

# 7 Rules for Writing To Your Legislator

Letters whether prepared by an electric typewriter on the best bond paper or written in pen or pencil on lined school paper will be read if they follow this 7-point rule:

- 1) Neat: If possible type them. If not, write clearly and carefully.
- 2) Concise: Get right to the point. If a page will do, don't write two pages; if all you need is a paragraph, let it be a paragraph.

## Two Films Win Honors

(Continued from Page 1)

The BFC list contained four films; none of the motion pictures were assigned to a particular classification. The NCOMP selected the films for five categories: For mature audiences, "Rachel, Rachel" for youth, "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter" for general audience, "Oliver!" for educational value, "2001: A Space Odyssey" and foreign language film, "Nazarin."

"Rachel, Rachel" and The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter were named on both lists and by previous agreement, these motion pictures were designated for the joint awards.

The BFC honor for "Yellow Submarine" was called an "Award of Special Merit." The cartoon about the famous British singing group, The Beatles, was cited for its "new dimensions of creativity in the art of animation."

In the award to "Faces," the BFC praised the movie for "evoking the darkest moment in a human relationship when the need-for-love coincides with the discovery that surface banalities have eroded all communications." Produced and directed by actor John Cassavetes, the film depicts life in present-day suburbia.

"Oliver!" a big, colorful musical based on Dickens "Oliver Twist," was commended by the NCOMP for the "warm humanity of its characterization, the joyous quality of its music and dance, and the visual richness of its production."

The Catholic film office praised "2001: A Space Odyssey" for the "scope of its imaginative vision of man — his origins, his creative encounter with the universe, and his unfathomed potential for the future."

In its award to a foreign film, the NCOMP cited the Mexican film "Nazarin" for the "integrity with which it questions the proper place of religion in relation to the practical demands of the secular world thereby presenting the experienced viewer with a challenge of special contemporary relevance."

3) Clear: It's wise to confine each letter to a single bill or topic; if you want to talk about more than one bill, write more than one letter.

4) Constructive: Try to approach the issue positively... even when recommending a negative vote. (e.g. I urge you to vote against any relaxing of our abortion laws. Instead we should be attempting to help the mothers and children involved with positive counseling and and practical educational and medical aid.)

5) Friendly: Your legislators are men of good will, elected by you and your neighbors to represent you at the state level. Don't threaten to act as if the legislator were your enemy. Assume he is a man of good will and address him accordingly.

6) Personal: By all means avoid the mass mail approach. Letters which seem mass produced have only a minimum impact.

7) Timely and often: If you have already written early in the session and the bill is getting ready to go to the floor for a vote don't be afraid to write again, reminding your legislator of your views.

### CZECH TALKS DUE

Bonn — (NC) — Negotiations by the Communist regime of Czechoslovakia with the Holy See will begin soon, the Czechoslovak Minister-President Oldrich Cernik, has announced, according to the German Catholic news agency KNA. The Czechoslovak leader did not specify when the negotiations would begin.

## Bolivian Bishop Praises Area Priests

(Continued from Page 1)

Bishop Schierhoff said soberly, "This can be the most serious burden for any missionary. Add the indifference on the part of the Bolivian people to the feeling that many of the poor in Latin America have—a deep suspicion of the U.S. gringo, and you have a cross that can really hurt an American missionary."

The Rochester priests have done a lot in two years to better the living conditions of their parishioners, the Bishop recounted. "The medical facilities they have brought in for the people and the brick factory which gives them jobs deserve our warmest thanks."

The real progress he and other missionaries have made in Bolivia has been in training lay leaders to care for the religious

needs of their own communities.

"Lay work is especially effective where, by necessity, the people live in true community. The religious leader there is more than a catechist. More properly called, 'pastoral agents,' they are selected by their friends and, after training, are better teachers than we are."

