

LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

Didn't Clarify Abortion Stand

Editor:

While some might not question Mr. Arnie Ciaccio's (Democratic Assembly candidate of 130th District) trying to have the best of two worlds in this year's campaign, i.e. a position on abortion that could keep women's lib smiling yet win the Catholic vote, we women who are interested and concerned with the rights of the unborn child must criticize Mr. Ciaccio for not making his position crystal clear to the Courier as his opponent, Thomas Hanna (Rep-Cons) did, and in fact, as most of the responding candidates in the other districts did.

According to the Courier poll, he says only that he will vote to repeal the present abortion law.

According to his literature, Mr. Ciaccio considers the present abortion law a "poor law," but he would favor enactment of a law the equivalent of the old Blumenthal proposal (would allow abortion for physical and mental health of mother, deformity of the child, rape or incest) with a 12-week limitation (except in cases where mother's life endangered), a residency clause and consent of the father where he is known. We, who have been working on the abortion issue over the years, recognized when this type of legislation was being considered for New York state that it would allow essentially de facto abortion on demand as it does now in Great Britain, Colorado and California.

If Mr. Ciaccio believes in his abortion platform, he should have had the courage to clarify it for Courier readers.

WOMEN CONCERNED FOR THE UNBORN of the 130th District, New York
Jeanne D. Sweeney, R.N. 342-0404
Sally Seymour 266-5995
Kay Zeller, R.N. 671-3983
Donna Garfield 342-1926

Editor's Note: The Courier-Journal received six other letters on the same subject and same candidates. They were signed by Philip Travis of 1065 High Vista Trail, Webster; Mrs. John Judge of 144 Wood St., Webster; Mrs. L. T. Hussey of 7 Southwick Drive, Webster; Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Kirme of 300 Webster Road, Webster; Mary E. Wilson of 85 Sherwood Ave., Webster; Robert L. Burwit, Esq., 710 Lake Road, Webster.

Just a Note, Get Out and Vote

We've heard and read much rhetoric via tube and press,

This election has upped the noise pollution to the testiest:

One's either hepped with Dick and Spiro's stride,

Or pushing hard for George and "Sarge" to override the tide.

To sum it up: It is the voter who can become the biggest winner ever;

If he lets conscience be his guide, when he pulls the lever.

Elect the candidates who will work for Country's best with pride;

Then violence not, let's unite to make just, peaceful ways our stride.

Florence Catherine Young Hatch
66 Continental Drive
Brighton

Politics Criticized

Editor:

The quadrennial wave of heavily financed slander and deception is once more upon us — even our beloved Courier-Journal has been invaded.

Jobs are promised where there are no jobs; peace where there is no peace; welfare from a government that's broke; federal aid out of our own pockets via inflation.

And the crowning deception: "Economic upswing ahead; GNP up 15%. Pardon me, but if the GNP includes the price rise (as it always has) many of us must wonder that it isn't more.

Inflation, war, waste, taxes, pollution, unemployment, poverty, frustration, drugs and crime are upon us with a vengeance. Under our free-for-all devil-take-the-hindmost system, no politician can reduce one evil without multiplying another.

Yet we would settle the whole thing by a simple vote.

Vote for what?

There IS a solution.

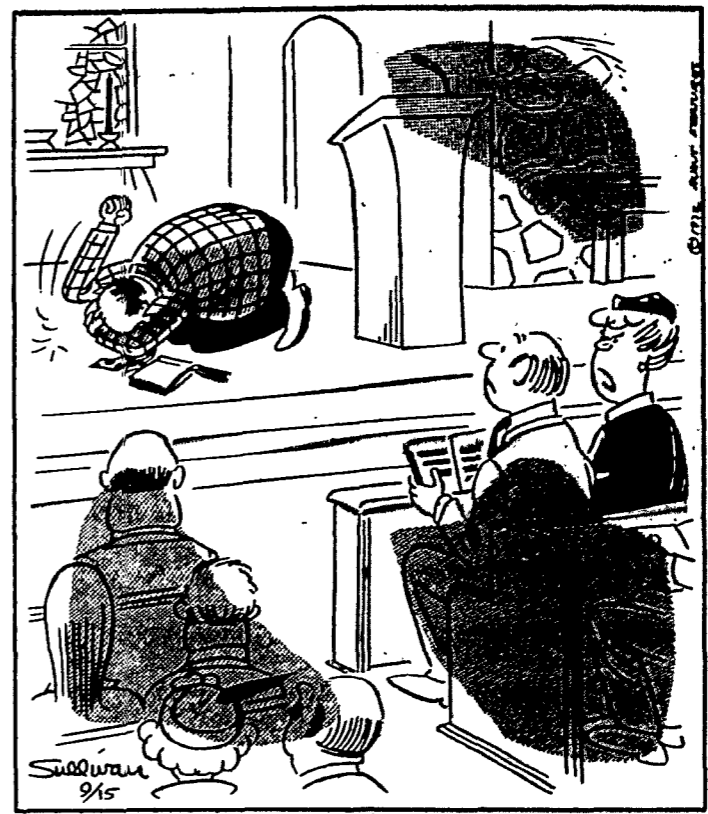
We'd better find it before it is found for us.

Edward A. Veith
2952 Atlantic Ave.
Penfield, N.Y. 14526

Double Talk Charged

Editor:

Don't be fooled by Charles Henderson, Assemblyman, 127th District. He may have checked the "yes" box in your survey asking if the candidate would vote for repeal of the present abortion law, but his further quote certainly canceled out his yes. He is for repeal only if the law is replaced by another liberal law, yet he answers yes and you print



"THEY COULD HAVE FOUND SOMEONE WITH MORE PATIENCE TO TEACH US NEW HYMNS!"

it thus. I hope the voters don't fall for this double talk.

