

Rocky's Plan of Action Strongly Criticized

By DICK DOWD

Special to the Courier-Journal

Albany — The governor's annual message to the Legislature, which has been adopted by the leadership as the plan of action for the 1971 term, is viewed here as a major disappointment by representatives of the Catholic Committee.

A News Analysis

"We're disappointed in what he said and in what he has failed to say in areas which we believe are important for the future progress of our state," said Charles J. Tobin, secretary of the Catholic Committee.

Here is a rundown:

Bp. Hogan: Remember All POWs

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(missing in action)" office in Rochester which is campaigning for petitions to Hanoi.

Bishop Hogan referred in his letter to pastors to indications from Hanoi that American prisoners of war detained in North Vietnam are being treated more fully in accord with the Geneva rules for the treatment of men taken during times of hostilities, because of pressure by the American petitioning campaign.

The letter to the pastors marks the second time in less than nine months that Bishop Hogan has urged Catholics in the diocese to work for prisoners of war. His first statement was made on Father's Day, 1970.

Today's letter, however, was the first to urge petitioning for better treatment of Communists.

"We are all members of one human family under the common Fatherhood of God, despite the opposing philosophies which seem to divide us," the bishop said.

Mrs. Myron Bischoff of the "Remember our POWs/MIAs" office requested families in the diocese who have members of their families detained as prisoners of war or who have men listed as missing in action to contact her office at (716) 454-2026.

PATRIARCH RETIRES

Beirut — (RNS) — Paul Peter Cardinal Meouchi, 76, Patriarch of Antioch for Maronite Catholics, has tendered his resignation to Pope Paul VI. The action was in response to the Pope's recent call for the retirement of cardinals who have reached the age of 75.

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COURIER-JOURNAL

Vol. 84 No. 20 February 10, 1971

Published Weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Single copy 15c; 1 year Subscription in U.S., \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.00; other foreign Countries, \$9.50. Main Office, 35 Scio Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal

• **ABORTION** — Despite the state becoming an abortion mecca for the East; the live births of 26 children (one of whom survived and was up for adoption); a death rate for mothers (13 mothers died) of 3.8 per 10,000 (higher than the maternal death rate and far exceeding the 3 per 100,000 predicted before the bill was passed) the governor offers no plan, no program, no help.

His suggestion of cutting the legal time from 24 to 20 weeks is a smokescreen. It is primarily aimed at helping doctors (after 20 weeks it is considered a birth process and birth and death certificates as well as possibilities of malpractice suits are involved).

He says nothing about the basic issue of the right of life of every individual or the problems associated with the present law which permits some people (doctors and mothers)

to determine who shall live and who shall die.

• **PARENT AID** — Despite the crisis situation in non-public schools this year the governor offers no concrete help. His support for repeal of the Blaine Amendment is consistent with his previous position. But it will not provide one penny of help this year when the non-public schools are facing crisis closings.

Since a Parent Aid bill, modeled after his own scholar incentive program on the college level is both constitutional and necessary there seems to be no reason for him to ignore it in his message.

• **ATTITUDE** — The overall attitude of throwing-up-of-hands and looking to Washington that seems to be a thread throughout his message was disturbing to many. "This is a strange attitude coming from

a state which has always held an aggressive, leadership status," Tobin said.

• **OTHER AREAS** — In other programs the governor can expect widespread support for his proposals, Tobin said.

Health Insurance. More than 500,000 people in the state have no present health insurance and face the future fearfully because of the growing cost of health care.

Health Care Delivery. This program in which we, in the state, can make it possible for more people to get better care by providing loans so hospital and nursing homes can be built (the loan program would be strengthened under the Rockefeller plan) and other means to provide better care which include promotion of group medical practice, physicians assistants and more medical manpower.

Incentives to move people from welfare. It is better socially and psychologically for people to be self-supporting. Support for not only the Federal Family Assistance Plan but for its immediate use in New York City, is a part of the governor's program. He also asks for an increase in help to those on welfare to meet the increase in the cost of living.

Narcotic Prevention: The Church in the state has accepted the challenge of drugs at every level: parish, school, youth program, adults. Certainly the problem needs more attention, particularly in prevention. The Catholic Church in the state will make every effort to help in the prevention of drug abuse and has already and will continue to work closely with the state in addressing the problems.

Two Corning Schools to Consolidate

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effect "considerable economy in costs," according to Father Brennan.

