



Don Luce speaks about Vietnam to Rochester area journalists.

Sampson Transfer Called 'Inhumane'

By ALEX MacDONALD

Nearly 700 mentally retarded adults will be transferred from Sampson State School by Oct. 1. State authorities call the school's closing necessary because the budget for the care of mental retardees has been drastically cut in Albany.

But Father Thomas J. Florack, resident chaplain for the school, describes the dispersal of his child-like neighbors and parishioners as "the most inhumane action you could conceive."

"These people have no families: 90 per cent of them have no one interested in them except the friends they have made here," he said.

No consideration may be given to ties of friendship and dependency developed at Sampson when the residents are split up and moved to other institutions, he charged.

"The patients have become deeply attached to the employees who are sincerely dedicated and devoted to their charges. But that will all be harshly destroyed soon. The residents will probably never see the school employees again nor most of their friends here once they are moved out."

Father Florack also criticized the state's intentions to send patients from "an ideal place where there is lots of room" to other institutions already overcrowded. "Most other schools where our people will be shipped," he said, "are already working with budget-reduced staffs. And they won't be hiring new people to care for the Sampson arrivals."

Father Florack counts 300 Catholics among the 680 retarded residents. He is also chaplain at Willard State Hospital, about two miles away, where there are 650 Catholics among the 1,300 mentally ill patients.

The Sampson School is in buildings of the former Sampson Naval Training Center hospital along the east shore of Seneca Lake. Since 1960 the plant had handled the overflow of patients from Willard and other state institutions. It became an independent state school exclusively for mentally retarded adults around 40 to 50 years old in 1969.

Father Florack said that the residents' potentialities are not high ("they have received about as much education as they can take"), since their I.Q. averages only 30. Most are ambulatory and can feed themselves, but only a few can read or write.

He lives in the Sampson complex but has no office there.

The larger share of his responsibility and ward-work is at Willard, but he celebrates daily and Sunday Mass at the Sampson school. About 175 people attend Sunday Mass and there are always 15 to 25 on weekdays.

In the 30-plus frame buildings left over from the Navy and Air Force use in the 1940s and 1950s, the school has its own chapel, fire station, kitchens, dining rooms, theater, medical and dental wing and occupational therapy. There is room for 1,200 residents.

The chaplain spoke of Sampson. (Continued on Page 2B)

Vietnamization Won't Work Luce Tells Journalist Group

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

"As Americans leave Vietnam's economic problems begin," said Don Luce to a gathering of area journalists, July 27. The 36-year-old agricultural economist spent most of the last 12 years in Vietnam and made world headlines when he and two American congressmen discovered the "tiger cages" in

one of South Vietnam's largest prisons.

"Vietnamization won't help the Vietnamese people," he continued, "we are their market and we are leaving them with no security. Vietnamization is intended to help get President Nixon re-elected, it won't end the war," Luce stated.

From 1967 to his expulsion from Vietnam in May 1971, Luce served as a correspondent for Ecumenical Press Service, the World Council of Churches news agency.

"The first problem facing the press in Vietnam is that the press reports what the United States government says, in too many cases without any investigation," Luce reported. "A second problem is that the government often controls news by the promise of scoops to those who report the news their way. And a third problem," he continued, "is the pressure on newsmen in Vietnam. If you do too much liberal reporting you won't get any more news releases or you will get kicked out of the country," said Luce, speaking from experience.

He said, however, "The press in South Vietnam is more liberal than the Rochester papers, as far as prior restraint is concerned. Papers are confiscated in Vietnam after they are on the street," he clarified, "but you can often buy them before that happens."

"There are good reporters in Vietnam," he explained, "the trouble often arises between them and the U.S. government about what news gets out, often for political reasons issues are ignored."

Luce cited the drug problem as one example, "15% of our men were using heroin but until the newspapers uncovered this fact and the government had to admit it, they wouldn't do anything about it."

"There are times you think you have done a great deal," he said, "but you don't unless you can stay and follow your work through." After he left, "the Saigon government told the

prisoners to build more cages as a 'self-help' project. When the prisoners refused, the U.S. government contracted Raymond, Morrison, Knutson, Brown, Root and Jones to construct them, he said.

