

BALANCE [?] THE BUDGET?

Drastic economies in the state budget will demand the closing of some institutions for the mentally handicapped next year. Many retarded will be shifted around and crowded into strange new "homes". Facilities for their care will be cut off by a budgetary decrease of personnel.

Father E. Charles Bauer, diocesan director of Special Religious Education for the physically and mentally handicapped, reacts to the plans of the state in the following article. As Chaplain at the Newark State School for 12 years, he writes with deep knowledge of the trauma which the intended economies will cause to the handicapped residents of state institutions.

By FR. E. CHARLES BAUER

We can balance the budget if we handicap the handicapped! Sounds incredible, doesn't it? But that is what is happening.

Visualize a moderately retarded "girl" at the age of thirty-six. Seven years ago she was "transplanted" from a State School which had been home to her for seventeen years.

She was a "working girl", capable of "producing". So the new facility needed her. Now the new facility is being closed.

Lorraine had been perfectly happy in her seventeen-year-old home. But she had no choice — so she adapted herself to the new institution. That is much more difficult for a retardate to do than it is for you and me. But Lorraine did it.

Once she got to know the place and the people, it became her new home. Her job in the kitchen resulted in many new friendships. In fact, this new

institution was much more like home than the other place. It was much smaller, much more intimate. It even looked more like home.

But now Lorraine has to move on. Because of Albany's budget plans she may return to that monstrous facility from which she came. Or she may be transferred to yet another institution.

But Lorraine is only a retardate. She is only an underprivileged human being to begin with. So her way of life is rather arbitrary.

You see, we New York staters are short of money. We had to "cut the budget." So Lorraine and thousands of other handicapped people had to be dealt a new handicap.

Of course, you know that we have a grandiose building project going on in the Capital of our State. A glorious complex, costing millions and millions of dollars is going up in Albany,

so that we will be better able to deal with the problems of our people.

And that is very important! Plush offices are most necessary if we are going to solve the problems of people like Lorraine.

And Lorraine's supervisors. You see, the main reason why these institutions could be like home for her was the fact that the employees were so friendly and understanding. They were not paid very much. But they were really dedicated people. They actually loved people like Lorraine. And they worked hard to make those people happy. It was a sort of vocation.

Well, that is all over now for many of those people. The "new" institution is being closed. Someone in Albany has decided that we can save loads of money (and of course, that is what is important) if we fire these dedicated employees and send all these handicapped people off somewhere else.

Somewhere else? Oh yes, there is a somewhere else. We can easily send them back to the institution where they came from. Or we can just as easily send them to some other institution. In either case, they will be going to a huge facility which is still overcrowded — despite the fact that the population had been considerably reduced over the past several years.

That was accomplished, to a great extent, by transfers to new facilities—like Lorraine's. Little matter, of course, that the furnishings and equipment of the "new" facility, to say nothing of the completely renovated buildings, will become rather useless.

And little matter that these people will be going to a place where the employee-resident ratio has been wonderfully increased over the years. But that ratio is something less than static.

Back at the old institution, Lorraine will enter into a "deep freeze." She will find that many new programs have been inaugurated since she left. But the great progress made over the past few years is in danger of being reversed. Because of the job freeze, no deceased, resigned or retired employee may be replaced.

Back in her old home, Lorraine will find that they have finally been able to fill the psychologist position which had been vacant for so long a time.

This institution has been "alotted" six. But we can "afford"

to hire only one. That one has such a backlog of work stacked so high that Lorraine probably will not be psychometrically re-evaluated for quite some time after her return!

She may also need some medical attention. And she will get it. But only at the expense of a doctor who is brutally overworked. That's due to the fact that this Empire State is too poor to hire the necessary number of physicians to care for the needs of our institutionalized people without superhuman effort.

The result is that employees, as well as residents, end up as handicapped people.

And that's the word "people." You can't budget people. Buildings, yes. People, no. We may well ask what kind of priorities this Empire State has when buildings become more important than people.

And even if people, rather than buildings, do have to suffer because of the money bind, why must it be those already handicapped who must suffer even further?

The budget can never be balanced until we are!

Sister Helene Garvin

Helping Parents Teach the Faith

After Sister Helen Garvin, SSJ, left her administrative position as general superior for the diocesan Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, she became involved in work as parental education consultant for the diocesan Office of Religious Education—CCD.



FATHER RUTH

Fisher Teacher Dies in Canada

Father John P. Ruth, CSB, associate professor of mathematics at St. John Fisher College, died Friday, July 9, at his family home in Hepworth, Ont., Canada. He had arrived there earlier in the week for vacation.

Father Ruth, born in 1907, entered the Basilian Community in 1925 and was ordained a priest in 1932. He taught mathematics at Assumption College in Windsor, Ont., from 1933-50.

During the construction of St. John Fisher College in 1950-51, Father Ruth resided at Aquinas Institute in Rochester. From 1952 until the present he was on the faculty of St. John Fisher College. At the time of his death he was the longest serving member of the College faculty.

Father Ruth is survived by a brother, Alfred, of Hepworth, and two sisters, Catherine, also of Hepworth, and Sister Celestine, SSND, of Waterdown, Ont.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on Monday, July 12, in St. Mary's Church, Owen Sound, Ont., and burial took place in the Basilian cemetery there.

Since last September, Sister has written a monthly newsletter which is sent to 85 parishes in the diocese, and forwarded to parents and teachers.

"Parents notice that the new religion text books seem to ignore doctrinal concerns, like the ten commandments and preparation for penance; they wonder when their children will begin to memorize the traditional prayers," Sister Helene commented.

The newsletter usually discusses one theme in religious education and explains to parents that although the approach and emphasis may be different, the

Edward Blodgett, Chief ID Deputy

Edward T. Blodgett has been promoted to head the identification bureau of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department.

Chief Deputy Blodgett, a 13 year veteran of the department, lives with his wife Margaret and three sons on Electric Ave.

They are members of Sacred Heart Parish. Blodgett is a member of several civic and religious organizations.

CARE FOOD

In 1946, CARE helped feed 3,380,000 people. In 1971, its 25th anniversary, CARE is helping to feed 25,000,000 people and to give millions more the health, skills and knowledge to feed and support themselves.

content of religion has not changed. It is hoped information in the newsletter helps parents to take a more active role in their children's religious formation.

Sister Helene feels that parental understanding and approval is vital for contemporary catechetics is geared to "living as well as knowing the faith."

"Religious educators try to help the student come to grips with daily life to see people and events and his relationship to them in the light of Jesus' teaching," Sister said. "Most of a child's living takes place outside the classroom, and parents are the teachers here."

"Response to a questionnaire polling reaction to the newsletter has been very favorable," Sister Helene reported.

One parent remarked: "It's good to have the family Christian attitudes and ideals which we lose in the shuffle of everyday life, brought to us now and then." Many other parents felt that the letters bridged the "religious education gap" between parents and children. Principals and teachers also welcomed the newsletter, finding it a useful tool for communicating with parents.

Sister Helene also serves as director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Religious Education Center on East Ave., chairman of the Spiritual Growth Commission of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and member of the diocesan Sisters' Council.



ANNUAL LAYAWAY COAT SALE

Save on outerwear for boys

A — TRIM WALKING COAT

Sizes 4-7 \$19.90 reg. \$25.

Sizes 8-20 \$23.90 reg. \$30.

Single breasted wool Melton cloth coat with split hood of Dynel Modacrylic. 2 flap pockets. Fully lined. Vicuna, skipper blue, grey.

B — BOYS' 2-IN-1 PARKA

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Sizes 8-16 \$18.90 reg. \$25.

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