



Join Forces to Aid Youth

A Catholic priest, a Unitarian-Universalist minister and a high school guidance counselor have pooled their talents to form a non-profit corporation for the development of youth resources in Braintree, Mass. Discussing their project are, from left, Rev. Francis Anderson, Roderick W. Smith, and Father John H. Curley. The group has acquired a former Baptist church building which they plan to reconstruct as a home for young boys who are estranged from their families. (Religious News Service)

Bishops Hit Medicaid Provision

Albany — The state's Catholic bishops have urged the repeal of the cost-sharing provision of Medicaid. They fear that the people who need the help most will "suffer loss of income" and be confronted with "added social problems."

In testimony to a Joint Legislative Committee considering repeal of the 20 per cent co-insurance payment enacted in 1969 for the Medicaid program, the State Catholic Committee and the Council of Catholic Charities Directors, declared:

"The Medical Assistance Program is designed to meet the health care needs of the individuals who can least afford it. Imposing a 20 per cent co-insurance payment for medical services and drugs will discourage families from seeking necessary medical treatment for preventive care."

"With the present high cost of living families tend to eliminate less visible and tangible needs. One of the first cuts in expenditures is health care. This often results in more severe medical problems and need for extensive costly care."

The Catholic Committee told the Joint Legislative hearing: "The co-insurance feature burdens the physician, druggist, and hospital with costly additional paper work processing. It is a mis-use of valuable health care time and skill. The co-insurance feature adds a great deal of paper work processing for the administration of the program in 64 social services districts throughout the state."

The Catholic Committee submitted several "other ways of dealing with the problems of cost" for consideration:—

- There should be a single State agency that is administratively responsible for the program. The present dual system is expensive, cumbersome, and administratively confusing.

CONSCRIPTION DECRIED

United Nations — Pax Romana, an international movement of Catholic intellectuals, asked that the U.N. Human Rights Commission declare conscientious objection a human right. "It is clearly a violation of human rights to conscript the conscience of a human being and to demand that he follow a form of service that is against his conscience," Pax Romana stated.

Courier-Journal

Archbishop Tells Value Of Diocesan Papers

Baltimore (RNS) — Any bishop who listens to an advisory board's recommendation that he save money by closing his diocesan newspaper commits a "dreadful mistake," Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans declared here.

"The diocesan newspaper is a marvelous way of teaching and maintaining contact, and in my opinion there is nothing to take the place of it," the Archbishop said in an interview with the Catholic Review.

"We don't realize what it accomplishes until we do not have it. . . ."

Archbishop Hannan is chairman of the Communications Department, U.S. Catholic Conference.

"There are a number of things in the field of religion," he said, "and especially in regard to explanations of questions that vex our people, that require a written record."

"Television is such a transient thing in communications that you can very easily misunderstand a presentation of a point of view. In the newspaper, on the other hand, you have a permanent record."

Stressing that many problems which face society today, such as pollution, are basically theological problems, Archbishop Hannan expressed a hope that "the Catholic press will address itself in depth to some of these great problems."



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