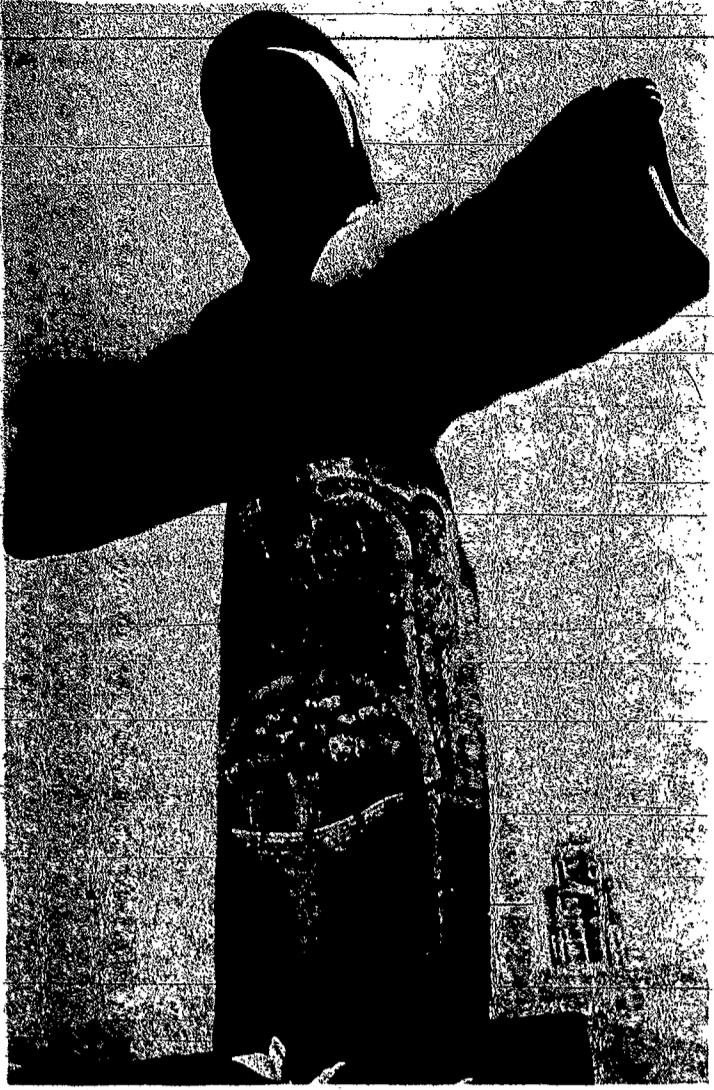


CAPITOL HILL

ROUND-UP



Sculptor Beniamino Bufano used some of the guns turned in by San Franciscans after the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy to fashion this 12-foot statue of St. Francis. He emblazoned the Kennedy with a colored mosaic depicting Sen. Kennedy, President John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and President Lincoln. At the base of the cross-shaped statue Bufano placed a singing chorus of the poor children of the world. The statue, called "St. Francis of the Guns," was dedicated on the first anniversary of Sen. Kennedy's assassination. (RNS)

The 1969 session of the New York State legislature is now part of history. And from our point of view it has been a very bad year.

No gains made in education, in fact some backward steps as we indicate below.

No gains made for migrants, the 10 bills we supported to aid migrant workers didn't get any attention at all.

No gains for the thousands on welfare. Two kinds of no-gains were registered here:

a) a cutback in services and funds for the poor.

b) no effort to aid the welfare families in achieving the minimum necessary standard to get themselves off welfare and become self-supporting members of society.

With our state and country facing some of the most terrible social challenges in history a negative attitude filled the halls; an attitude that will likely carry over next year (since the 1970 legislature is a re-run of '69) and call for extraordinary effort to get any necessary help for those citizens who are least able to help themselves.

Abortion

Two more states have turned back the all-out abortion drive in the last couple of weeks. Florida's easy abortion legislation didn't get past the Rules Committee and the session ended. In Missouri the Senate voted 17 to 11 to defeat an easy abortion statute.

