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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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Mayor Tom Ryan, Rochester School Board member Brenda Fraser, New York State Assemblyman Gary Proud and Sister Roberta Tierney, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, all are among the members of a coalition forming to pressure Albany for municipal overburden funds.

Bishop Hogan Urges Overburden Action

At the urging of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, diocesan leaders this week are petitioning the Albany legislature to reconvene and to pass on the municipal overburden bill which would provide more than \$6 million to the city of Rochester.

In a letter sent to pastors last week, the bishop noted that \$2.2 million of that money was destined for the Rochester school budget. Without the money, the school district will have to effect several budget cuts, the largest single item being transportation for non-public school students.

Although municipal overburden passed the Assembly, on July 15, the Senate recessed until October without acting on the measure.

"We believe that the decision of the Senate not to act is steeped in politics," the bishop wrote. "We believe that the students of Rochester — both in public and nonpublic schools —

will be the victims of this lack of action.

"It is legally possible for the governor or two-thirds of the legislature to reconvene the Assembly and Senate."

The diocesan effort in the matter is but one facet of the work of a large coalition of Upstate business, civic, educational and religious leaders. The cities most affected by the lack of overburden aid are Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and Yonkers.

State Senator John Perry has organized the coalition, locally. At a press conference last week Sen. Perry described the effort to get the legislature to reconvene as "a 10-1 shot." What he anticipates however is that legislative leaders will acknowledge the voice of the people by writing letters to the leaders of the affected cities guaranteeing that municipal overburden money will be passed in October. This, he said, is "a 3-1 shot."

In the meantime, the Rochester School Board has tabled until Aug. 4 a resolution which would have dropped \$2.2 million in personnel and services from next year's budget. Should the lobbying effort fail, Aug. 4 is but a day away from the deadline by which the board may legally terminate the employment of staff members in question.

According to Midge Costanza

President 'Adamant' On Abortion Funding

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A United Methodist representative to an ad hoc women's group said members are "determined to do everything possible" to persuade President Carter to reconsider his opposition on moral grounds to federal funds for abortion.

"We are very happy to have a President who thinks morals are important," said Jessma Blockwick of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, Division of World Peace. "On the other hand, a President should not say simply 'because I say something is moral, that's going to national policy.'"

Ms. Blockwick was among members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Women's Health and Reproduction who recently met here with Midge Costanza, special assistant to the President, to ask that the President reconsider his stand against the use of Medicaid for abortion.

Ms. Costanza said, "I don't think the President will change his mind. He's adamant on this issue."

The meeting was

prompted by President's statement at a news conference that although denial of federal funds for abortion may be "unfair" to poor women, he did not believe it was the government's role to ensure exactly equal opportunities "particularly when there is a moral factor involved."

The ad hoc committee, a coalition of religious and women-oriented groups and individuals, said Carter's statement was "shocking

and deeply disappointing to millions of Americans" who support equality of opportunity and respect for the moral views of others.

Ms. Blockwick said the group will attempt to discover "what kind of input the President had in reaching his views. Most of us drew the conclusion that it was made on a feeling basis rather than really looking at the impact of it on society."

Bishop Hubbard To Be Speaker At Charities Fete

Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany will be the guest speaker at the 60th anniversary dinner meeting of Catholic Charities Friday, Oct. 14 in Otto Shults Hall, Nazareth College.

Bishop Hubbard will speak on "Future Directions of Charities." His speech will tie in with reform and renewal taking place in diocesan charity organizations.

Bishop Hubbard was ordained a priest in Rome in 1963. He was named ordinary of the Albany diocese on Feb. 1 this year, at the age of 38.

While he has worked in many phases of ministry, Bishop Hubbard perhaps is most noted for his work in community programs and projects having to do with the alleviation of poverty and the rehabilitation of drug users. A driving force in many community organizations, he coupled such position with grass

roots involvement through which he became known in Albany as the "street priest."

Regina Kennedy is chairperson for the anniversary dinner committee which is made up of representatives from each of the Charities affiliates.

Bishop 'Improving'

New York City — A spokesman for Lenox Hospital said at press-time that the condition of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, former Bishop of Rochester, is "improving." Late last week the hospital had listed his condition as "stable."

The reason for the 82-year-old prelate's admittance to the hospital has not been made public.

To the Point

The Christophers are known for their ability to make a point directly. This organization has done it again.

Figuring out how much time the average person spends on various activities over a life span of 70 years, the Christophers say that 23 years are spent sleeping, by far the largest figure.

For instance, 11 years would be spent working, eight years recreating, six years eating (some spend more), 5 1/2 years grooming (how about that?), and three years each at being educated, reading, and talking. (That leaves seven years for doing absolutely nothing.)

Now comes the kicker — a half year in worshipping God.

Interesting People

Hank Jones: Artist

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn— "Contrary to what some might expect, the prison artist tries to hold on to the tender things, the soft things in life — children, madonna themes, landscapes. Painting beautiful things often allows the individual to stay in touch."

The speaker is Hank Jones, artist and resident at the Auburn Correctional Facility. He was one of the exhibitors at the prison art show held recently at Westminster Church to raise funds for the local chapter of NAACP.

"Sure, some of the men paint playboy pictures, but perhaps many paint this way only in this situation," he said.

"For others it is an expression of the spiritual and there is a maturity in much of the art work. Art has many values in a prison setting. It can be more than a combatant against hardness, an escape from the world of concrete and steel. I've seen art bring a sense of value to an individual as it helps him look at himself.

"First one has to lay a foundation, look at the composition, and build on that," Jones says.

Jones, an artist on the streets and formerly an instructor with the Urban League Enrichment program, said he likes oils and has an appreciation for the masters. He spoke of art with a respect for the mastery of technique.

"All painters aren't artists, some are technicians, many duplicators, some are creators, few are masters. Every man's art as a form of expression has value as such. But people shouldn't be surprised at the calibre of work by some of the artists. For many it is an expression of the spiritual and there is a maturity in much of the art work done here."

Many of these men, he said, come from lives where they were sergeants of their own fates. Then, transported to prison surroundings, their only decisions lie in the expression of art.

"Ever see a baby, perhaps three or four years old, clinging to his mother's apron in the kitchen? The expression on that child's face — a mischievous quality, yet loving — that fleeting glimpse words can't record. This is the artist's world.

"Words can't express it. That's why I paint it."

