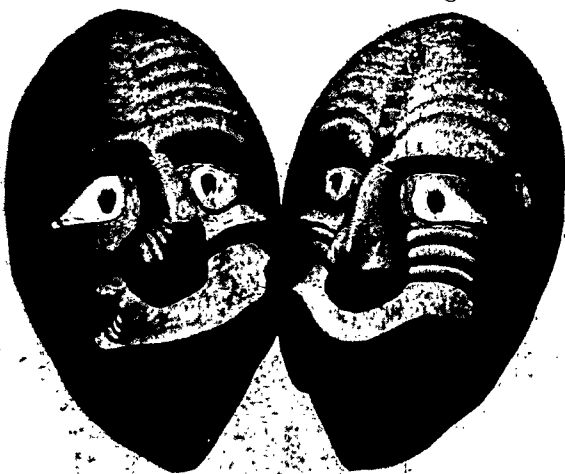




Photo by Lawrence E. Koef

Mission in Midtown

A statue and flowers at the Legion of Mary information stand this last week in Midtown Plaza frame cousins Tammy and Denis Hillens inspecting literature.



Traditional Iroquois Indian masks have a personality of their own, though used in traditional rituals. SEE CENTERFOLD.

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Diocese Cautious On Bill to Aid Flooded Schools

By CARMEN J. VIGLUCCI

Diocesan officials took a wait-see attitude toward the announcement in Washington last week that President Nixon is asking Congress to include \$19 million in aid to 41 nonpublic schools damaged by Tropical Storm Agnes and in the Rapid City, S.D., flood.

The request for the nonpublic school aid was announced at a White House briefing by Frank Carlucci, deputy director of the White House Office of Management and Budget. The Justice Department was said to have determined that a Church-state problem would not exist with such aid as long as it is short-term, fulfills a public need and is primarily for nonsectarian purposes, according to Religious News Service in New York City.

Carlucci said that 27 of the 41 nonpublic institutions are Catholic but there was no further breakdown except that the assistance would be for elementary and secondary schools and colleges, with only Wilkes College of Wilkes Barre, Pa., mentioned by name.

The funds will be part of the so-called "Agnes bill" proposed by the President July 18 to provide \$1.7 billion for emergency aid. The bill apparently will not provide any assistance for operating costs, which diocesan officials have said is the foremost problem they face since there is little way for schools to raise the necessary budget funds among hard-hit parishioners.

A government spokesman said aid under the bill would be exclusively for the restoration, renovation and replacement of damaged facilities, supplies and

equipment used for nonsectarian purposes.

Father Albert Shamon, diocesan vicar for education, said that aid under the Agnes bill "may be too little, too late for 1972-73."

"Not to aid private schools will lead to overcrowding of public schools and idling of valuable parochial school facilities," he said. "Who, besides the devil, would profit from that?"

Father Shamon directed attention toward the possibility of state aid, stating, "There is no reason the frozen mandated services funds can not be turned over for disaster relief."

He added that the nonpublic schools problem is long-range — "to get our equal share of school tax money, not as charity, not as a handout, but in the interest of distributive justice."

Last week Bishop Joseph L. Hogan announced his support for special efforts begun by Southern Tier Catholic school officials to seek an amendment to the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) law to provide permanent legislation for aid to nonpublic schools damaged in natural disasters. The OEP law is not the Agnes bill,

(Continued on Page 2)

Plebescite Planned In Northern Ireland

Belfast — William Whitelaw, Great Britain's administrator for Northern Ireland, has told the House of Commons that a plebescite is planned in the province to determine if the people want to unite with the Irish republic or remain British citizens.

No date was given for the plebescite although September or October seemed the likely time.

The idea of a plebescite appeals to Northern Ireland's Protestants since they outnumber the Catholics, 2 to 1. Whitelaw plans to meet this week with leaders of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labor party, political voice of the Catholics.

Whitelaw's statement came amid personal efforts to spur

better rapport with the angry Catholic community.

He also planned to ask the Irish minister of foreign affairs, Patrick J. Hillery, to persuade his government to take a firmer role in discussions aimed at easing tensions in Ulster.

Catholics have been demanding army moves against Protestant gunmen, release of the remaining 267 men interned without trial, and measures to suspend the 100,000 legal gun permits, mostly held by Protestants.

Harold Wilson urged the British House of Commons to revoke the licenses to aid the army's search for illegal weapons. "We will look into licensed arms," he said, "but the real problem is unlicensed arms."