



### Century Club

Fred Lapple, president of the Bishop Kearney Century Club and Brother Lawrence Killelea, moderator of the group, check final tally from the club's annual dinner-dance which drew more than 200 people, Feb. 26. Profits from the affair go to finance tuition costs of students who have lost supporting family member.

### Salting the Earth

## Who Is the Culprit?

By Father John Hempel

A few weeks ago I was startled in reading an article by one of our well-known local columnists.

His solution to the "welfare mess" implied adopting a system so abhorrent and so repulsive as to make me wonder if he was writing about human beings.

The columnist put forth the workings of the Soviet "solution" to the problem of the chronically unemployed, which includes resettlement, forced labor and public humiliation.

The implication was that those on welfare were non-productive parasites.

To imply a condemnation of all on welfare for the deficiencies of a few is bad journalism; to make a wholesale judgment of welfare recipients without knowing them as per-

sons is unjust; but to appeal to a system of government which solves its problems in a most direct and impersonal manner is most unacceptable.

Before we start condemning those on welfare, it might be wise to find out who is the real culprit. Is it the welfare recipient or the welfare system? The answer was given to us three years ago in the Kerner Report.

The report reads:

"The Commission (on Civil Disorders) believes that our present system of public assistance contributes materially to the tension and social disorganization that has led to civil disorders. The failures of the system alienate the taxpayers who support it, the social workers who administer it and the poor who depend on it. The welfare system is designed to save money instead of people and tragically ends up doing neither."

But as disturbing as this article was, more so was the attitude of the columnist to the telephone call of one of my young staff members. Not that the columnist was abrasive or unkind, but when questioned about his article in relationship to the Kerner Report he immediately asked the age of the caller.

When the columnist learned that he was 22, immediately the assumed sagacity of the world-traveled older generation came as a rebuttal.

Interestingly enough Our Blessed Lord completed His mission within three years, and as far as we know by the age 33.

I would like to think that our young people have a potential to capture that divine Spirit without having to reach an age level at which some feel all wisdom begins.

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RAY SHAHEEN

## Aquinas Sets Appeal Drive

Ray Shaheen has been named general chairman of the 1971 Aquinas Principal's Appeal Drive, according to Father Albert Gaeleis, Aquinas principal. The drive will get under way this week and run through April 15. The goal is \$75,000.

Shaheen, a 1938 graduate of the school, will have Ray Walsh of Eastman Kodak as vice chairman. Joining Shaheen and Walsh will be six decade chairmen: John A. Temmerman, teens; Dr. Louis A. Iuppa, 20s; Gordon DeHond, 30s; R. A. (Max) McCarthy, the 40s; W. Jack Rogers, 50s; and Ed Calvaruso, the 60s.