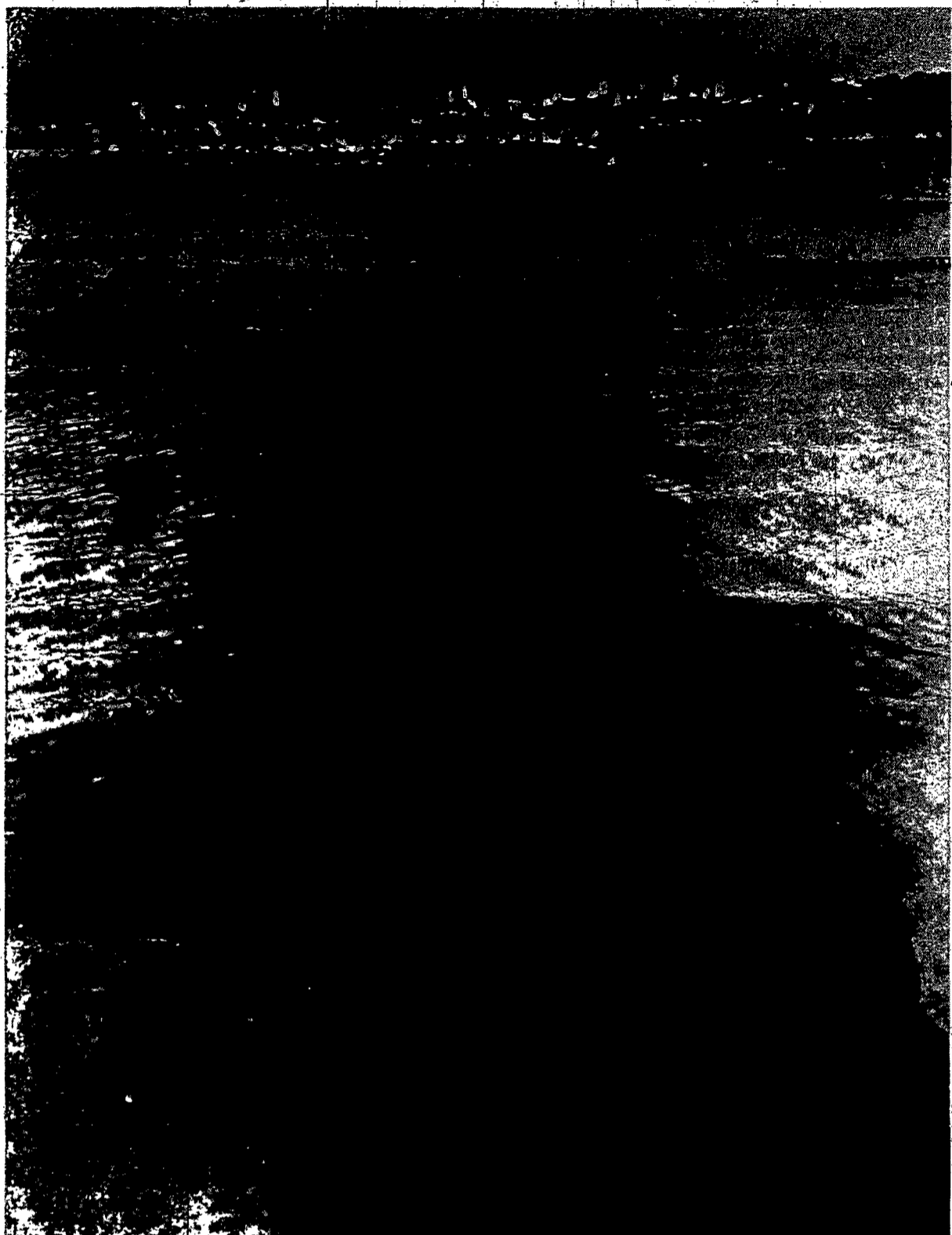


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I Left My Oil in...

A huge oil slick spreads over San Francisco Bay after two Standard Oil tankers collided under the Golden Gate Bridge during an early morning fog. The photo, taken from the bridge, shows how the oil moved with the tide into the bay. The giant spill has spread along 50 miles of California coastline, threatening water birds and other marine life. (RNS)

\$130,000 Raised in Development Drive

Parishes of the diocese contributed nearly \$130,000 last Nov. 22 to support national and local self-help programs for the poor, the Office of Human Development reported this week.

