



Victims of Flood and Famine

A refugee family which has fled the floods and resulting famine of the Bangladesh countryside, sits on a street in Dacca joining some 500,000 who made their way to the city seeking food and shelter. Months of floods that inundated more than half of Bangladesh destroyed a huge portion of the summer rice harvest. While nearly 2,000 died as a direct result of the floods, the World Health Organization has reported that some 100,000 more may die before December unless sufficient emergency aid is provided. (RNS)

GANIENKAH NATION

Representatives of the Ganienkah Nation, a new nation formed by members of the Mohawk tribe will speak at Immaculate Conception Church, Oct. 27 during the 10 a.m. Mass. The Indians will also speak at a pot luck social, sponsored by local Indians, at the Unitarian First Church, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. Indian crafts, food and dancing will be featured. Proceeds will be donated to the Ganienkah Nation.

OCTOBER 19-31

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RE-ELECT RAYMOND LILL

State Assembly

Endorsed by the Right to Life Committee

Democrat Row B 17

Committee to Reelect Ray Lill, John Bittner, Chairman

THE OPEN WINDOW

Father Louis Hohman

Reverend Louis J. Hohman:

Is it not definite that the Catholic Church is opposed to abortion? My understanding of Hugh Carey's attitude is that as a private citizen he agrees with the view of the Church, but, if elected governor, and having taken an oath, he would uphold the law in its liberal attitude toward abortion in spite of his contrary view as a private citizen. If Catholics believe that their Church speaks with the authority of God on such matters as abortion, how can a law of civil government take preference in the conscience of a Catholic, even if he be a state official?

How is it that the Courier Journal of Sept. 4, 1974 devoted a full page (p. 12) seemingly furthering the election of Hugh Carey? How is such assistance to him reconciled with his attitude toward abortion?

Did not Henry VIII declare himself head of the Church in England? But St. Thomas More did not reason - "well, the king is head of the state, so although as a private citizen I believe the Pope is head of the Church, as chancellor I'll accept Henry as its head." He had only one conscience on the matter and held to it, although it cost him his head.

Respectfully,
F.K.

Dear F.K.,

I am glad you brought this up, because although it might get me in trouble in some quarters I feel it is an issue which needs clarifying.

We live in a pluralistic society in which people differ widely on issues, some of which pertain to morals (hence moral beliefs). Others are morally neutral. The way we come to make laws is through our representatives. Hopefully our laws will reflect the

viewpoint of the majority of the people (I am here speaking from the standpoint of the way our government is constituted). As an individual I have religious convictions and in this case of abortion believe that the best welfare of the state would be served through the conviction I hold. Therefore I am free, if not obligated, to try to persuade those who do not share that conviction that our way is the best way. But if in the course of events the majority of citizens indicate they do not share my convictions, then I must still live by them but the law stands as the conviction of the majority. There is no other way to live in a pluralistic society. Otherwise what you demand of Mr. Carey would have to be matched on your part by the decision to leave a state and a country which has, in your eyes, immoral laws. In my opinion, history has shown over and over that people are not made morally good by placing a legal roadblock to their acts, especially when a minority is instrumental in placing that roadblock.

Understand me well: I believe abortion is immoral. I would much prefer that the majority of people believed that same and would indicate that in their code of laws. But that doesn't seem to be the case, does it? Let's work like mad to teach the meaning of life and respect for it at every phase. Then maybe the majority will consist of those who reject abortion. Your reference to Henry VIII is not parallel. He demanded an oath of allegiance to his assertion that he was head of the Church. No elected official in our government is called upon to swear that abortion is not evil.

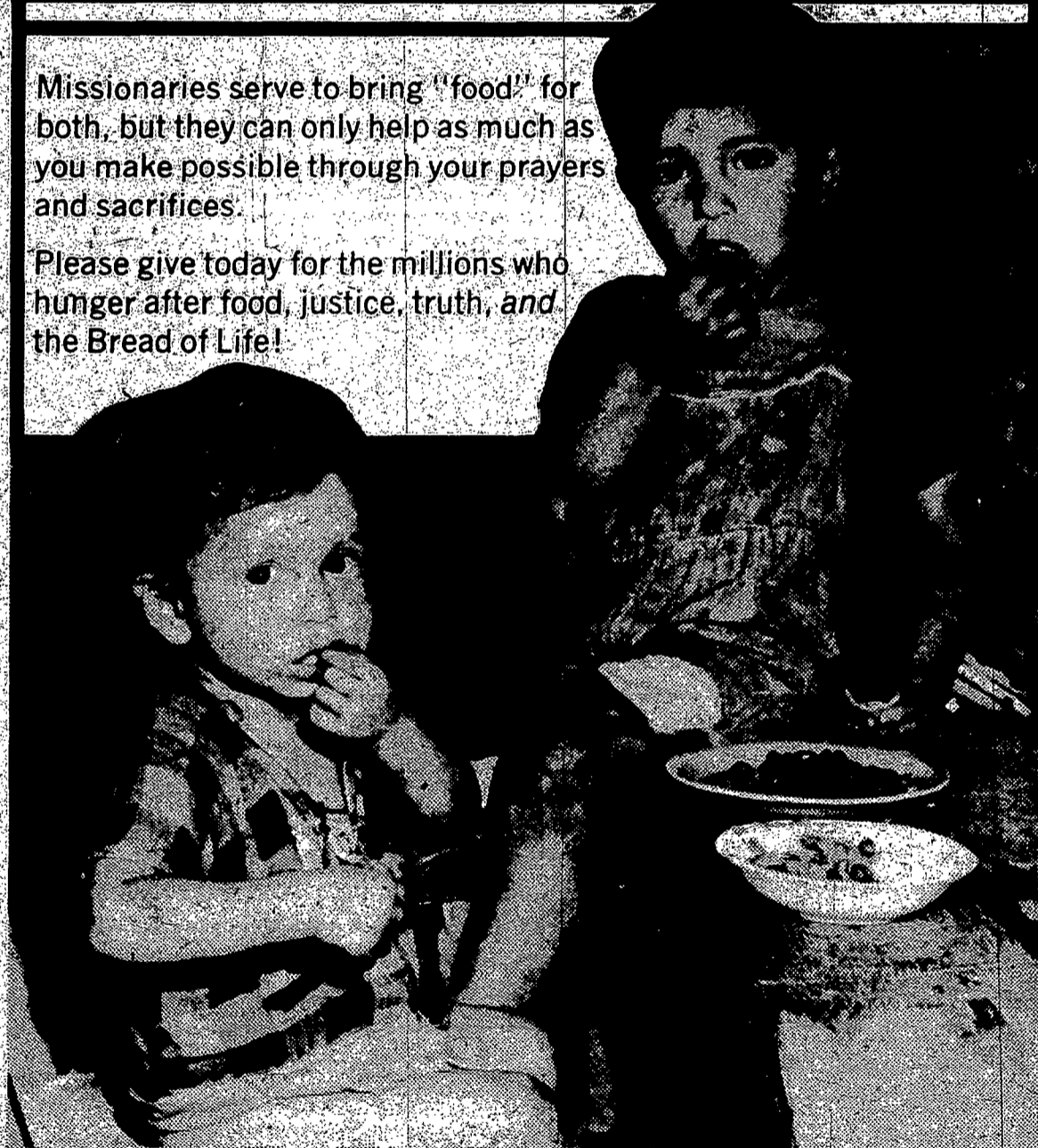
[Editor's note: The page referred to was a paid advertisement in no way reflecting the stand of this newspaper, which for years has been in the forefront of the fight against abortion.]

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