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S and G's 'Bridge' Is Pure Dynamite

By THE MISSION SINGERS

When "Bridge Over Troubled Water," the new Simon and Garfunkel hit, was first released on a single, "Billboard," the music-trad weekly, had this to say:

"The duo has not had a release since their smash, 'The Boxer,' last summer, but they are going straight to the top (of the charts) with this beautiful, almost religious ballad."

the music bag

This business magazine calls the song "almost religious." That's a fascinating comment coming as it does from a publication whose only job is to pick songs on the basis of their selling potential.

"Billboard's remark might show something about what religion is. 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' is about friendship. Maybe it's saying that to be religious is to have a friend and then be a friend.

Though Jesus could have written it, it was written by Paul Simon and sung by Art Garfunkel.

"Bridge Over Troubled Water" will probably be the biggest hit of 1970. Maybe this thought holds true here: Nothing is so powerful as an idea whose time has come, and "Bridge" is a song whose time has certainly come.

It's about friendship, and it's pure dynamite. The main reason it's so explosive is that it touches a tender, exposed part of people's lives.

"When you're really feeling small, when tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all." Everyone has moments when they're so low they have to look down to look up. There's no way of avoiding such moments. But to know there's someone around to help can be a great comfort, even when you're feeling good.

There's a story about an old man whose wife of fifty-two years was dying. The doctor told him to go and see his wife for the last time. He went to her bedside and said, with a feeling, "I never said this before, but I want you to know that for fifty-two years I've loved you more than I love my own life." With a sad voice, she said, "Now you tell me," and died.

A poet in the first part of this century once said, "If you have a friend worth loving, love him and let him know you love him, 'ere life's evening." Simon and Garfunkel's song appreciates the need to let a friend know about the love you have. No emotion can be fully real unless it's expressed: "When you're down and out, when you're on the street, when evening falls so hard, I'll comfort you."

Simon and Garfunkel try to show that life can be compassionate: I'm on your side, when things get rough and friends just can't be found.

'BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER'

When you're really feeling small,
When tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all.
I'm on your side, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found.
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down.

When you're down and out, when you're on the street,
When evening falls so hard, I'll comfort you.
I'll take your part when darkness comes
And pain is all around.
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down.

Sail on silver girl, sail on by;
Your time has come to shine, all your dreams are on their way.
See how they shine! If you need a friend
I'm sailing right behind.
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind.

(Published by Charing Cross, (BMI))

Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down.

A young kid once told us that for him a friend is "the guy that's around when you're in trouble." It'd be difficult to beat that description. "Bridge Over Troubled Water" understands that kind of feeling about friendship: I'll take your part when dark-

ness comes and pain is all around."

To take another's part is not the most natural thing for most of us. We've been raised to accept the spirit of competition: "May the best man win." To win, you often have to beat the other guy, and it's a small step from competitor to foe.

To wish the "other guy" well is a difficult thing, one that has to be learned and practiced. "If you need a friend I'm sailing right behind. Like a bridge over troubled water I will ease your mind." It's a generous person who sings this song. It's a lucky, lucky person to whom it is sung. May we all be that lucky.

(Catholic Press Features)

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Phoenix School To Add Grade 9

The Phoenix School, which was set up last Fall as a private elementary school for girls, will have a ninth grade next year.

Mrs. Paul Casper, headmistress, announced this week that the State Board of Regents had approved an amended charter permitting extension of the school. She said classes would continue to be limited to 15. Fifteen new pupils have been accepted for next year, bringing the total to 77, Mrs. Casper reported.

Phoenix was established by lay teachers from Sacred Heart Academy after it closed, and by parents associated with that school. Classes meet in the schoolrooms of St. Paul's Episcopal Church on East Avenue.

Mrs. Curtis Named To National Group

Mrs. James L. Curtis of 106 Mason Avenue has been elected to the advisory committee of the National Catholic Preschool Association, which she will represent in this state.

The organization is "devoted to strengthening the principal that the basic responsibility of religious formation belongs to parents," according to an announcement from headquarters in Allen Park, Mich.

Mrs. Curtis will help organize workshops and establish preschool religious classes. She has directed the preschool program in St. Lawrence parish for the past four years.

Cancer Unit Conference

The American Cancer Society, Monroe County Unit, will sponsor a conference on community resources, Tuesday, Mar. 10 at the Rochester Chamber of Commerce from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

James J. Hunt, director of family services for the society will moderate the discussion whose purpose is to define and coordinate local services available to the cancer patient and his family.

Reservations for the conference should be mailed to: American Cancer Society, 40 Franklin St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604, before Mar. 5.

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Nixon

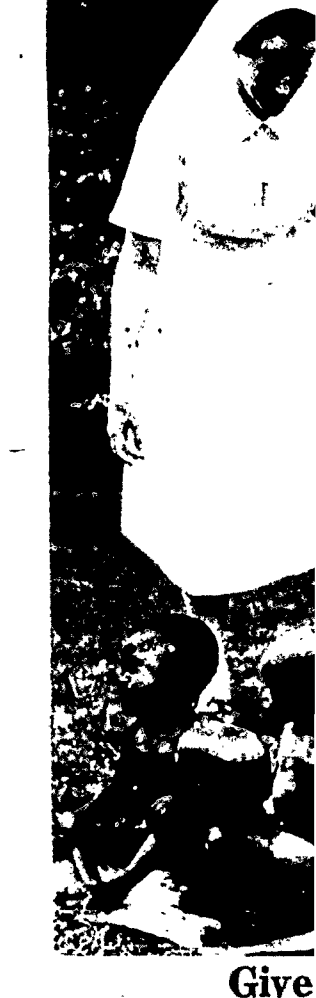
Washington, D.C. — President Nixon, after extolling "unprecedented" special sessions at the White House with educators to discuss school and issued a strong communique whatever he can to keep schools in operation.

Professing a belief in the "value" of a dual education — public and private — Nixon was quoted as saying he "a tragedy if either or collapse."

Nixon cited the extension of Catholic schools in the and added:

"If you retreat from this, you see only a vacuum. You treat, you must not retreat. Find ways to get public or hind you."

The delegation which was President, made up of members of the National Catholic



Give American Catholics I tions to the annual A save the lives of life oped countries throu by U.S. Bishops to s religion, is schedule

Sunday Your C

Bishop Hogan appealed erosity of diocesan Catho the sick and poor of the letter read Sunday from pis for the American Ca seas Aid Fund.

Quoting Pascal's statem will be in agony until the "We must not rest the s Bishop stated that the s Christ on Calvary is a rea in the flesh of the "poor less, the dispossessed, th suffering in every land."

The American Catholi Aid Fund ("Bishops' Re

ON THE INS

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