

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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Area Boxscore: For Liberalization 8; Against Change 6; Undecided 4

## Legislators Look to Voters on Abortion

Whether a new abortion law will be passed during this session by New York legislators may still depend on reactions from voters in their districts.

This became apparent in a poll of legislators serving people within the Rochester Diocese conducted during the last 10 days by the Courier-Journal.

Several of the lawmakers indicated they are being very attentive to the feelings and arguments expressed in letters from their constituents.

It also could be concluded from the poll that if new abortion proposals reach the floor of either the State Senate or Assembly, the provisions will receive very close scrutiny by the legislators, with the possibility of several attempts at amendments.

Of the 18 senators and assemblymen whose districts are in the 12-county diocese, six were against any liberalization of the state's present abortion law; one — Mrs. Constance Cook of Ithaca — was for complete

ly legalizing abortion, leaving the decision solely between the woman and her doctor; seven were for some liberalization — in most cases only a very limited change — and four had not yet taken a stand on the issue.

While some legislators said they felt changes will be adopted, others expressed some doubt that any new legislation will be approved at the current session.

Under present state law, abortions may be performed legally only if it can be shown that the mother's life is in danger.

A major effort was made in the past two years to liberalize the law, and last year — for the first time — the issue was brought to the floor of the Assembly. The bill was sent back to committee, however, when it was apparent it would have been defeated.

While there always is a possibility of a shift in attitudes, the stand of legislators in the diocese as of last week was as follows:

**Against liberalization:** Senator Thomas McGowan; Assemblymen Raymond Lill, Frank Carroll, Charles Stockmeister, Joseph Finley, James Emery.

**For limited liberalization:** Senators Thomas Laverne, James Powers, Theodore Day; Assemblymen Don Shoemaker, William Rosenberg, Don Cook, Richard Marshall.

**For legalized abortion —** Assemblywoman Mrs. Constance Cook.

**No stand to date:** Senator William Smith; Assemblymen George Michaels, Charles Henderson, Frederick Warder.

Some of the legislators admit they are giving particular attention to the points being made by the Right-To-Life Committee which has been set up in the Rochester Diocese. Co-chairmen of the Committee are Dr. Thomas R. Sweeney, an obstetrician-gynecologist, and Eugene R. Cusker, an attorney.

They have declared that an abortion performed at any time, for whatever reason, is "the taking of life."

Among "new grounds" for legalization —

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## Abortion Controversy At Peak Across U.S.

By RUSSELL SHAW  
(NC News Service)

Washington — The annual battle over abortion "reform" is reaching its 1969 peak as legislatures throughout the country grapple with proposals to make it easier to get an abortion.

A national rundown shows that as of late February 48 bills had been submitted in 25 states. Multiple bills are pending in several legislatures, and in crucial New York 10 bills have been introduced, ranging from a "moderate" liberalizing proposal to one for virtual abortion on demand.

Abortion "reform" has been conclusively defeated in one state, Utah, and apparently defeated in two others, Iowa and Washington.

In two states which adopted "liberalized" abortion laws in previous years, Maryland and Colorado, legis-

lative efforts are currently under way to tighten up the laws.

Many bills now pending would simply repeal abortion laws altogether. This would remove abortion from the area of law entirely and make abortion on demand a reality. In effect, any pregnant woman could have an abortion for any reason at all, provided she could find a doctor willing to perform the operation.

Advocates of the all-or-nothing approach were in the ascendancy at a widely publicized mid-February meeting in Chicago which led to formation of a new pro-abortion group, the National Association for Repeal of Abortion Laws (NARAL). Prominent at the conference were spokesmen for radical feminist movements like the National Organization of Women (NOW) and radical civil liberties groups, which insist that women have a "right" to abortion with which no one else should interfere.

In a statement setting forth its goals, the NARAL declared that "the decision for or against abortion should be without legal encumbrances." It called for "equal availability of abortion services to all women regardless of economic status" — apparently a plea to include abortion in tax-supported health and welfare programs — and pledged to conduct a nationwide lobbying drive for abortion law repeal.

