

More Letters to the Editor

Open Letter To Governor

The following letter was sent to Gov. Rockefeller on March 16:

Dear Gov. Rockefeller:

I have read with interest and gratitude a recent bulletin from your office listing the ways in which you and your administration have provided aid to the non-public school student in the form of transportation, textbooks and mandated service monies. I see in that legislation that you clearly recognize children are not second-rate citizens (non-public school children), but have equal rights with all other children to the auxiliary educational services.

By the way, I have no idea why non-public school children in grades 1-6 still do not receive the textbook subsidy which non-public school students in grades 7-12 presently receive. This is clearly discrimination, but—of all things—on the basis of age.)

I think that you and your administration have moved sponsored and supported legislation that has recognized the rights of non-public school children. Such support clearly indicates—and the courts have upheld—that such aid is constitutionally legal.

If this much is legal, how can you seriously question whether parent-aid patterned after New York State Scholar Incentive Awards is illegal and unconstitutional.

If the Board of Regents recognizes and explicitly states that the State Education Department has responsibility for the non-public school children in the State, as well as for the public school students, how can you oppose, or indeed even tolerate, as governor for all the people of the State, the injustice—yes, I say injustice—of withholding financial aid equal to the cost, and equal to that provided other children for their mandated secular education.

Governor, may I please have your considered response to these questions, so that I can share your answers to these questions with 41,909 students and their parents whom I serve.

Rev. Leon G. Hart, C.S.B.
Associate Superintendent of Schools

A Protestant At Cursillo

Editor:

I am one of two Protestant men who made a Cursillo this winter at the old King's Prep school. Perhaps my experience can reassure a Ruth Andrus whose letter in the Courier-Journal (3-10-71) charged that the Cursillo movement is not in the ecumenical spirit.

The message of love and joy which I received in the Cursillo weekend stated that we are all brothers in Christ. Therefore it was impossible for me to be an "outsider".

Why "select" the people who will receive this message? The selection for the Cursillo is not only because time, money and man power in this self-sustaining organization are so limited.

The intent of the Cursillo is to inspire Christians to a life of Catholic leadership. Since it is impossible to accommodate all who apply, those who may benefit most, in the opinion of those who know them, are called. Not everyone wants to spend more of his time and talents in the service of his Lord.

As an Episcopal Catholic Christian, I feel the Cursillo properly presents the action and intent of Vatican II. It speaks to me in the voice of Christ and in the voice of the late Pope John whose light shone in such beautiful colors, attracting all men to the Christ who lived in him. I trust them.

Paul Gamble
Clark Rd.
Rochester

Assemblyman Backs Bill

Editor:

Following is a letter I have been sending my constituents who have asked my support for the Parent Aid Bill.

Thank you very much for the very interesting letter in regard to state assistance to our nonpublic schools. Having been a product of the Catholic school system, I know the financial burden that exists today and without help the nonpublic schools will phase out one by one. The recent survey showed in a few years hence only 14 Catholic schools within the diocese will be able to continue.

The public schools can only succeed if the parochial schools are saved. There are no two ways about it. Money must be found for all schools. The problem is education, not religion. Strong legislation must be passed that will provide every child with good education at the school of his choice.

The governor has expressed opposition to the so-called Speno-Lerner bill which would provide tuition grants to parents who send their children to parochial or other nonpublic schools. Moreover, he did promise that he would provide more money to sectarian schools in the next school year.

In closing, I would like to say I will support Speno-Lerner or any legislation that will give financial assistance to our non-public school system.

Raymond J. Lill
Assemblyman

The Slot Man

The Old Familiar Faces

By Carmen Viglucci



To write that so and so died suddenly is one of those phrases considered cliché in the newspaper business; the act of death is always instantaneous. So, countless copy editors regularly either cross out the adverb or change it to unexpectedly.

Still, the death of former Gov. Thomas E. Dewey had such a quality of suddenness about it that its effect was stunning. And, if you are an Albany boy, born and reared in the capital city, it was personal.

I never would have believed in those long-ago days when the then crusading "crime-buster" became governor that some day I would feel a sense of loss at his death.

His passing has a touch of irony when considered politically. When Dewey became governor back in 1942 one of his pledges was to clean up the political mess in the city of Albany, then, now and always commandeered by the astute political boss Daniel O'Connell.

O'Connell, even then had such power that he was thought of as "the old man" and he must be some 20 years older than Dewey, who died at 68.

Dewey, obviously, never fulfilled his promise, despite a rash of investigations and many charges and recriminations back and forth. In fact, rumor had it (and Albany a tired and jaded city, feeds on rumor) that a deal was made between the

two and that the payoff came years later when an O'Connell state legislator voted on Dewey's side in a crucial issue.

That is dubious because even if politics does make strange bedfellows, Dewey and O'Connell would make the odd couple look like Siamese twins.

Our family lived on a street which was an extension of Route 9, then the main north-south highway between New York City and points north—such points in the summer being mainly Saratoga. As children we spotted many celebrities using our street, of whom I remember best Monty Woolley.

Whenever we would spot the New York "1" license plate of the governor's car we would boo and hiss at it as it passed—being trained to be good little Democrats, as Dan O'Connell would have us be.

And I remember one opening day of the Albany baseball Senators when Gov. Dewey threw out the first ball amid the loudest boos any public official ever received at such a celebration.

It would be nice to balance this with some pleasant anecdote about Gov. Dewey, something to show his human side, a kind of cute thing he did to turn the tide. But none such exists. Such was the man.

Strange that I feel personal remorse at his passing.

Salting the Earth

One Giant Step

By Father John Hempel

In joining the Genesee Ecumenical Ministry a few weeks ago, our diocese opened the door for the influx of a fresh new spirit of religious unity locally as did Vatican II internationally.

As crisis after crisis arose within our area, there has been seen a need for a stronger and more vibrant coalition of religious bodies to meet them. The coalition of religious congregations, as seen in the old Council of Churches makeup, had done well. As much as had been done, more had to be done—a more powerful, core capable structure had to emerge, one that could also embrace the Roman Catholic constituency. It was from this need that the reorganization of the council began to take shape under denominational lines.

Prior to our coming into the new agency, many hours had been put into its organization and structure. Much more has to be done for we are dealing with a new form, an infant organization struggling to grow into an entity capable of producing a more effective Christian community.

Our office has both in the rural and urban areas opted

for an ecumenical approach in working toward effecting social change. In the Rochester metropolitan area we were directly associated with the Board of Urban Ministry, an arm of the old Council of Churches, because of the reorganization of the council, the board has ceased to exist, however we still maintain at least indirect liaison with the new agency. As the new agency develops with Catholic participation our relationship should become once again more direct. Hopefully, the spirit and impact of the former union will be carried into the work of the new agency.

Difficult days are ahead for the new agency as it searches for identity and purpose. To have begun the amalgamation of so many denominations is in itself remarkable. Prayerfully, I would hope the spirit of Christian love and trust will allow us to go far beyond even this.

But at least, thanks to Bishop Hogan and the present Priests' Senate one giant step has been taken to allow us with the rest of the Christian community to formally try to function as a unified body.

Rund's

Dancing Nightly Entertainment in the Lounge

• **Roast Young Tom Turkey** with dressing

• **Red Snapper**

• **Broiled Idaho Brook Trout** (Blue Lake) Almadine

each of the above includes

Baked Potato • Sour Cream
Chef's Salad • Choice of Dressing • Assorted Rolls
Creamy Butter

Served Anytime Mar. 23 thru Mar. 28

275

"The House of Good Food"

Rund's

2851 W. HENRIETTA RD.

271-7200
Closed Mondays