

Catholic Conference Urges U.S. Health Insurance Plan

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The U.S. Catholic Conference has urged the federal government to initiate a national health insurance program that will provide "universal coverage for all U.S. residents."

In a 30-page statement, read before the House Ways and Means Committee which is studying several major health care proposals, the USCC said a national health program should be broadened to promote and maintain health, "not merely treat disease."

"We support the position that if health care is a basic human right, that the responsibility for fulfilling this right rests with both the individual and society and that government as an instrument of society must assure an adequate response to this right," the statement said.

The USCC testimony was presented by Msgr. Harold Murray, director of the USCC's Department of Health Affairs; Msgr. Lawrence Corcoran, executive secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities; and Sister Mary Maurita Senglaub, R.S.M., executive director of the Catholic Hospital Association.

"Viewing health care as a right," the statement said, "we cannot support any proposal or policy which would not provide or encourage the delivery of health care on an equal basis to all, regardless of race, religion, national origin or the ability to pay."

The statement noted that each citizen should have access to physician care "with an emphasis on a freely chosen, responsible physician for every family, properly supported by para-medical personnel, and a multi-specialty arrangement among physicians with facilities necessary for referral and consultation."

The U.S. Catholic Conference also called for emergency care, hospital inpatient, outpatient, and clinic services, long-term hospitalization and long-term health care in facilities which provide nursing care, therapeutic and rehabilitative services. It also asked for dental care,

prescribed drugs, home health services, transportation, nutritional services and personal and family health education.

"The present system does not deliver this comprehensive range of services to every American," the USCC testimony pointed out.

The Catholic agency suggested that a social insurance system set up by the federal government should provide the financing needed for the nation's health care system.

The insurance system should spread the risk by encouraging people to indulge in long-range planning and by assuring the security of the contribution, the statement said. It added that any new health program should

be a "federally-operated" social insurance available to all members of society and covering all the normally necessary health maintenance services on a non-indemnity basis.

The document suggested that contributions could come from employers, employees, self-employed, and non-employed with independent means. For those unable to contribute, public funds should be made available, the statement added.

The USCC presentation also suggested that the level of income subject to the tax for health insurance should be sufficiently high to assure that a disproportionate tax burden does not rest on those in the lower economic brackets.

Prelates Assist At United Church

Edmonton, Alta. —(RNS)— When McDougall United church celebrated its 100th birthday as the pioneer Protestant church of Alberta, two Roman Catholic leaders, Archbishop Anthony Jordan of Edmonton, and Bishop Remi De Roo of Victoria, B.C., joined in the celebrations.

Bishop De Roo preached at

morning and evening services. Archbishop Jordan, who read a lesson and gave the concluding prayer and blessing, thanked the McDougall congregation for the use of its building for noon Masses during Lent for the past four years. He prayed that it would be said of Christians in the '70s, "Se how they love one another."

