

Bridge Rebutts Critical Report

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Expressing surprise at the charges, the board of directors of Bridge released a statement challenging claims made in an article in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle July 27.

Anthony Henderson, board chairman, discussed the allegations at a press conference last Wednesday at the agency's office, 750 W. Main St.

Henderson noted that he didn't know of the charges, made by Mrs. Margaret Appe, director of volunteer services for the state Department of Correctional Services, until the article was published. He said that if the state Corrections Department wanted changes made, they should have contacted him.

Bridge matches volunteers with prison inmates to ease the inmates' return to society.

Concerning Mrs. Appe's charge of a shortage of sponsors, Henderson noted that she only counted those inmates at Attica who are participating in the program, disregarding those on parole and those former Attica inmates transferred to other institutions. He said that Bridge records show 97 active volunteer-inmate matches as of June 30. Mrs. Appe estimated 34 matches, according to the newspaper report.

Referring to the communications problems between Bridge and the State Corrections Department, Henderson pointed out that he sent a letter to Gov. Hugh Carey June 30 requesting a meeting with Corrections Department officials to resolve the problem, and has received no reply. In the letter, he said that "we seem to always be told one thing by certain officials, and when we comply with those

rules, we are told something else by other officials. This lack of communication must cease."

Concerning Bridge's funding, provided under the federal Enforcement Assistance Act, Henderson noted that programs are usually funded for only two years. Bridge received a grant for a third year, and Henderson said that that was proof that Bridge must be doing its job.

Henderson noted that the only evaluation of Bridge was done by Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, and the agency was given a score of 56 out of a possible 58.

Noting his four years of involvement in Bridge, Henderson said that the organization has had problems, but he said that the organization is working to resolve them. The statement noted that Bridge has recently been asked by the Department of Corrections to provide a higher percentage of minority members as sponsors. We are finding that some of these minority sponsors have greater difficulty with the problems of travel and freeing their time from work to make monthly visits to Attica. We expect to work closely with the Volunteer Services at Attica to ease this situation.

The letter to Gov. Carey also referred to a legal suit brought against the state by Bridge protesting the slow payment of staff salaries. The letter states that "we were asked to drop charges against you and Commissioner Rogers with the stipulation that the salaries would be paid and they would stay current. However, to date, (June 30) we have not received our salaries for the months of April, May or June, and this weekend, it will be July. On several occasions we have been told that our payments were in the mail, but as of this date we have not received them."

Agency Seeks 60 Friends

Finding adult friends for a backlog of delinquent young people is a top priority job for Judy Bardell, newly appointed executive director of Volunteers in Partnership, Inc. (VIP).

VIP is a non-profit agency that pairs trained volunteers with troubled youths in an effort to provide mature guidance and friendship.

"We have 60 kids who have been referred to VIP by probation of-

icers and caseworkers from other child-care agencies in the community," Ms. Bardell said.

The next volunteer training session will be Saturday, Sept. 18. A volunteer is expected to spend at least three hours a week with his junior partner, taking part in normal leisure activities such as going to movies and ball games, or just chatting. Anyone interested in volunteering may call the office at 546-7025.

Aug. 8 Mass On Channel 13

The final Mass and ceremonies of the 41st International Eucharistic Congress will be telecast live from Philadelphia, Sunday, Aug. 8 at 4:30 p.m. over WOKR-TV, Channel 13.

The telecast will feature highlights of the congress proceedings and a major portion of the Mass. Archbishop Fulton J.

Sheen and Hugh Downs will serve as commentators. More than 200,000 are expected to participate in the final ceremonies.

Pope Paul VI is not attending, but specially prepared appearances by His Holiness will be included in the telecast, and possibly a live appearance direct from the Vatican.

Eucharistic Congress

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Princess Grace and Prince Rainier of Monaco were among thousands of participants in the day's events which included a Solemn Opening Mass, a Parade of Nations, a Civic Reception, and a dramatic candlelight Eucharistic Procession along Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

The Congress opened at noon when vested celebrants, clergy, cardinals and bishops from the four corners of the earth proceeded into the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul. Inside the 111-year old Cathedral 2,000 worshippers were seated.

Massive diocesan preparations went into making the congress — the first in the United States in half a century — a success. All commercial hotels and motels within the city were reported booked solid for the eight-day celebration.

The archdiocese's 300 parishes, playing "host to the world" in the words of one archdiocesan official, helped

establish a "bank" of almost 20,000 rooms in private homes for out-of-town visitors. Many of the 300 visiting bishops — enough for one to a parish — were guests in rectories. Cardinal John Wright, the American-born prefect of the Vatican's Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, found accommodations in a rectory in suburban Upper Darby. Another Vatican official, Cardinal Sergio Pignedoli, who heads the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians, also found rectory hospitality.

Former Philadelphia Mayor James H.J. Tate, chairman of the transportation committee for the congress, reported that 4,000 buses had been chartered to carry Catholics to congress events from parishes throughout the sprawling five-county archdiocese.

Some 40,000 pilgrims gathered at Independence Mall early in the evening for a Parade of Nations to Logan Circle. Specially-designed floats depicting "The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family," theme of the Congress, formed the procession. The congress float

depicts a three-dimensional representation of the congress symbol, hands holding a Host.

At night fall the 40,000 marchers, many bearing candles, formed an illuminated path along Benjamin Franklin Parkway for a colorful religious procession. Hundreds of thousands of spectators viewed the procession.

Lighting the way were 400 candle-carrying altar boys representing every parish in the Philadelphia area. They were accompanied by a 1000-voice National Choir in gold-hued robes.

Several hundred cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and the laity escorted the Blessed Sacrament, carried by Cardinal Knox, to the flowered altar. Cardinal Krol, archbishop of Philadelphia, preached the homily and Cardinal Knox gave benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, concluding the day's events.



Photos by Ben Susso

Procession

The Fiera Italiana week-long celebration got off to a proper start Sunday as hundreds marched from Rochester's Manhattan Square Park to Mass at Old St. Mary's Church. Priests marched in the European-style procession and then celebrated Mass in Italian for the festival congregation which filled the church. A band and Italian-American organizations also participated in the ceremonies.



Photo by Ben Susso

Tiny Tots Make a Splash

The CYO's Tiny Tots Swim program is once again in full swing, or is it full swim? In any event, youngsters in the two, three, and four-year-old category are taking to the water in pools throughout the area. Under strict supervision, they learn the fundamentals of swimming, and at the same time overcome any fear of water. In the above photo, Colleen Carhart and Gretchen Seitz frolic together, having successfully completed their lesson for the day.