

Editorial

Let's Stop Hagglng And Start Acting

There is some merit and logic in the argument of some that we should first feed the hungry of our own country instead of trying to care for those in the rest of the world.

No one can deny that there is want in the midst of the plenty of the United States of America. And, to be sure, just because it does not present itself in the dramatic manner of distended stomachs or children perishing in the streets it is nonetheless horrible, for instance, that some of our senior citizens are eating food intended for animals. And if one argues that only a few are in such dire straits, it must be countered that even one so neglected is too many. It also should be pointed out that there is worse hunger than the kind "that's banished with bacon and beans." Many of our older citizens face the bleak prospect of finishing out their earthly years with the simplest of extras such as movies or modest vacations or of ever escaping the nagging worry of lack of financial resources even as they hear slick advertising commercials intoning "you only go around once."

This all is sad but true. It is sadder and truer that we have done little about it.

A recent Gallup Poll showed that 78 per cent of the American people are against additional military aid to Cambodia and South Vietnam. Obviously a larger percentage would say they want our hungry cared for.

Why then do we have hungry citizens? Why then do we continue to arm certain parts of the world?

Obviously because many of us have forgotten the admonition of St. Paul: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal."

And as great as is the import of charity there is even more involved — justice. Think about it.

We the people have let our government increase its defense budget while people lack food at home as well as in other nations.

We the people have let our government send military aid to friendly governments and even parcel out food for the hungry on a political basis while innocents starve.

We the people complain about paying taxes to help support the indigent.

We the people condone economic classes. We look the other way at loopholes for the rich while self-righteously chastising the poor on welfare. On the very same network television program showing older people buying animal food for themselves, there were interviews with young people who asked why they should have to pay increased Social Security to make life palatable for seniors.

So instead of sounding like St. Paul's clanging cymbals let's stop hagglng and start acting.

If you want our hungry fed and our poor cared for and our senior citizens restored to dignity then tell your elected officials that you are ashamed that we stockpile food, that we spend billions on arms, that the present administration would raise prices for food stamps, that we pay \$1.5 billion for one nuclear submarine but squeeze our poor.

Do all these things but do not take the negative attitude that we should not worry about the starving of the world because we have hunger at home. Such argumentation merely confuses the issue, takes the focus off the problem, and does not accomplish one thing. By not feeding the starving of the world does anyone really believe that we would then feed our own?

When we become so chauvinistic that we divide the world into "we" and "they" we end up helping no one, not even ourselves.

We all know the answer to Cain.

We all know what Jesus would do.

It is regrettable that 20th Century human beings, even Christians, should be debating who to feed and who not to feed. Let's not any of us who feel the moral imperative to care for all our brothers and sisters be deterred by intramural squabbling.

Opinion

Must Not Ratify ERA

Editor:

Speaking as a woman who for ten years before marriage worked in a field traditionally dominated by men, I am in deep sympathy with the thousands of citizens whose only intent in supporting the Equal Rights Amendment is to ensure equal opportunity and protection under the law for all women.

I feel, however, that many do not realize that under the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, discrimination based on sex, color, religion and national origin by employers, (public and private) employment agencies, labor unions and labor-management programs is prohibited in the United States. The Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 greatly expanded the coverage of Title VII to include government employees, and employees of non-religious educational institutions. Among other restrictions, it is an unlawful practice under Title VII for an employer to discriminate in hiring, job classification, promotion, compensation, fringe benefits, discharge or any other terms, conditions and privileges of employment.

There can be no hiring based upon stereotyped characterization of the sexes, no labeling of men's jobs and women's jobs, no advertising under male and female headings. Employers cannot refuse to hire a woman because she has preschool youngsters unless they refuse to hire a man because he has preschool youngsters. All must be treated equally.

Further, any woman can bring suit in federal court when she feels she has been treated unfairly due to her sex.

I thoroughly agree (for once) with the gentle congresswoman from New York's twentieth congressional district, Bella Abzug, when she notes emphatically that the number one goal of the women's liberationists is "to enforce the constitutional right of females to terminate those pregnancies they do not wish to continue." Surely, the ERA is the best and closest means available to achieve a constitutional guarantee of what is now simply a split decision by the Supreme Court.

According to the December 1974 issue of the Phyllis Schafly Report, "The woman's libbers expect ERA to be the constitutional means to assure and make permanent their goal of unlimited abortion on demand."

