



Niagara Entrants

Area students who will be entering Niagara University in the Fall recently gathered in Rochester's Ellison Park for a party hosted by the Rochester Chapter of Niagara University National Alumni Association. Among the other guests at the party were Msgr. Gerard M. Mahoney, CM, president of the university and members of the administrative staff.

Federal Funds Will Help With Crushing Fuel Bills

By JOHN DASH

A federally funded program has made available to qualified families \$250 to pay utility or fuel bills from the severe winter of 1977 or as a credit toward next winter's fuel bills.

The deadline for filing for such assistance is Aug. 31.

According to Adele Schneider, the diocesan Office of Human Development's senior citizen advocate, "only two criteria must be met" for families to be eligible for the aid.

The family's gross income limit must be below a certain standard, she said. To wit:

A family of one, non-farm, \$3,713, farm, \$3,188; family of two, non-farm, \$4,913, farm \$4,200.

For each person, up to six persons, in a non-farm family add \$1,200 to the allowable income level. For family units with more than 6 members add \$960 for each additional member in a non-farm family.

For farm families, up to six members add \$1,010.50 for each member. Add \$810 for each additional person.

Ms. Schneider noted that "To be considered a family, persons need only share a home and the fuel cost of

the home. They do not need to be related."

The second criterion deals with the amount of the fuel bill. "If a family has been threatened with an energy cut-off or has any unpaid bill of \$50 or more, these bills will be paid up to \$250," she said.

Assistance is available to one and two person families whose fuel bills last year ran to \$300 or more, and to three or more person families whose bills ran to \$500 or more.

"If there are unpaid bills from last winter, payment will be made to the fuel vendor toward that bill in the amount of \$200 with \$50 in cash going to the family if dire need is shown. If the bills have been paid, the payment will be credited to the utility toward next season's costs," she said.

Applications are available at local nutrition sites, the Unemployment Office, and libraries. They must be filled out in triplicate and taken, not mailed, to an Unemployment Office before Aug. 31. Neighbors, friends, relatives, or social agencies may take the application and documents for those who are housebound.

Applications must be accompanied by proof of

income and proof of fuel bills, paid and unpaid. Gas and electric companies will provide a statement of billing for the year upon request.

Further information may be obtained by calling Ms. Schneider at the Office of Human Development 328-6400.

Winterization Help Offered

Families which meet the eligibility requirements for the fuel bill assistance program, and who own their own homes, are also eligible for free winterization of their homes.

The energy conservation program will provide work on such a home.

If needed a new roof will be put on, insulation will be installed and thermal windows will be put in if the others are beyond repair.

Further information is available through 454-3224 for Rochester area residents. Others are encouraged to call local community development offices.

Families may apply for both fuel bill and winterization assistance at the same time, but will need two copies of all proofs.

Marcos Regime Accused Of Political Repression

New York (RNS)—During five years of martial law the government of President Ferdinand Marcos has arrested 60,000 people, and systematically repressed political opposition, especially attacking leaders of the Catholic Church.

This is a conclusion of a report entitled "The Decline of Democracy in the Philippines," prepared by the International Commission of Jurists, based in Geneva.

The report was made possible by a grant from the National Council of Churches.

The commission notes that the most effective opposition to martial law has come from sections of the Catholic Church. In November 1976, the report says, a high-level decision was made to silence the voice of the Church and to impose restraints on religious association. This had been preceded by a government shutdown of Church publications and radio stations that had been critical of the Marcos regime. The island country is predominantly Catholic.

The 1976 government offensive took what the commission called "a sinister and bizarre form." A document listing 155 people charged with being officers or associates of the Communist Party was circulated in Manila in December 1976. Among those named were 126 Catholic clergy, including four bishops, and lay workers.

These people were not then arrested, but later the government ordered the arrest of 208 Catholics, including 11 members of religious orders and many lay leaders, charging them with rebellion and inciting sedition. Of those charged, about 75 were arrested and detained, and the others received summonses to appear before a military commission for a hearing to be held on a tennis court.

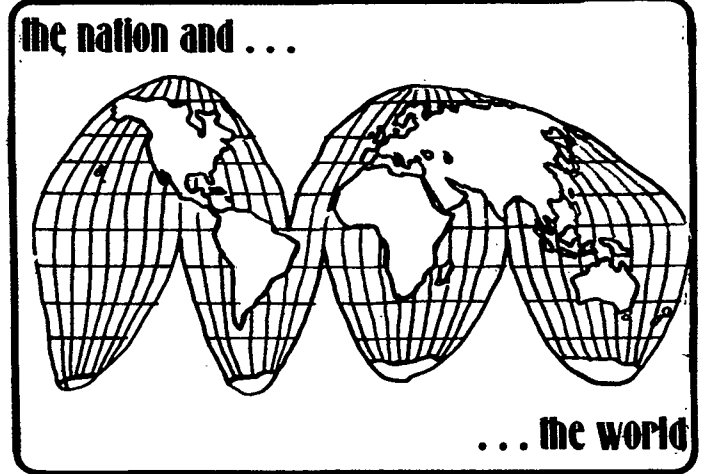
"The idea seemed to be to give a public impression that the Catholic Church as a whole was engaged in a conspiracy with the

Communist Party to bring disrepute on the Marcos regime," the report stated.

perpetuate the personal power of President Marcos and his collaborators.

The commission concluded that such actions amounted to "unwarranted harassment and unjustified restraint on the freedom of members of the Catholic clergy and its lay workers and faithful to associate with each other in the common cause of their ministry." It concluded also that martial law, in force since 1972, was being continued in order to

The commission's inquiries in the Philippines began in May 1975. They were conducted by William J. Butler of New York, chairman of the ICJ executive committee; Prof. John B. Humphrey of McGill University in Montreal, a former director of the United Nations human rights division, and G.E. Bisson, chairman of the ICJ New Zealand section.



Adveniat, the German Catholic aid agency for Latin America announced, in Bonn, that its board had allocated \$10.6 million for 1,311 church projects, mostly of benefit to rural parishes in Latin America. The funds came from the 1976 annual Advent collection for Latin America that amounted to \$35.2 million. Main recipients of Adveniat's 1977 funding are Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Paraguay.

A top spokesman for the U.S. Catholic Bishops characterized President Carter's proposal to grant permanent legal status to a "small minority" of undocumented aliens as a "step in the right direction" but declared that "the heart of America is big enough to do more." Bishop-elect Thomas Kelly, O.P., said, in Washington, that because a great majority of illegals are granted only temporary relief under the President's proposal, efforts by the government to solve the problem of illegal immigration require "much more development." Bishop Kelly serves as general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and the United States Catholic Conference (USCC).

Calling for an equitable sharing of the resources of the sea, the Vatican has criticized nations which have extended their coastal limits to 200 miles. With the expansion of coastal territories, the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace said, in a document published August 6, "a third — and the most useful third — of the ocean space would pass, save for minor restrictions, under the exclusive national sovereignty of coastal states, with all the inequalities, injustices, uncertainties, sources of dissension and missed opportunities this would lead to."

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