The statement was sharply criticized by Juan J. Ryan of New Providence, N.J., president of the National Right-to-Life Committee, which has been opposing legalized abortion.

### Bp. Kearney Plans St. Patrick's Mass

Bishop James E. Kearney will offer St. Patrick's Day Mass at 12:15 p.m. Monday, March 17, in Our Mother of Sorrows Church, LaGrange Road and Mt. Read Boulevard.

Father George S. Wood, pastor of the more-than-century-old "Paddy Hill" parish, invites "friends of St. Patrick" to join the Bishop at the noonday Mass.

Francis. He distributed summaries of the course to churchgoers after Mass.

His position has been that the program "teaches too much too soon" and is "fraught with danger because it descends to vulgar details."

Msgr. William M. Roche, superintendent of schools, in a statement issued in Rochester on Monday, Mar. 10, defended the diocesan sex education program: "We have a sensible and prudent course of sex education as asked for by Vatican II."

"In my opinion," he said, "Father NaCCA is totally opposed to the teachings of the Vatican Council and the Bishops of the Catholic Church."

Referring to the opponents of sex education in the schools, Msgr. Roche said: "It's the John Birchers and the extreme right-wingers who are trying to degrade Christian sexuality."

Father NaCCA, who has called the sex syllabus "crude and raw," asked

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## Two Auxiliary Bishops Size Up First Year in Office

### Bishop Hickey: 'My Longest Year'

Working in the shadow of a magnetic personality has mellowed rather than eclipsed the soft-spoken Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, who today marks his first anniversary of consecration as the auxiliary of Bishop Sheen.

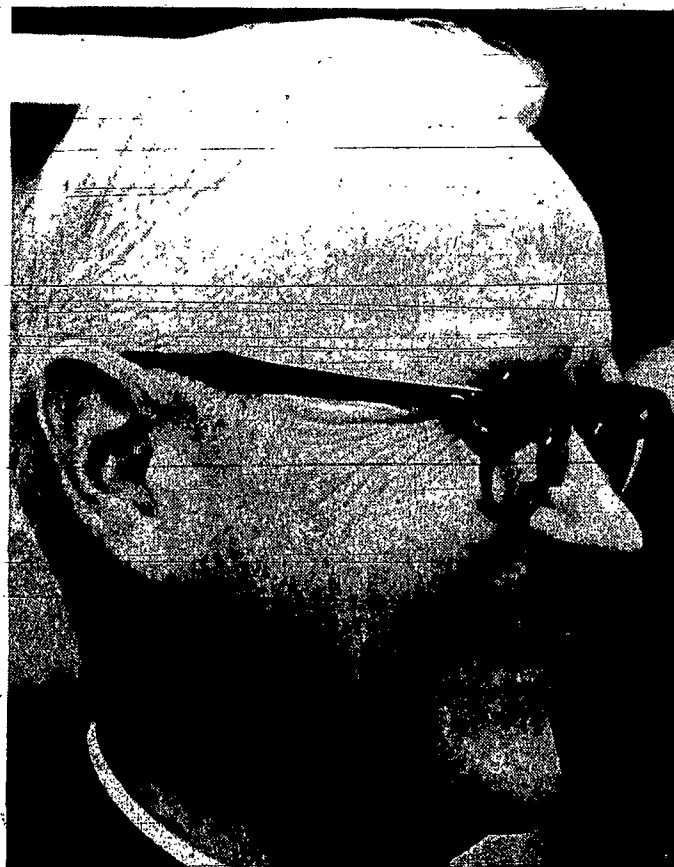
"Having a year as his Vicar General before becoming an Auxiliary gave me some preparation for sharing diocesan problems with Bishop Sheen," he said. "But this past year has been the very longest of my life."

Unlike his opposite number Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, Bishop Hickey is based in the Pastoral Office in Rochester. His principal daily responsibilities, he says, are in "personnel work, sitting on diocesan boards — and being available for counsel."

"Fortunately I am responsible for persons rather than dollars, but as a consultant I am privy to all of our problems and projects."

Bishop Hickey is a member of the board of directors of St. Bernard's Seminary, Catholic Charities, St. Ann's Home and Aquinas Institute.

