

Court Rules On Parochial

School Aid

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States and localities receiving federal funds for remedial education in inner-city schools must provide "comparable" but not necessarily identical programs for parochial as well as public schools, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

The court held also that the 1965 federal aid to education law does not require school systems to use public-

h olic-ly employed teachers in parochial schools during school hours if such a practice would violate state law.

The court left open the question of constitutionality of federally financed remedial teaching in ghetto parochial schools. But it hinted strongly that after-school "comparable" programs — until recently rejected as inferior by some church school officials — would pass muster under the First Amendment.

The decision, in addition to postponing a major test of the 1965 law, appeared to settle a bitter dispute in Missouri, where a stalemate between school and church officials has blocked most federal help for urban private schools.

Justice Harry A. Blackmun, writing for an 8 to 1 majority, urged the start of work on an aid plan that would end the "gross disparity in the services delivered" under laws designed to give some help to disadvantaged children regardless of where they attend school.

Once such plans are devised, Blackmun said, Federal courts should not play "an overly active role in supervising the manner of (Federal) expenditures."

Blackmun's conciliatory language did not suppress all of the high court's disagreement over church-state issues.

Justice William O. Douglas dissented, saying he feared "the judiciary has been seduced" into tolerating any religious aid by government.

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