When asked about the My-lai incident, Luce replied: "My-lai was not typical of what happens when American forces go through a Vietnamese village, but at the present My-lais are happening daily with the Air Force continually bombing villages."

He also told of the Vietnamese reaction to President Nixon's release of Lt. Calley from the stockade where he was confined immediately after the guilty verdicts were returned: "They thought it a racist decision. They could not understand any differences between Calley's case and Manson's," he explained.

Sister John Chrysostom

Grandmother in a Convent

By DICK BAUMBACH

Elmira—She spoke from behind a large metal grating, but seemed to have an inner joy few people ever experience in their lifetimes. She has only been a member of the Dominican Monastery here for two years. She says the time has been "exciting."

We're talking about Sister John Chrysostom Houssman, 64, a widow and a grandmother.

Sister Houssman joined the monastery on Aug. 31, 1969. Today (Wednesday) she will be eligible to make a solemn profession.

"That is where the wisdom of the Church lies. They let you have a testing period to make sure both parties are ready to unite with one another. It's the solid way of doing things," Sister Houssman said.

Born in 1907 Sister Houssman spent her earliest years in Aurora, Ill. with her family, including two sisters and one brother. They were members of the New England Congregational Church.

Her first impressions of the Catholic Church were respect and thankfulness.

"We were living in an apartment house when the St. Joseph Sisters bought the building for a convent. When they found out that my mother was

period of time they let us live in the apartment until the baby arrived and then another six weeks so my mother could regain her strength."

Sister Houssman said she had a "good moral upbringing." She noted, "As you get older you think about your heritage and you are thankful for some of the things your family taught you about life."

In 1932 she married John Houssman, a mechanical engineer. In 1935 they had their first child, Ginger.

Shortly after the birth, Houssman accepted an offer from a London, England, firm to be chief engineer.

She moved to London for three years and then returned to the U.S. Two years later her husband joined his family back in America.

After he returned home Houssman joined the Dow Chemical Co. in Detroit, Mich.

At this point in her life Sister Houssman said she "accidentally" got involved with the Catholic Church.

"I had a friend whose name was Helen Casey. John had a coronary and I stayed home with him. But going to church, any church, meant something to me and I was in a position where I didn't want to leave John.

"That's where Helen helped me. She said that the local Catholic Church had a 6 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Since the Protestant church we were going to had services later in the morning I asked if I could join her for the 6 a.m. Mass since John would still be sleeping.

"She agreed and I started going to Mass. I didn't know until years later that she went to the 6 a.m. Mass just to take me. She could have gone to any of the other Masses.

Mrs. Casey gave Sister Houssman a missal on her first visit to the church. "I remember thinking that the priest turned his back on the people and this upset me. Helen told me that he was praying directly to God and that's why he didn't face the people. That really impressed me."

While her husband was laid up Sister Houssman received a letter from one of her sisters telling of a new religious community in California.

She spent three months living at the community and when she returned, told her husband, "John, I have found a place where people live life as it should be lived."

They began making plans to move there.

Then Sister Houssman found out that the community had dissolved.

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St. Ann's Builds Anew

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and members of the board of St. Ann's Home will participate in an inauguration ceremony for the construction of a \$9.1 million addition to St. Ann's at 11 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, August 5, on the lawn in front of the old people's institution at 1500 Portland Avenue.

Ground was broken three weeks ago and earthmovers have already excavated for the footings of the new 21-story residence center. It is expected to be ready for the occupancy of 300 people in 1973.

Bishop Hogan and John Glavin, president of the board, will unveil a large painted picture of the architect's rendering of the projected building in the ceremonies tomorrow.

City and town of Irondequoit officials, members of the Sisters of St. Joseph congregation which staffs the home, residents and friends of the home will be present.

The new structure, the tallest building in suburban Monroe County will stand between Portland Avenue and the existing nine-story structure built in 1960. Residents of the new tower will use the dining hall and chapel in the existing plant and also go there for medical treatment, physical therapy and social activities.

AN INSIDE LOOK

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