The defeat of a loose abortion bill in New York was one of the few bright spots in the sorry record compiled here. And you can expect it to be back in '70 so we have to make our plans early and continue to fight the plan that makes the surgeon's scalpel the sure instrument of birth control and population planning.

Childress emphasized that he was speaking for the archdiocese and not for religious orders, but added: "I don't know of any they own."

Father Edward J. O'Donnell, editor of the St. Louis Review, archdiocesan newspaper, and a member of the archdiocesan commission on human rights, said he will soon make public reports "on the extent of the Church's involvement in the community."

The reports "will honestly try to tell people the extent of the Church's involvement in the inner city, and will surprise some critics with what the holdings of the Church actually are," Father O'Donnell said.

Pill Cuts Births In New Mexico

Santa Fe, N.M. — (RNS)—The Pill has dramatically reduced the birth rate in New Mexico, a state whose population is more than 40 per cent Roman Catholic, causing the biggest decrease in birth rates of any state in the nation in the past seven years.

When birth control pills were introduced on the mass market in 1960, New Mexico had the highest birth rate in the country—in the next seven years the birth rate dropped 11 points, nearly twice the rate of decline in the national birth rate.

Birth control pills have been dispensed in New Mexico by Planned Parenthood centers, public health officials and private physicians.

"I'd say it was the pill that has had more effect than any other single factor on cutting the birth rate in both New Mexico and nationally," commented Dr. Bruce Storrs, medical services director for the state's Department of Health and Social Services.

New Mexico's birth rate dropped from 32.3 live births per 1,000 residents in 1960 to 21.3 in 1967. This puts the state fourth in national birth rates, according to the University of New Mexico's Bureau of Business Research.

The New Mexico birth rate continues to drop as birth control information gradually reaches the remote rural villages of the state, where many residents are Spanish-speaking and the isolated Indian reservations.

"This is the first time these funds have been allocated this early," the congressman said.

Monroe County received \$2,007,060 and Wayne County \$231,481.

fort: 1,523 bills passed by both houses; 368 bills vetoed by the Governor; 1,155 new laws on the books. Gov. Rockefeller found "fatal ambiguities" or "defects" or "technical deficiencies" in almost 25 per cent of the production of this year's legislature. (History shows that's not an all-time high; the 1965 all-Democratic controlled legislature had 657 of its bills vetoed by the Republican governor).

The governor approved a bill that downgraded the scholar incentives and scholarship, fellowship awards that's going to be felt in many homes this year. Instead of increasing aid to all students, this bill redistributes it and adopt the principle of arbitrarily establishing a means test for the minimum award. This reshuffling is the only change that's taken place in this program in six or seven years. This signature makes an inadequate program less adequate.

The new "Not-for-Profit Corporation Law" is another unhappy thing. This is a complete redrafting of the law governing non-profit organizations (Churches, volunteer firemen's groups, Kiwanis, Religious Orders and Congregations, fishing clubs, etc.). Despite the plea of groups that it be delayed a year for study it was printed (390 pages of it), passed and signed. It vitally affects hundreds of organizations. Even the September-1970 fall-safe enactment date put on it won't help much (any errors must be corrected in the next legislature or cause chaos thereafter).

Everyone should get a copy of this law for study. The best place now is from your senator or assemblyman. Ask for Chapter 1066 and 1067, of the laws of New York 1969, the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law and study it carefully. It's the new legal canon for many corporations, as of September 1970.

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Some Good News

All the news wasn't bad. Several bills which we supported are among the 1,155 new chapters that lawyers will have to know about if they intend to understand and apply them.

Among them: the food stamp program of aid to the needy; authorizing more aid to needy for all welfare areas (previously New York City had a higher top aid level); including school supplies as aid to dependent children; summer camps for welfare children; extending day care facilities; extending hospitalization time limit beyond 100 days; use of Army facilities by school athletic teams; homes for aged and some others.