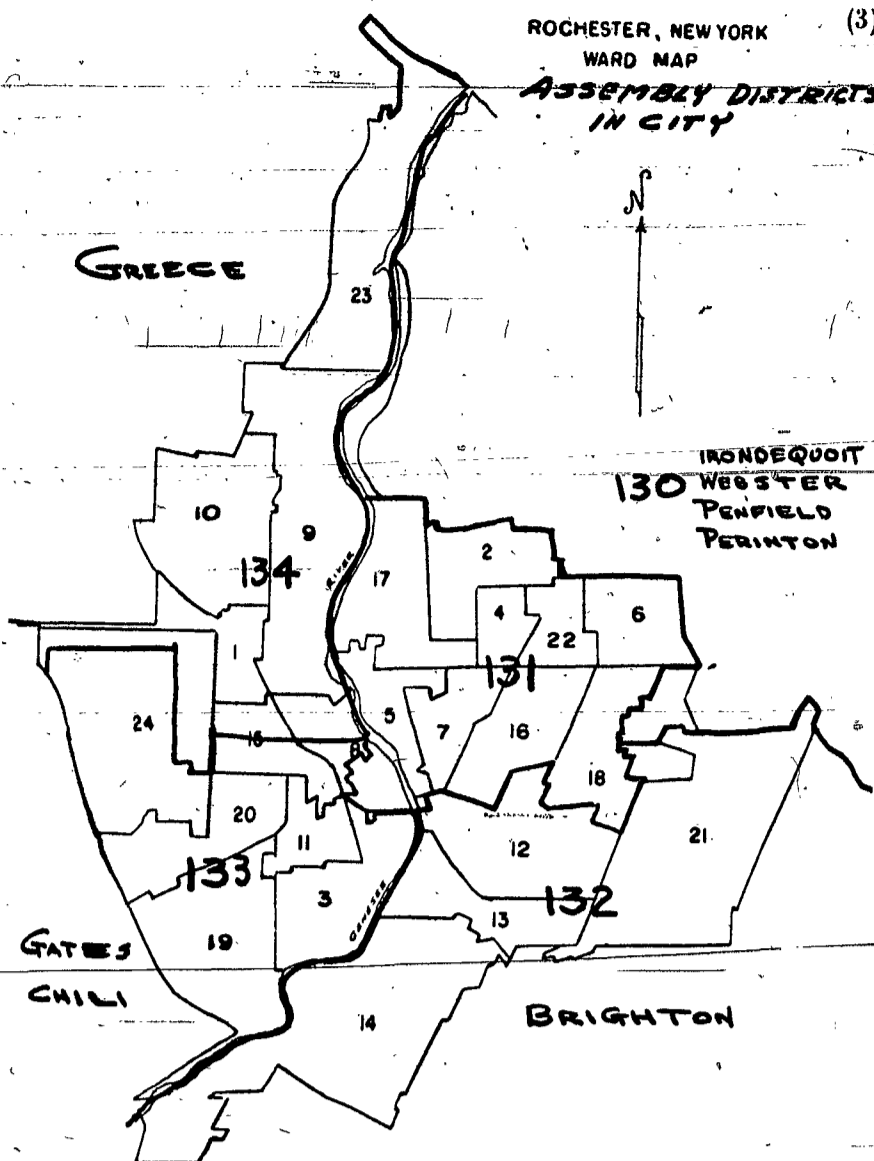
When the interview turned to the question of what diocesan help besides money can be offered to the three priests so far from home, the Bishop became very serious: "They place a high value on the prayers of their families and friends. This help can't be repeated too often."

"And the next most important thing that is really needed is letters from their friends back in the diocese."

In his brief stay Bishop Schierhoff visited Father O'Brien in Newark, Mrs. Clarence Deckman, mother of Father Deckman, and Mrs. Paul Manning the sister of Father Freemesser. From the Deckman home he had a telephone chat with Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Golden in Elmira, parents of Father Edward Golden.

Msgr. John F. Duffy, recently appointed diocesan representative for the Rochester Latin American Mission will travel to Bolivia with Bishop Schierhoff on March 28.

"His visit here was a shot in the arm for all of us," he said. "It was especially gratifying for the whole diocese to know the gratitude of the La Paz archdiocese for our priests' work down there."



The assembly districts in the Rochester area: District 130 is composed of the Towns of Irondequoit, Webster, Penfield and Perinton, and part of city ward 21; District 131 is composed of city wards 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, part of 8, 16, 17, part of 18, and 22; District 132 is composed of the Town of Brighton and city wards 12, 13, 14 and part of 21; District 133 is composed of the Towns of Gates and Chili and city wards 3, part of 8, 11, part of 15, 19, 20, and part of 24; District 134 is composed of the Town of Greece and city wards 1, part of 8, 9, 10, part of 15, 23, and part of 24. Not shown on this map is District 135 which is composed of all of Orleans County and the Towns of Pittsford, Henrietta, Mendon, Rush, Wheatland, Riga, Ogden, Sweden, Parma, Clarkson and Hamlin.

# An Outsider Views Sex Course Dispute

(Continued from Page 1)

Officials note that the diocesan Committee on Sex Education, headed by Dr. Gerard T. Guerinot, chairman, was guided by certain specific principles and objectives in preparing the program.

The introduction to the sex education syllabus lists the following objectives of a Catholic sex education program:

- Development in the child of "a concept of the sacred nature of sex."
- Development of respect for the opposite sex "based on an understanding of the wonderful role of man and woman in God's plan of creation."
- Clarification of "the serious obligations that accompany God's gift of sex."
- Emphasis on the family orientation of sex.

A "simple and gradual" development of understandings or concepts. Providing information that is "as non-technical as possible without omitting what is necessary."

Providing "adequate information in pace with the young person's physical and intellectual growth."