Churches Invest In Urban Renewal

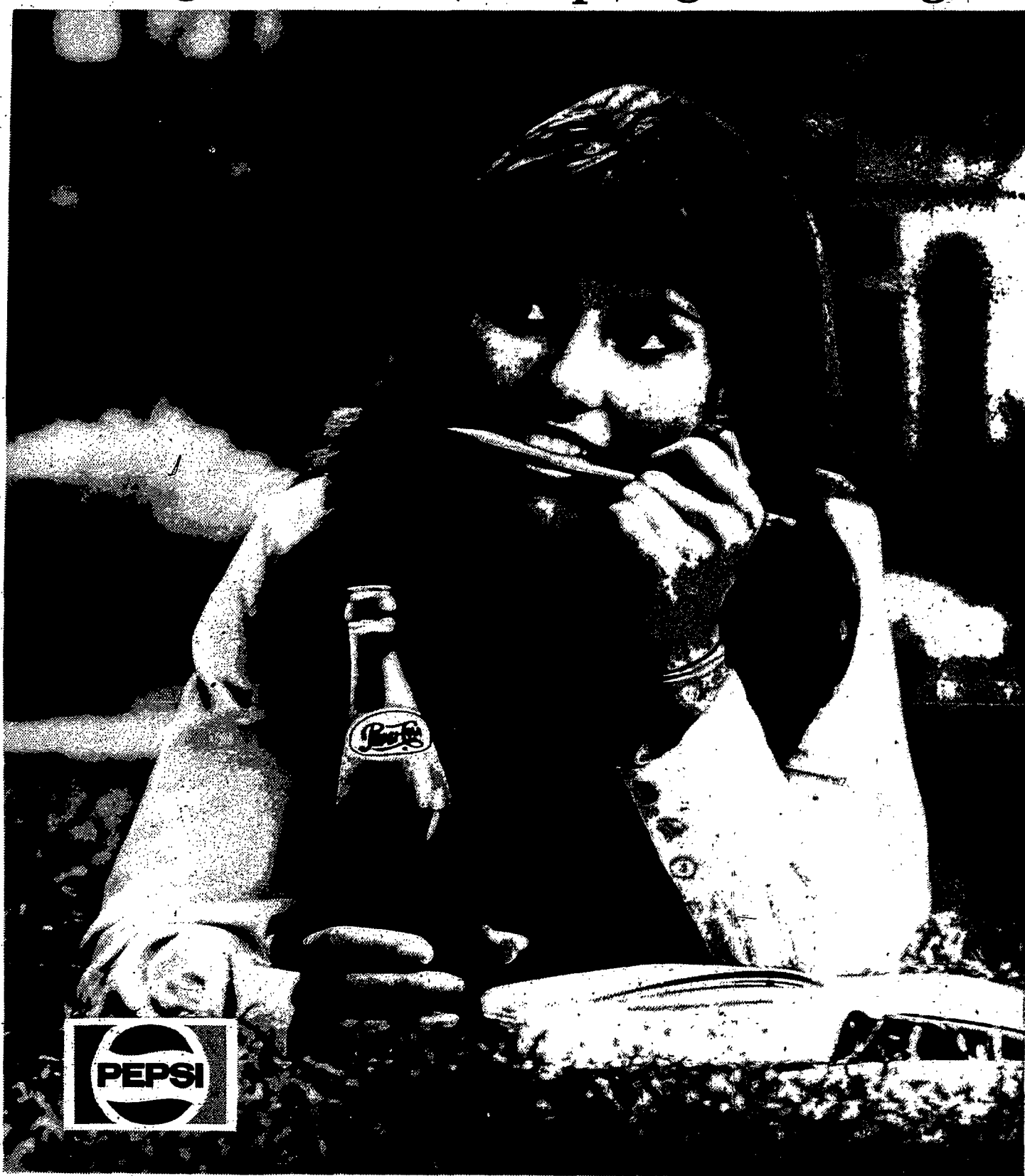
Toronto, Ont. —(RNS)— A unique social action project was initiated here when Anglican Bishop George B. Snell, the Rev. R.A. Steed, of the United Church of Canada, and Father K.M. Robitaille of the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto, broke

ground for a cooperative housing project in the city's center.

The project will be built with federal government financing, but with collateral provided by the three Churches. Each is putting up \$30,000, which will be returned with interest.

You've seen her before.
Across the face of America. Across the table from you.
She could be your girl, your sister,
your daughter. She's a natural.
And so's that cold Pepsi in her hand. Pepsi belongs,
whether you're sharing good times with friends...
or a quiet moment alone.
Pepsi-Cola... it's got a lot to give.

You've got a lot to live. Pepsi's got a lot to give.



Bottled by Pepsi-Cola Companies of Elmira and Rochester under appointment from PepsiCo., Inc., New York, N. Y.

BOSCO

1150 BUFFALO RD.,
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14624

HOUSE

WILL HAVE MORE

BRETH

R I N G I N G
E L I G I O U S
D U C A T I O N
O T H E
A N D I C A P P E D

WHEN IT HAS MORE

MONEY

ADD your contribution to our INCOME

and
SUBTRACT it from your TAX
DIVIDE what you have MADE

and
MULTIPLY help to those with LESS
PAYABLE TO "BOSCO HOUSE"