials. For most of the time, however, the church has remained open.

otherwise interfere with their operation.

"Religious worship and discussion, integral aspects of the curricula of plaintiff church schools, constitute forms of speech and association entitled to full First Amendment protection," Judge Cyr wrote.

In a related case, U.S. District Judge Morris Lasker ruled that the New York nounced his plans for formal diplomatic State Labor Relations Board (SLRB) can- ties with the Vatican, the White House not referee labor disputes in parochial was shoring up its support among Ameri-



schools because of the "imminent possibil-The compelling-interest argument was ity" that the board will become uncon-The SLRB's right to investigate allegations of unfair labor practices in parochial schools is pre-empted by the First Amenddifferentiate between the secular educa-

schools, he said.

"It follows also that there is reasonable In the Maine case, Judge Cyr said closely monitors the conditions of lay fac-Culvert.

White House **Re-emphasizes Political Ties with Catholics, Jews**

Even before President Reagan an-

Catholic liaison Robert Reilly hopes to cement relations between the Reagan administration and the American Catholic Church.

can Catholics.

In October, the administration named Robert Reilly, a 37-year-old conservative activist, as its liaison to the American Catholic community. Reilly, a former employee of the U.S. Information Agency, ment, Lasker ruled. It is impossible to spent seven years at the right-wing Intercollegiate Studies Institute and has also tion and the religious mission of parochial been active in the anti-abortion movement.

Reilly's job includes improving contact likelihood that any state program which between Catholic officials and the White House. "In November when incoming church schools have no obligation to sup- ulty employment will result in unaccept- U.S. Catholic Conference President ply information to the state and that the able church-state entanglement," he ruled Bishop James Malone met with the presistate has no authority to shut down or in Catholic High School Association v. dent, most of that meeting was spent on issues on which agreement is very strong," Reilly told the National Catholic Reporter. "A great deal of appreciation was expressed by both of them for the other's efforts, particularly on the sanctity of human life—on abortion and protection of newborns—and also on tuition tax credits. Those issues highlight the natural alliance and they extend to other things as well...'

"The president's emphasis on parent

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to the pope in Familiaris Consortio [a establishment which sells falsely labeled write 'kosher' on a product, even if it was papal pronouncement on family life]," kosher products faces a \$2,000 fine for a not kosher, and have no fear of punish-Reilly commented. However, the Catholic first offense and a \$5,000 fine for subse- ment. Recently, a bill we have been pushliaison told the Reporter that he worries quent offenses. about disagreements with the Catholic bishops on foreign and defense policies oversee the preparation of kosher food. law, and violators will be punished, as they

Reagan has named a 37-year-old Ortho- displayed in separate cabinets and cut dox Jew as the new White House liaison with separate slicing machines and knives. officer to the Jewish community.

Marshall Jordan Breger assumed the foods unless they are kosher. new post on Dec. 15. Breger's appointment as special assistant to the president for public liaison marks the first time the White House has appointed an Orthodox ing the public non-kosher foods," said Jew to such a post.

serve as a liaison to the Jewish and academic communities. He is a law professor religion, Barry said the issue was conon leave from the New York School of sumer fraud. Law.

A conservative Republican, Breger has been associated with the rightist Heritage Foundation, where he worked on Middle predecessor with senior White House offi-

some observers as part of a White House effort to shore up Jewish support for administration policy. According to a private Republican poll, the president recently had an approval rate of only 23 percent among American Jews, compared to an overall rate of more than 60 percent.

New Jersey Begins **Enforcement of Jewish Dietary Laws**

New Jersey's Division of Consumer Af- charge denied by the city. fairs has adopted new regulations deprofess to observe.

and he is working to change their views. Among other things, the new state rules are here in New York." In a related development, President require that kosher foods be stored and No six-pointed stars may be displayed on

"There have been problems where operators have represented products as kosher and have charged higher prices while sell-James Barry, state consumer affairs direc-The White House said that Breger will tor. Disregarding the apparent entanglement involved between government and

A similar law has been in effect in New year. York for some time and the state now has was falsely labeled kosher. In a second concerns immediately. The Breger appointment was viewed by case, the state agents raided the Tessler waiter reported that the hotel kitchen kept non-kosher chicken, pork chops and other non-kosher meat there.

Meanwhile, in Miami Beach, Florida a debate is underway about whether the city politically influential catering business, a

Ironically, these American political jusigned to require kosher restaurants and risdictions have beaten Israel to the punch stores to meet the Jewish dietary laws they in enforcing Jewish dietary law. According to New York Congressman Howard cause it could easily be broadened to The state legislature has appropriated Shapiro, "Until very recently the situation weaken First Amendment religious free-\$90,000 to the state division of consumer of kashruth [kosherness] in Israel was doms.

control over education ... sounds similar affairs to hire enforcement personnel. Any even worse than here. Any person could ing for eight years passed the Knesset. Jewish dietary laws require that a rabbi Now the consumer will be protected by

Crucial 'Con-Con' **Battles Draw Near** In Four States

The next few months may be crucial in protecting the U.S. Constitution.

If two more state legislatures call for a constitutional convention (ostensibly to balance the federal budget), a national convention must be called. Already, 32 states have asked for the "con-con," and action is expected in several states this

Unless people wake up and tell their 10 inspectors and a \$300,000 budget. In a legislators to keep their hands off the recent case there, agents from the U.S. Constitution, the constitutional convention East policy and on strengthening ties be- Department of Agriculture joined state will probably take place, says Linda Rogtween Jews and conservatives. He is ex- officials in seizing 7,200 pounds of beef ers-Kingsbury of Citizens to Protect the pected to have more influence than his owned by the M & M Packing Co. of New Constitution. Rogers-Kingsbury lists four York City. The officials claim the meat states where citizens need to voice their

In Kentucky, 24 of the 38 members of Hotel in Ulster County after a former the state senate are sponsors of the proposal. The odds may be slightly better in the house. In Michigan, the senate seems evenly divided, and the outcome may be determined by recall elections against two Democrats in the eighth and ninth state should continue to pay a kosher food in- senate districts. In California, a petition is spector. The 15-year old practice was circulating to terminate the salaries of questioned when the inspector's post be- legislators if they do not vote for the concame vacant. Rabbi Joseph Kaufman was con. Rogers-Kingsbury said the petition dismissed last year. Kaufman claimed he has a good chance of reaching the general was fired because he issued citations to a election ballot. And in Vermont, a close vote is expected in the legislature sometime this year.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State opposes a constitutional convention called under any pretext be-