J. Ward McConnell, answered the question with a direct, honest yes.

Charles Henderson is not for repeal of abortion on demand. He voted for it in 1970 and voted against the repeal bill last spring.

Linda Martino, Chairman
Right to Life Committee
Corning

It is important, therefore, to note that his opponent for office,

Editor's note: A similar letter about Assemblyman Henderson was received from Mrs. Lee Austin of Painted Post.

FR. ALBERT SHAMON Word For Sunday



Sunday's Readings: (R1) Mal. 1: 14; 2: 2, 8-10. (R2) 1 Thes. 2: 7-9, 13. (R3) Mt. 23: 1-12.

All three readings for next Sunday say nothing more clearly than that man never changes. Malachi (460 B.C.) cried out against the glory seekers. Later, Christ himself excoriated the hypocrisy, rigorism, and vanity of the Scribes and Pharisees.

So Matthew warned Christians around 80 A.D. to avoid the title of Rabbi or teacher and not to call anyone on earth father. Some sects have taken these Matthean warnings with serious literalness. A Jehovah Witness once chided me for using the title "Father." He pointed to Matthew's text to show how wrong I was.

Like this Jehovah Witness, the Scribes and Pharisees often took the words of Scripture literally. Our Lord's observation about phylacteries showed they often took them too literally. God had said, "Always keep the Law before your eyes." What He meant was simply do not forget the Law, always live according to it, let it be your guide.

The Pharisees, however, saw only the letter of God's words. They actually wrote the heart of the Law on a parchment, put it in a matchbox container (the phylactery), and actually strapped it to their foreheads — before their eyes. Can you imagine such literalism!

In Our Lord's time these pompous fools enlarged the phylacteries; they hoped that parading these extra-large boxes, like carrying an extra-large Bible under the arm, might be regarded by unthinking people as a sign of exceptional piety.

So Matthew's exhortation to avoid certain titles, like being called "father," was not meant to be a lesson in word usage. St. Paul, himself, assumed the position of "father" towards those whom had had brought into the faith (1 Cor. 4: 15).

Our Lord was not concerned about titles, but with the spirit behind them. A rose by another name smells just as sweet. A pompous leader of any name is still a pompous leader. It is pomposity, vanity, hypocrisy, and rigorism that is condemned, not empty titles.

The Scribes and Pharisees sought honor, reverence and esteem from disciples and people — sought it inordinately, as though they were taking the place of God himself. Disciples followed them, like fawning spaniels, and quoted them. And the Pharisees were so proud in their own conceits, they did not hesitate to substitute their thoughts for God's thoughts.

The early Christians, who were converts from Judaism, feared lest the same Phariseism be carried over into the Christian community. So they spurned all titles. How well they succeeded can be gleaned from the fact that no saying of the apostles — revered as they were — is quoted in early Christian writings. Christ is the only source and center from which all teaching is drawn.

The spirit Our Lord wants in the Christian community is the spirit of brotherhood. Among themselves, all Christians are brothers: no one must lord it over another. The role of teachers and of leaders is to serve. The example of Paul to the Thessalonians is given in the second reading. Paul uses the image of a nursing mother to describe his tender care for his newborn Christians. So authentic was his dedication that he won the hearts of the Thessalonians in spite of the fierce persecution that threatened them on every side.

Religious authenticity is what man today demands of religious people. Tags and labels no longer identify the Christian. Only authentic witness will — "the greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest."

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

Anthony J. Costello
General Manager

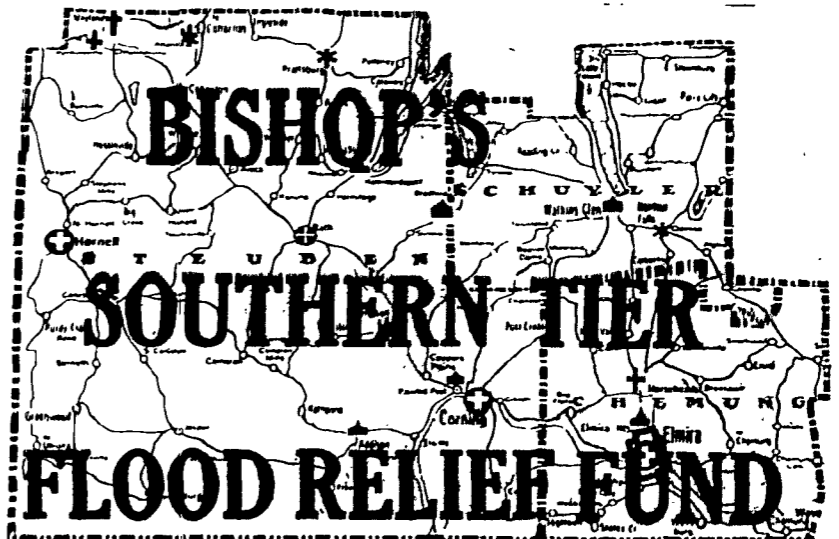
Carmen J. Vigucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 87, No. 26 October 25, 1972

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15c. 1 year subscription in U.S. \$9.00. Canada and South America \$9.50. Other foreign countries \$9.99. Offices: Richford Building 67 Chestnut St. Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal



Your Help Is Desperately Needed to Aid the People of the Flood Stricken Southern Tier Rebuild Their Homes and Their Lives.

Send Contributions to:
BISHOP'S SOUTHERN TIER FLOOD RELIEF FUND

c/o Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
50 Chestnut Street
Rochester, New York 14604