Cleveland Study: Few Involved In Social Action

Cleveland — (NC) — The Cleveland Diocese has surveyed social action in its parishes and come to the conclusion that the number of people involved is "quite small." Relatively little money is raised directly to support their work, the study disclosed.

Father Daniel F. Reidy, an urban sociologist and parish priest, drew a 58 per cent response to his questionnaire and noted "widespread resistance to this type of research."

His report to the new Bishop's Commission on Catholic Community Action, pointed out the St. Vincent de Paul Conferences as the principal parish organizations engaged in social work. A third of them, however, evaluated themselves as ineffective, Father Reidy said.

Among the 41 action groups that returned the questionnaire, only one fourth were found to be actually involved in social work, or in planning or research. The report recommended that 10 groups be phased out and their programs absorbed by the new bishop's commission.

The report recognized "outstanding work" by the Christ Child Society and the National Council of Catholic Women. It said several task-oriented delegate agencies should be continued and supported by the central diocesan structure.

Thirty-three responding schools counted 414 black students enrolled. High schools, seminaries and colleges were studied.

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St. Louis Diocese: No Investments

St. Louis — (NC) — The Catholic Church in St. Louis owns neither stock nor corporate stocks and bonds, a Church spokesman said here in response to demands by Negro militants.

But the spokesman, Richard J. Childress, dean of the St. Louis University law school and a member of the St. Louis archdiocesan commission on human rights, said the archdiocese "does have a substantial debt." Almost \$1.5 million is spent by the Church annually on inner city schools, where "30 per cent of the students are not Catholics. This is something the Church is contributing," he said.

The militants, members of ACTION, also have demanded in church confrontations 75 per cent of Church revenues for black-operated programs to help the poor.

While the Church owns real estate, Childress pointed

out, it is used for Church-related functions such as schools, hospitals and rectories. He added that the archdiocese "owns no investment real estate."

Childress emphasized that he was speaking for the archdiocese and not for religious orders, but added: "I don't know of any they own."

Father Edward J. O'Donnell, editor of the St. Louis Review, archdiocesan newspaper, and a member of the archdiocesan commission on human rights, said he will soon make public reports "on the extent of the Church's involvement in the community."

Church Has Only 9 P.C. Of City Tax Exemptions

Philadelphia — (RNS)—With the U.S. Supreme Court preparing to hear arguments next Fall on the constitutionality of church property tax exemption, the Philadelphia Bulletin provided a "local follow" on the story which revealed that tax-exempt church land and property in the city is now valued at \$147,898,000.

If taxed at the going rate here church properties—this does not include schools, hospitals, etc.—maintained by churches—would produce \$6,600,000 annually in tax revenue for city government.

At the same time the Bulletin noted that church tax exemption constitutes "but a fraction of the exempted total assessment in the city," about 1 per cent.

Tax-exemptions in Philadelphia currently amount to \$1,600,000,000. This would cover federal, state and city properties, churches and church schools, colleges, hospitals and other charitable non-profit properties.

If the Court were to rule church land and buildings taxable, the Bulletin said, "no one claims to know where the churches would find that

much additional cash." "Churches," it said, "say they are having a hard time financially as it is. Like everybody else in America, they, too, feel the squeeze of inflation."

While city government here is being pushed to the wall financially and facing a taxpayers revolt, the "Roman Catholic Church is trying desperately to finance its school system... the Episcopal Diocese of Philadelphia is imploring its members for an extra \$30,000 to meet obligations... black militants are demanding 'reparations' from all denominations."