Staffing the new school will be Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph and lay teachers. The Sisters will use one convent, St. Patrick's, as their residence.

Combination of the two schools has been under discussion for many months because of rising education costs. The proposal, following several meetings of clergy and laity, was submitted last November to the diocesan Educational Task Force, which was surveying school problems for Bishop Hogan.

A School Board comprising members of both parishes will be established to administer Southside School.

Costs of operation of the school in common will be on a per capita basis, to be arrived at through a budget drawn up by a professional accountant.

Equipment of both present schools—libraries, books, films and other teaching aids—will be used in the new arrangement.

The move was the first effective result for next September since the Task Force recommendation that consideration be given consolidations in some diocesan regions.

Contingency Plan Ready If Talks Fail

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demonstrated their willingness and ability" in three basic fields:

"to provide adequately for the religious education of all Catholic children;

"to support the school both economically and in enrollments;

"to join regional efforts at planning organizing and participating for optimal use of educational resources."

The Task Force suggested that the percentage of children in the parish school, the potential enrollments forecast by baptisms and parental intentions to send the children to the Catholic school as well as the financial responsibility of the people should be taken into account before help would be offered to a parish.



Planning Catholic Overseas Aid Fund Drive

Two priests from Rochester were among clergy throughout the nation at a meeting in New York City recently to plan the 25th annual Catholic Relief Overseas Aid Fund Appeal, a campaign to be conducted in the more than 18,000 parishes of the nation from Mar. 14 to 21. Proceeds will provide for worldwide relief and self-help programs of Catholic Relief Services. Pictured are Msgr. William E. Kaiser, Rochester native, regional director for CRS in Africa; Terence Cardinal Cooke; Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom, CRS director, and Father William J. Flynn, assistant diocesan chancellor who will direct the campaign here.

Task Force Inquiry Over; Intense Discussion Still On

The Educational Task Force closed its four-month inquiry into the troubles of the diocesan parochial school system last week but its report submitted Jan. 13 is still under intensive discussion.

Father Daniel Brent, chairman of the Task Force and diocesan superintendent of schools, dissolved the 17-member body with the expectation that an "Interim Diocesan School Council" may soon be named as a primary step in the implementation of the Task Force Report's recommendations.

Father Brent indicated the next steps would be coming soon.

"Bishop Hogan has been continuously and thoroughly informed of the contents of the many meetings we have been holding to assay the laity, religious and clergy, acceptance of the Report's recommendations.

"By the end of February, when all who wish to will have had public chance to express their thoughts and ask questions, the Bishop intends to publish a Pastoral Letter on diocesan education."

Father Brent predicted that official endorsement of the action programs in the Report and the announcement of other positive steps toward diocesan and regional implementation of the plans would follow when the Bishop was convinced that

the broad discussions had assured the Report's acceptance.

Since the Task Force Report was released Father Brent and staff members of the Office of Education have discussed it with 10 groups of priests, with the diocesan Priests' Senate, the Diocesan Sisters' Council, the Councils of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy and several lay groups.

Regional meetings for the laity are open to all interested parents and persons, but members of parish councils, parish school boards, teachers in the schools are especially invited.

Principals of elementary

schools offered their opinions at meetings in Rochester last week and will do so, in Auburn tomorrow (Feb. 11).

The final meeting of the Task Force, held at McQuaid Jesuit High School, covered application of the Donovan Report recommendations to the programs proposed by the Task Force.

The Donovan Report, named for its author, Sister Patricia Donovan, a Sister of Mercy, was a 1970 survey of parish schools and a set of recommendations she found implied in the School and Society survey of the diocese.

Chemung County Schools Consolidation Plan OK'd

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situation to the total education program of the parishes, upgrading all the CCD programs and establishing adult education projects."

In the new structure of elementary schools four regions are planned:

- 1—North: St. Casimir's School, K-6, with approximately 250 children.
- 2—East: SS. Peter and Paul's School, 1-6 with 160 pupils.

- 3—South: St. Mary's School, K-6, with 400 pupils.

- 4—West: Our Lady of Lourdes School, K-6, with 246 pupils.

The school of St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads will operate grades 1-8 with about 275 pupils.

St. Patrick's will take in approximately 385 seventh and eighth graders, using 13 classrooms, library and gym and a faculty of 12 to 15 members.

Wednesday, February 10, 1971

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