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BISHOP HICKEY

### Bishop McCafferty: 'No Average Days'

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, who will complete one year as a Bishop March 14, regards his six months' residency in Elmira as "just a beginning."

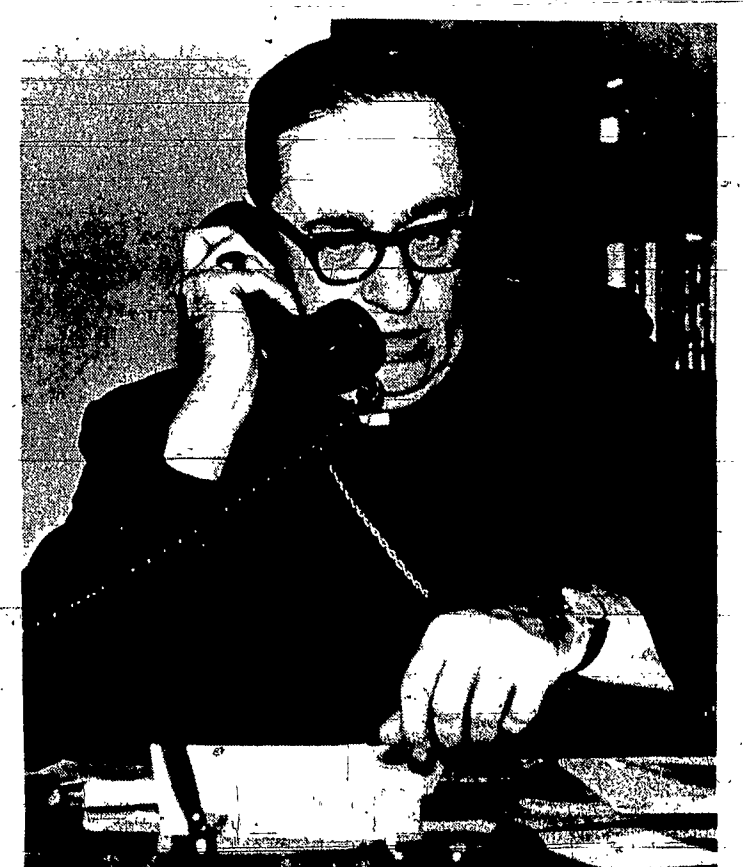
The Bishop, now representing Bishop Fulton J. Sheen in the five-county "Southern Tier Vicariate" of the diocese, points out that "I still have not been able to experience what might be called an 'average day' on this assignment."

Bishop McCafferty lives in a small house at 109 Fairmont Rd., Elmira, in Our Lady of Lourdes parish, and has just opened a downtown office at 214 East Church St. He plans no special observance of his first episcopal anniversary.

His current role, the Bishop admits, "has been quite an adjustment" from his former duties as pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Rochester.

Although his present position entails a much greater area of responsibilities, Bishop McCafferty said that "as a matter of fact I get fewer telephone calls and interruptions than I had as pastor of a busy parish."

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BISHOP McCAFFERTY



This charming colleen is ready to march in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City. And to paraphrase an Irish toast, "May the wind be at her back; may the road rise up to greet her."

## Sex Education Hassle Continues

Auburn — Public arguments here over the fitness of the diocesan sex education course for grammar school children flared more heatedly this week.

Sermons in two churches here, the formation of a group called "Movement to Restore Decency" and public dispute between the diocesan Superintendent of Schools and an

Auburn pastor added to the heat of the controversy over the contents and the propriety of a sex course used in most of the parochial schools of the diocese since last September.

Father John NaCCA, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Auburn, continued for the third Sunday his criticism of the sex program which he has forbidden to be taught at St.

## Bride's Supplement

With this issue the Courier-Journal prints its annual bride's supplement. The supplement, however, is not meant to appeal only to those about to be married or even to those newly wed. To provide something of interest to everyone, the Courier presents the marriage views of a wide range of authors including Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, two physicians, Dr. Arthur Florack and Dr. John Montione, a banker, Paul J. Deleth, and other laymen as well as officials of the Family Life Bureau.

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