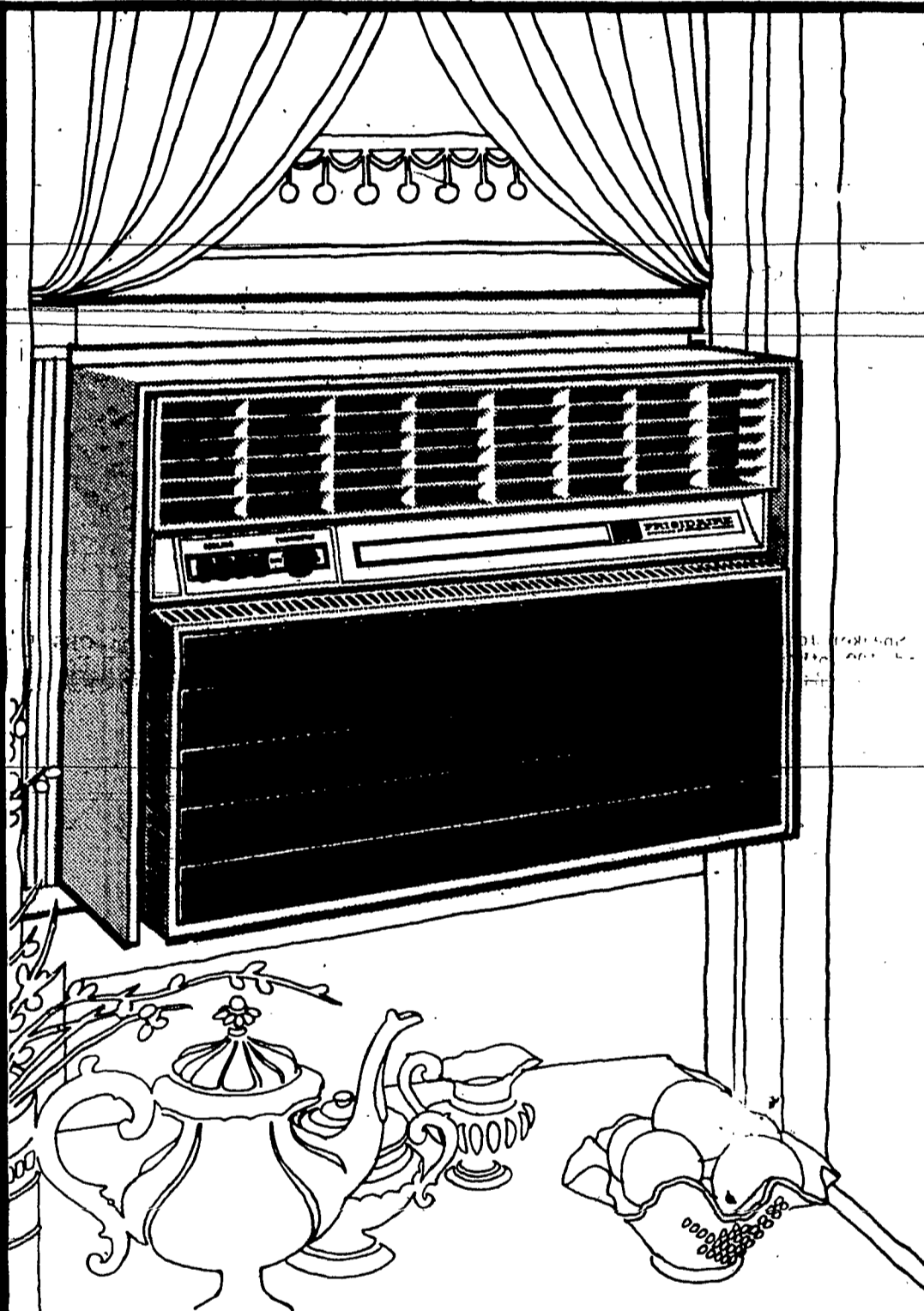
The newspaper noted that church schools predominantly Catholic in Philadelphia, are tax-exempt and that their exemption is not being contested in the action before the Supreme Court.

\$2.2 Million For Area Education

Washington, D.C.—More than \$2.2 million has been allocated for advanced funding of education programs for disadvantaged children in Monroe and Wayne Counties, according to Rep. Frank Horton, R—38th District.

"This is the first time these funds have been allocated this early," the congressman said.

Monroe County received \$2,007,060 and Wayne County \$231,481.



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