

February 10, 1961

Your Excellency:

Father Hopkins came to see me this afternoon worried that Mrs. _____ might go to the Police and have action taken against Father Janssen.

Evidently Mrs. _____ son got in some trouble in school. This brought the problem to a head again. The Sister in the school is also alarmed that the police might be brought into the case.

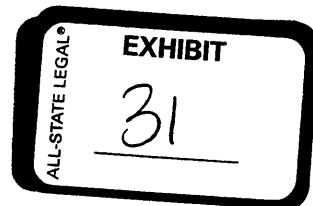
Mrs. _____ talked to Father Hopkins this morning. Not knowing which way to turn Father Hopkins promised that he would report the matter to the Chancery Office. Father Hopkins got the impression that she might very well take action civilly. If she does the matter could break in the papers and become nationally known. Father Hopkins wants to avoid any scandal.

There is no evidence to prove anything specific. Even Mrs. _____ admits that her boy hasn't talked. She is hesitant to put pressure on him to talk. Father Hopkins thinks the police would find it difficult to make the boys talk. Father Janssen has them intimidated.

Father Hopkins himself has no proof of wrong-doing. Circumstantial evidence is available - St. Mary's gets a bill now and then from the Blackhawk Hotel for a room. Father Janssen says it was for a friend of his who was passing through. Four boys in particular are with him constantly. There are the trips to the Optimist's cabin. But it doesn't add up to anything definite.

Father Hopkins was hoping that he could wait until ordinations to see Your Excellency, but he is not sure now that he can "hold the lid on" that long.

MJDingman



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