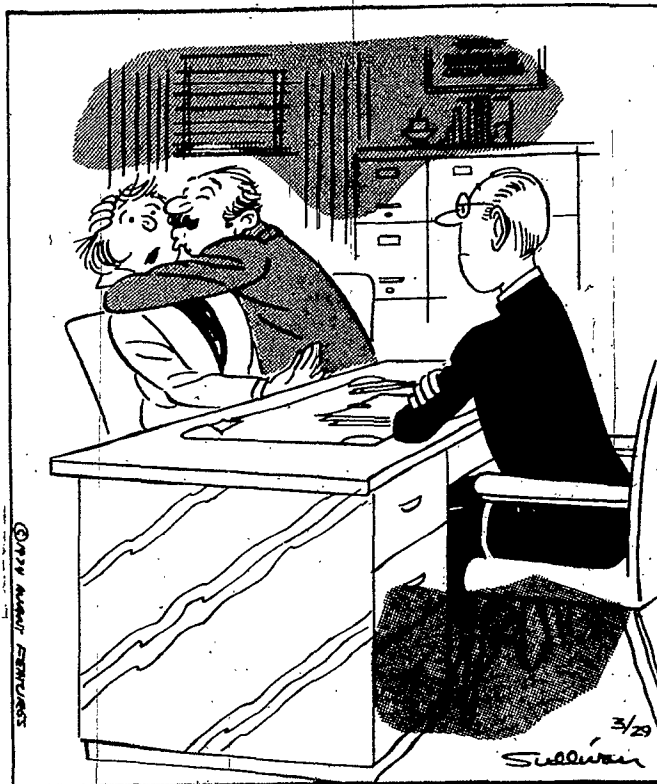
I believe the federal laws now in effect, if enforced, do guarantee equal rights and equal opportunities and equal protection for all women. The ERA would add nothing other than the constitutional guarantee of abortion on demand, with no protection whatsoever allowed for the emerging human life within the woman's body. I believe that the Equal Rights Amendment and the Human Life Amendment must be recognized, in the Catholic Press at least, for what they are — incompatible. We do not need and must not ratify the ERA.

Mrs. Thomas H. Murphy
91 Westland Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Please Pray For Phone Pact

Editor:

I am wondering why I have never seen one article or heard one speech by any Church leader on the issues concerning the



Rochester telephone strike now entering its fourth month.

The Farah strike received religious support from both nuns and priests picketing downtown and yet a local strike, affecting 1,500 Rochester families can't even get press coverage in the Courier.

I am not asking anyone to take sides. I am asking though for Bishop Hogan and his clergy to make a general appeal to the public asking for their prayers in hope that some settlement can soon be reached.

Mrs. William Reifstick
1426 Howard Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Write to Save St. Mary's OB

Editor:

The Executive Committee of Holy Family Council decided at the Feb. 24 meeting to rally behind other parish councils who have expressed their support of St. Mary's Hospital in its effort to keep their obstetrical facilities open.

We strongly urge people to write to their legislators, newspapers, The Genesee Region Health Planning Council and The Monroe County Hospital Committee in this regard; and also to attend one or more of the public hearings to be held within these next few weeks.

Remember that in 1970, the legalization of abortion was passed in New York State because too many of us complacently did nothing to stop it, while our adversaries were making their voices heard loud and clear. If St. Mary's obstetrical unit is closed, these people have made another GIANT-STEP toward the annihilation of our species.

Marian Turney, Secretary
Holy Family Parish Council
415 Ames Street
Rochester, New York 14611

One Way To Help

Editor:

Having read in the Courier-Journal and in other religious and secular sources that many people are becoming concerned about the increasing famine in the world and wondering how they can help, and so have cut back on eating. I would also suggest participation in a minimal cost plan that has been in operation for some time, a plan that helps the needy and hungry in India.

It mainly helps the Catholic and/or Christian people of Kerala State, South India, the most Catholic part of India, and its aid goes to families who have a chance through their children to pull themselves out of the vicious poverty cycle.

The average wage per month (according to the last word that I had) was \$10

Under this plan—the Save a Family Plan — families or single persons in the U.S. or Canada are allowed to send \$5 a month to one particular family. Thus half the monthly income of a typical family is supplied yet the other half they must try to get for themselves, by work, so that they do not become entirely dependent on aid from abroad.

The entire \$5 monthly contribution goes to the family, all expenses are borne by the students of St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ont. and others.

The money, if sent to the Seminary can be sent monthly, quarterly, or once a year. It is preferable to send the money to the operators of the plan.

Your recipient family is required to write you at least once a month, to tell you they received that month's \$5 and you are encouraged to write and answer often to establish a personal bond and relationship. You are not obligated to continue your gift for any indefinite period of time although the authors of this plan would like you to do so, for as long as you are able or as long as your family needs help.

To write to for full information:

Save a Family Plan,
St. Peter's Seminary,
P.O. Box 3621,
London, Ontario,
Canada. N6A 4L4.

At last count over 4,000 families in India were being helped but many more could use a helping hand.

The Save a Family Plan is a minimum investment that returns a maximum benefit.

Bernard A. Seufert
45 Marie St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14609

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan,
President

Anthony J. Costello
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 89 No. 46

March 19, 1975

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15¢; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and Foreign, \$10.00. Offices, Richard Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.