Use of proper terminology, avoiding slang and baby terms. Avoidance as much as possible of making the program a separate course, "utilizing rather the opportunities presented in the normal program (religion, social studies, science, etc.)."

The introduction of the syllabus also calls on the schools to provide for informing parents about the school program, and to include direction, encouragement and training for parents to anticipate the school program in discussing sexual development with their children.

It also cautions against assuming that parents will universally, or even generally, respond to their responsibilities in sex education.

The program is designed around a number of "understandings" for each grade level. Beginning with Grade 1, each teacher is assigned responsibility for communicating several basic understandings — a minimum of two, a maximum of six.

The understandings presented "build gradually from fundamental concepts of growth and family to a reasonably adequate grasp of human sexuality and the serious responsibilities that God attaches to it," according to the diocesan committee.

Officials add that sex education "is not a 'course' to be taught. It is a trust that the teacher shares with the parent. Every effort should be made by the school and teacher to encourage and assist the parents in anticipating the class teaching."

The program is planned for both boys and girls and the teacher is directed to keep them together throughout.

Officials explain this policy was adopted "first, because it is necessary to reflect the notion that sex is sacred, not secret; secondly, because the natural beauty of God's plan for sex gives reason to boys and girls to respect one another. Separating the class tends to promote an attitude of embarrassment, silliness and even shame."

The only exception to this policy is in discussion of menstruation because as a personal hygiene problem for girls, it is not really sex education, officials said.

They explained that the sequence of understandings is a logical one, with the concepts building gradually on one another. Provision is made for the teacher to vary the order "because of some natural opportunity that presents itself or because of the needs of an individual group" of

The understandings have been arranged at grade levels fitting the maturity and needs of the "average" young person, according to the curriculum committee. Changes may be made after faculty discussion in view of varying cultural backgrounds of youngsters. The committee explains that, for example, inner city youngsters may see and hear more about sex than those in suburban areas.

However, it may be argued with some validity that certain understandings are introduced at too early grade levels. On the other hand, it also may be argued "better a year too soon than a day too late."

Most adults tend to underestimate the out-of-school avenues of access young people have to information on sexual matters. Unfortunately, information obtained in this way is too often faulty and can quickly destroy the proper attitudes towards sex that parents and teachers have worked hard to build.

Perhaps the only way to determine whether the Rochester diocese program, or any sex education program, has drawn reasonable criteria for the rate of introduction of new material is to study it as it is used in the class. The question of a child's maturity and ability to comprehend concepts at any particular age level certainly lies in a fuzzy and ill defined area.

It should be remembered that the curriculum has not been in use very long and is far from "set." Indications are that the curriculum committee is even now considering changes in the syllabus.

(To be continued) Mr. Bach's second article next week will explain the details of the basic understandings given to the separate grades using the sex syllabus.



Tree Sculpture

## Nixon

### President in

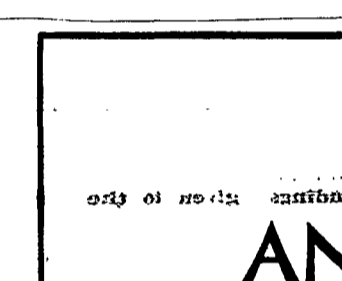
Washington — (NC) — Nixon's decision on the a missile system showed evi determination to avoid a tion of the nuclear arms demned by the Second Pastal c bishops.

But the President stops scrapping the ABM system which the American bishop gested might be a step t escalating the arms race.

"It is the responsib President of the United S all other responsibilities first of the security of t States," Mr. Nixon said a ference (March 14), at w nounced his plan for a mo tinal system. "I believe th tem is the best step that w to provide for that securi

President Nixon called stantial modification of th program adopted by the administration. He asked a guard" system consisting i two sites designed to prote man missile wings in Noi and Montana.

The President said the system he favored was only and "can in no way the progress which I hope



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Father Theodore M sity, has been named by States Commission on search Foundation, est aspects of Australian s first V. Gordon Child Catholicos Khoren the United States for th



JUSTICE BRENN

stalled March 19 by A in the United States, i first President in his l address have reminded is built are moral and r

FUTURE EVENT including represent Orthodox Church — w ecumenical dialogue at The Gustave Weig ters in Harriman, N.Y., spirituality of Teilhard

## Interco

(NC News Serv

London—Intercommuni the Catholic Church and c ern churches is inappror present relationship betw and the other churches, s ment issued here by the 1 Commission for England a

"To receive Holy Comu gether is normally an ex unity in faith," it says. "I made by each communica believes as do all his fe nunciants and as does t whose communion they sh

"But our tragic positio is that we are divided in

"Christians of other tra welcomed to assist in so f conscience allows as no cant members of the ch at our eucharistic celebrat

## LITTLE TRAMPEZE ON THE MARK FOR SPRING

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