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The new Constitution guarantees equal opportunity in education for every child without regard to race, religion or national origin.



Our greatest potential, youth, receives great concern in the new Constitution. Under it every child will benefit according to his needs. It provides that the state open college doors in all institutions to the poor as well as the rich. It guarantees every child will receive whatever help he needs to develop his full educational potential. It recognizes that the state can't meet the educational needs of all its citizens alone and establishes a partnership that will lead to better education for all.

Meeting today's needs

In nearly two centuries of existence, New York State has had 4 constitutions. One was adopted in the 18th century in 1777. The other three, including our present charter, were in the 19th century in 1822, 1846, and 1894. Each was drafted to meet the needs of the times. The 1777 Constitution was amended 4 times before a new one was written. The 1822 Constitution was amended 8 times before a new one was written. The 1846 Constitution was amended 23 times before a new one was written. This 1894 Constitution has been amended 192 times. The new Constitution is the Constitution the Convention Delegates considered this Summer, have completely rewritten and are submitting to the voters in November.

The Constitution will help the aged

Facing great need our growing aged are often alone, without decent homes without income. The new Constitution establishes the partnership that will help build homes for the aged, especially the old who are sick. It provides that the state show concern by planning and establishing a firm basis for their economic security.

If here to find it

The new Constitution has been assigned its place on the November ballot by Secretary of State J. P. Lomenzo. There are three other state-wide issues being presented here's how they line up:
Proposition Number One, Headline: Transportation Bond Issue. That's the Governor's \$2.5 billion transportation request.
Proposed Amendment Number One: Job Development Authority. That's an amendment to the old constitution which has passed twice through the Legislature and is now up to the voters. It increases the bond limit from \$50 million to \$300 million in State loans for industrial development.
Proposed Amendment Number Two, Headline: Blue Ridge Ski Center. That's another amendment to the old constitution permitting the construction of a ski trail on three mountains in Essex County.

A tax saving

The partnership of state and private citizens has an extra, often overlooked benefit. Saving money for the taxpayers.
When the government provides the partial cost of a nursing home or a building program for the retarded or a hospital bed for the sick, it saves money. The partial cost is always less than the total cost.

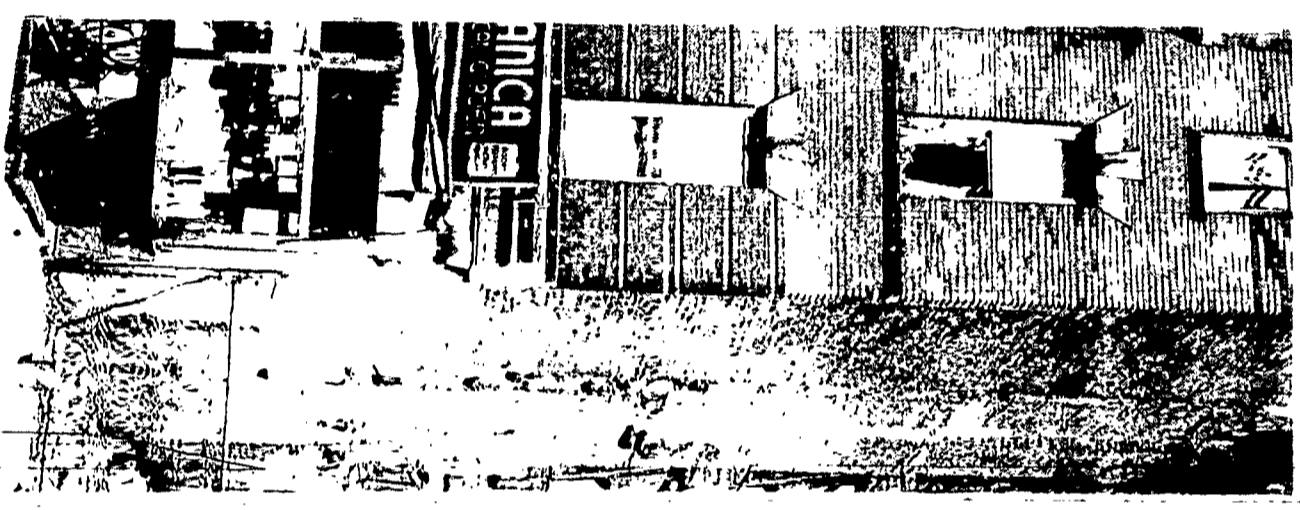
Unique partnership created to help all the state's people

The truly unique feature of the new Constitution is the creation of a partnership between government and private citizens in meeting human needs. And human needs in New York State today are enormous. There are not enough nursing homes for our aged. There are not enough hospital beds for our sick. There are not enough schools for our children, especially the retarded and the handicapped. There are not enough homes for our citizens. Every study made by every committee of educators or housing experts or city planners or welfare groups makes the same point: It is impossible for the state government to go it alone.

