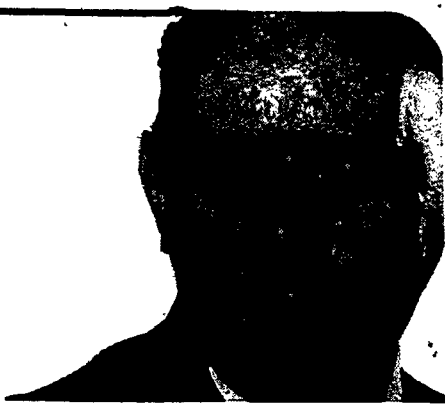


BOB CONSIDINE

## On the Line



President Nixon's interest in football extends considerably beyond the telephone calls to bowl champions, visits to the Washington Redskins, and the fascination of Sunday's Super Bowl game.

He is deeply concerned, as an erstwhile underweight player for Whittier, with a side of the sport that gets little or no publicity and certainly no glory — gridiron casualties.

En route to meet Emperor Hirohito in Alaska last fall, the President stopped over in Portland, Ore. He was scheduled to fly on to Walla Walla, Wash., where his remarks would contain some light-hearted reference to football. But at Portland he learned that a Walla Walla high school boy named Chuck Anderson, an offensive tackle playing in the first game of the season, received a severe blow to the jaw on a blocking assignment, died, and was to be buried that day.

The President called the boy's family without fanfare, offered his sympathy, told the family that two of his older brothers had died of tuberculosis because at the time there was not sufficient knowledge of how to combat it, and agreed that "something should be done."

A month later, in Charlotte, N.C., to take part in a tribute to his friend Billy Graham, the President heard that a high school tackle named Phil Hughston had suffered a broken neck and was dying in a local hospital. Nixon called the boy's family and the boy himself, and did what he could to comfort them.

At a White House dinner on October 22, the President asked his good friend Don Kendall, head of PepsiCo, one of whose related companies is Wilson Sporting Goods, to look into the matter and come up with some answers to the seamier side of football. A month later, Kendall replied, in part:

"There has been a total of 13 known deaths and severe injuries in 1971, either directly or indirectly attributed to football. Only seven of these deaths have been officially reported thus far to the High School Federation or to the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

"The 13 deaths and severe injuries occurred in the following states: New York 2; Texas 2; Illinois 2; North Carolina 2;

and one each in Washington, California, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Florida."

Kendall said that his own sports equipment company and competitors were constantly testing for better football protective gear, but that was not necessarily the full answer. He put it this way:

"I should add the somewhat discouraging note that those directly associated with football believe that all serious injuries cannot be prevented by improvement in the protective equipment worn by players. Proper fundamental instruction and coaching are by far the most important ingredients to minimize serious injuries. Actually, the most significant comment made by doctors in analyzing the causes of severe injuries, particularly broken necks, is that subdural hematoma may primarily occur according to the position of a player's head at the moment of impact. The major cause, twisting of the neck, can best be minimized by improving playing and/or coaching techniques. I can assure you that our investigative and research efforts will not only continue, but will be increased."

### FEW FINN CATHOLICS

Helsinki — (RNS) — Roman Catholics constitute the smallest religious community in Finland, according to official Finnish Catholic Church statistics. A report issued here by the Diocese of Helsinki disclosed that Catholics number only 2,800 among a total population of 4,695,000.

### NEWS DEADLINE

A reminder that Courier-Journal news deadline is noon Thursday for the following Wednesday's newspaper.

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### ROCHESTER WAR MEMORIAL

Monday, January 31st at 8 P.M.

Tickets on sale now at War Memorial Box Office; both Midtown Record Stores; Disc World, East View Mall.

### ONONDAGA WAR MEMORIAL — SYRACUSE

Tuesday, February 1st at 8 P.M.

Tickets on sale now at War Memorial Box Office; S-U Book Store; Sears-North Syracuse.

### UTICA MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

Wednesday, February 2nd at 8 P.M.

Tickets on sale now at Auditorium Box Office; Hi-Fi Music, New Hartford Plaza; Utica College Student Union.

Mail orders for all 3 performances accepted with self-addressed stamped envelope.

## Ecumenical Activities Abound in Canisteo

Canisteo — Ecumenical activities highlight the church news this week.

The Council of Churches met last week in St. Joachim's parish center. Composed of religious leaders and two representatives from each church, the council offers programs for community activities. A current program is the Golden Age Tureen Dinner which will be held Friday, Jan. 21.

Tony Galaezzo and Nancy Spencer represent St. Joachim on the council.

"I give you a new commandment: Love one another" is the theme for the week of prayer for Christian unity, which will close Tuesday, Jan. 25. A highlight of the week will be an exchange of pulpits Sunday, Jan. 23.

## Hornell Area Notes

Bath — Father Robert Fagan of King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society slated for Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Dansville — Kathy Morsch and Kevin Mark have been elected to represent youth on St. Mary's parish council. They will serve for one year.

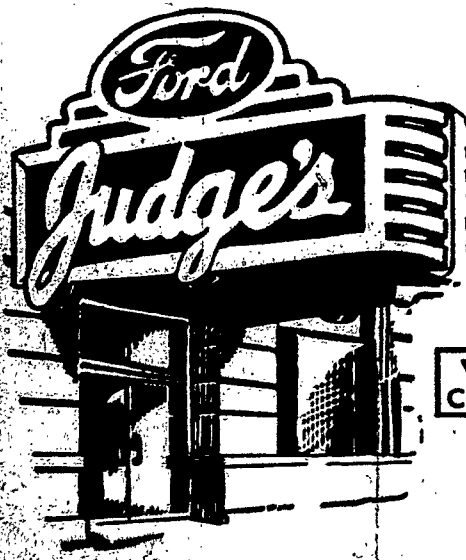
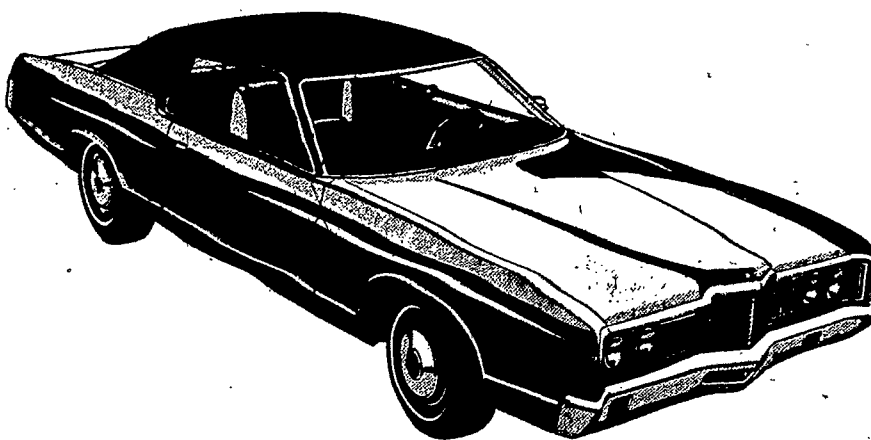
Dansville — Parents of public school children receiving religious instruction, grades 1-6, are invited to a special program in St. Mary's school hall on Monday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m. At that time the guidelines for preparing for first Communion (grades 1 and 2), for first penance (grade 3) and for Confirmation (grades 4, 5 and 6) will be presented.

# HELP! BOSCO HOUSE NEEDS MONEY

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