Announcing a final total of \$129,837 from the entire diocese, Father John Hempel, director of the Human Development office and Father Robert Kreckel, coordinator of the fund-raising campaign, praised the generosity of all givers and support of the parish clergy who promoted the cause.

Contributions by parishes are listed on page 10.

One quarter of the total — \$32,460 — will remain in the diocese for area problems, he said. Its distribution by five regional task forces will be restricted to projects which will "attempt to remove the causes of poverty."

Lay and religious members of the five regional boards are now being selected who have broad knowledge of the needs of the poor and under-privi-

leged in their areas. They will be responsible for evaluating proposals for local funding, monitoring the campaign's education phase and seeking funding from additional sources.

Proposals for funding of needs within the diocese must be filed with Father Hempel's office by March 15, he stated.

Monies for the local problems approved for aid will be prorated on the basis of the total collected within the Task Force area of the diocese. No proposals will be acted upon within the diocese until all proposals have been evaluated.

The diocesan contribution for

N.Y. City Rabbis Back Parochial Aid

New York — The New York City Board of Rabbis last week abandoned its long-standing opposition to state aid for parochial schools.

In announcing its decision, the board called for a re-evaluation of its attitude on the controversial issue.

The board thus became the first leading organization representing all factions of Jewry to modify its stand on state aid for nonpublic schools.

According to the New York Times, Rabbi Harold Saperstein, president of the board, said that although the Jewish community has long been opposed to such aid there is now "need for an intensified search for means by which aid can be given within the framework of our Constitution and without violating the principle of separation of Church and state."

He emphasized that the present financial crisis facing nonpublic schools made it imperative to find some legal way now for them to receive state support. He is a Reform rabbi.

"The insistence that those involved (in such parochial schools) carry the full financial burden themselves has become increasingly unrealistic in the contemporary economy," Rabbi Saperstein said.

Rabbi Saperstein thus moved toward the position that the Catholic Church, for example, has consistently taken. Only last Monday, Cardinal Cooke asserted that "substantial" state aid for parochial schools was essential to meet "the great economic plight of nonpublic education." The Cardinal said such aid could be granted without running afoul of the so-called Blaine amendment to the state constitution, which prohibits state aid to church-related schools.

Virtually all major Jewish organizations, including the Board of Rabbis, have been on record for years in support of the sep-

aration of church and state. They have claimed, along with civil liberties groups and others, that any direct financial aid for teachers salaries, maintenance or school administration for example, violates this basic independence.

Rabbi Saperstein said that in the numerous discussions with the Board of Rabbis in recent months on this controversial issue, "tremendous feeling" had developed to "re-evaluate our whole position." He said he anticipated no adverse reaction to his policy address.

Legislators To Press for Blaine Repeal

Albany — (RNS) — Legislative leaders here will pursue their intention to press for repeal of the controversial "Blaine amendment" which bars state aid to non-public schools, despite a change of stance on the issue by Roman Catholic leaders.

The proposal, expected to pass easily in both houses of the state legislature, reportedly lost the heavy support of Catholic and other backers of state aid to parochial schools because they believe aid can be achieved constitutionally despite Blaine.

Parochial aid backers, led by Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York, representing the state's bishops, are urging legislators to enact a parent-assistance bill that would bypass Blaine. The bill would award up to \$250 to parents for each child attending a non-public school.

A move to repeal the "Blaine amendment" of the state constitution was endorsed last year by the legislature, but another vote for repeal is required by the current legislature to place the issue before the state's voters in a referendum.

Cardinal Cooke, in a letter to Gov. Rockefeller, publicly acknowledged the shift in strategy when he claimed that repeal of Blaine was not an urgent matter.

The prelate called for immediate and substantial state aid to non-public schools to meet "the great economic plight" of non-public education this year.

Republican supporters of the repeal — Senate Majority Leader Earl Brydges (R-Niagara) and Assembly Speaker Perry Duryea (R-Suffolk) — said, however, that the repeal measures will be put to a vote in the near future.

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New Feature

The Courier-Journal this week begins publishing thumbnail sketches of films currently appearing at movie houses. The series, "Once Over Briefly," will give a short synopsis of each film plus the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures rating. This week it is on Page 12.

Wednesday, February 3, 1971