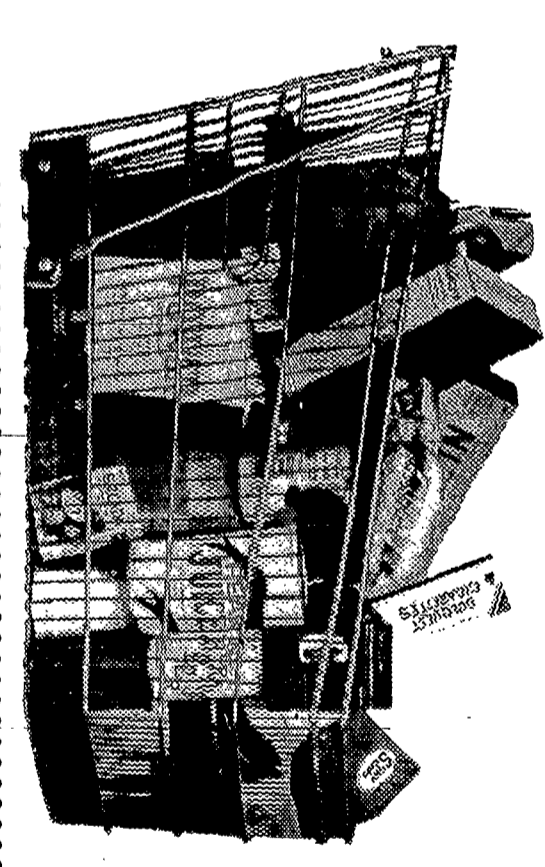
Housing needs

Up to now, under the severely restrictive language of our present Constitution the state has tried in a limited way to enlist private resources in the fight. The delegates at the Convention recognized the crisis conditions. That's why they voted 177 to 2 for the unique provision in the new charter empowering the state to enlist private agencies in the battle. Under the new Constitution the state can make grants or loans to private agencies to get them started. It can grant a loan to a local group of citizens ready to build a nursing home in a town which has none. It can grant a loan to a local group of citizens ready to build housing in a city which is desperately short of decent homes for its citizens. It can loan money to citizens interested in obtaining the special equipment needed in teaching the retarded in its community. It can make grants and loans on the basis of need, without any concern for race, religion or national origin. Not only can it do these things, but the new Constitution also provides safeguards so the state doesn't over-reach itself.

First: Every citizen has the guaranteed right to go to court if he thinks any grant or loan is for any reason unconstitutional (citizens do not have this right under our present Constitution). Second: Grants and loans must be made out of current revenue with only one exception. The state can borrow money for a grant or loan only if the citizens group is going to put up a building. (The state can't, for instance, make a grant of borrowed money to pay teachers salaries). Third: The total borrowing power of the state for the first time has a constitutional limit for all purposes. The net result means that state and



Urban renewal means homes for people. The new Constitution provides in a way our present charter does not that the vast resources of private industry and private groups can be enlisted in the never ending fight against slums. This means more homes, better homes, for our citizens who now live in the shadow of prosperity but do not share it.



Health, welfare, housing, human rights, basis for support

Everything the Church does for public purposes is subject to the rules and regulations of Federal, State and local governments. Its non-profit hospitals must meet state standards. Its schools must meet educational requirements. Its nursing homes are supervised. Its child-care homes are under state regulation. It is no wonder, then, that the Church is interested in state government. No surprise at all, that the Church should be interested in the law under which it lives and carries out its mission to men. Over a year of study produced 10 positions in the public welfare area where the Catholic Committee decided to offer testimony. Many other private citizens and groups supported similar proposals.

Health and Welfare

The Committee urged retention of Citizens Boards (Education and Social Welfare), since they provide Constitutional protection for citizens from unreasonable acts of State administrators and an opportunity for all viewpoints to be represented at the highest level of government. It does: The Board of Regents remains charged with the overall supervision of education in the state. The Board of Social Welfare retains its position and is included in the State Department Article (VI).

Housing and Urban Development

The Committee urged the state eliminate the severely restrictive language of the old Constitution and commit itself to a program of renewal. It does: The new Constitution contains a broad authorization for economic and community development including renewal, rebuilding of cities, housing and related needs.

Advance to better government



Several important advances in state government are included in the new Constitution. It allows the Governor to reorganize his departments to meet specific needs. He can, for instance, mount a full-scale attack on organized crime. A bipartisan system of reapportionment is included, enforcing the one-man-one-vote principle of equal representation. It provides that records of not only state government, but local government and public authorities be open to the public.

Consumer bill of rights—no hidden charges, no hidden financing

Under the new constitution hidden charges in financing are strictly forbidden. Called the "new consumer bill of rights" this provision protects the people of the state against "unfair, inequitable or dishonest sales, marketing and financing practices." It requires every citizen to be fully informed of what he's paying for including credit, service charges or any other fees tacked on to his purchase payments.

Protection of Religious Faith

The Committee urged retention of Constitutional protection for the religious rights of children, when through no fault of their own, they lose the natural protection of their own parents. It does: Article V, Section 27 specifically retains the provision assuring the child the Constitutional protection of his religious rights by placing him when practicable, and not inconsistent with his welfare, in the care of those of his own faith. Taxation The Committee urged retention of the Constitutional provision exempting charitable, religious or educational organizations from real property tax when they use their property for charitable, religious or educational purposes. It does: Article 1, Section 10 obligates the state to secure the right of collective bargaining.

Human Rights

The Committee urged a strong Bill of Rights with firm guarantees of freedom from any kind of discrimination. It does: Any expanded provision against discrimination has been made part of the New Bill of Rights (Article I). The Committee urged collective bargaining be included as a basic right. It does: Article 1, Section 10 obligates the state to secure the right of collective bargaining.

A Conservation Bill of Rights



The new Constitution includes for the first time a Conservation Bill of Rights. It provides that the state shall conserve and protect our natural resources and scenic beauty. The state must also make plans and execute them leading to cutting down polluted air, polluted water. It calls for the protection and the development of our land and the development and regulation of our water resources. It assures protection of the natural beauty of our state for all future generations.

State crisis means we cannot delay

Does the fact that the new Constitution is on the ballot in one place make any difference? Governor Rockefeller says no. In his statement of support for the new Constitution he made it clear the reality of the situation is what voters should deal with. He said: "I will vote in favor of the passage of the proposed Constitution in view of the fact that the crisis in these areas, the need for a new government, is too great to wait for the long and involved Legislative route of our outmoded, 73-year-old Constitution."