

National CHD Grants \$7,050,000 to 135 Agencies

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A record-setting \$7,050,000 in self-help grants to 135 groups and agencies was awarded by the Campaign for Human Development, the domestic anti-poverty arm of the U.S. bishops.

The CHD-funded projects are the beneficiaries of an annual collection in Catholic parishes on the Sunday before Thanksgiving — scheduled this year for Nov. 20. The 1976 appeal for the CHD netted a record-high \$8.5 million.

Father Lawrence J. McNamara, executive director of the CHD, pointed out that this year's allocation of grants represents the highest annual amount awarded in the seven-year history of the campaign.

The Kansas City, Mo., diocesan priest offered a sampling of the projects funded by the CHD, noting that they demonstrate an ability or potential to bring about long-term institutional change, a high priority in CHD's funding.

Among the 135 self-help projects funded are:

- Legal Services for

Hungry Americans, a national legal advocacy organization working on behalf of poor people denied full participation in the various federal food programs.

- The Center for Law and Social Policy, which is launching a mining health and safety program.

• The National Council of La Raza, which operates a national center to meet some of the major communications needs of Hispanic populations in the U.S.

• The National Association of Farm Worker Organizations, now seeking to develop a strategy to expand participation of farm worker organizations in government concerns and policy matters affecting farm workers.

• The Disclosure and Reinvestment Project, which is planning to re-channel private and public funds into previously "redlined" neighborhoods.

• The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, an effort to obtain voting rights for

disenfranchised Mexican-Americans.

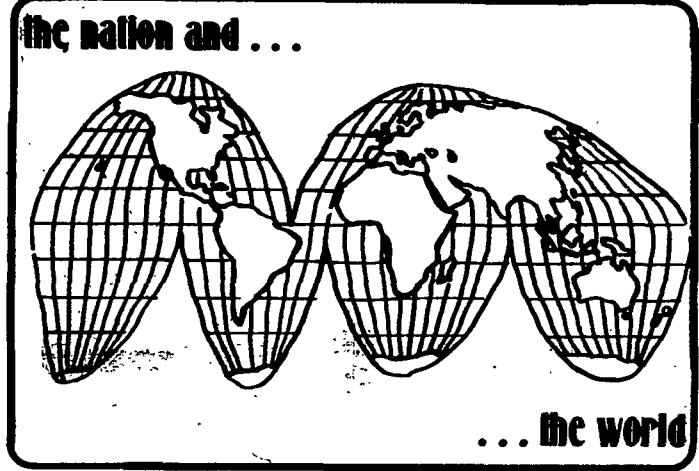
Father McNamara said these projects "are excellent examples of people of different ethnic, racial and economic groups joining forces to identify and solve common problems."

He pointed out that the CHD criteria and guidelines require that most of those benefiting from a project must be poor or oppressed people and that they themselves must have a dominant voice in the planning and implementing of the project.

Because one-fourth of the monies collected in the annual CHD collection remains with the local diocese, another \$12 million has been made available in the form of local grants since 1970. Grants are awarded on a non-denominational basis, without regard to religious affiliation.

Last June, the nation's Catholic bishops overwhelmingly approved the extension of the anti-poverty outreach, but only for one year instead of the customary five.

The five-year extension was not granted because of a bishops' study of national church collections now underway. However, the main motion which the bishops approved calls for the ad hoc committee of the CHD, headed by Archbishop Francis Furey of San Antonio, to retain its present status "so as to reinforce the campaign's identity as a separate entity under the sponsorship of the bishops' conference."



Some 150 lay teachers in the four Roman Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre have gone on strike in a dispute over wages and job security. The strike by the Lay Faculty Association, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, is affecting slightly more than 7,000 students in the schools. The Canon Law Society of America (CLSA), slated to meet in Houston in mid-October has put a wide variety of questions on its agenda, including authority in the Church, ecumenism, the new code of canon law and the role of women in the Church. Several hundred canon lawyers are expected to take part in the convention.

Although it was said to be "watching the situation," the Vatican's diplomatic office has taken a closed-mouth position on any efforts it may be taking to intervene in the arrest of four members of the Rhodesian Roman Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace. Among those arrested, on charges of violating Rhodesia's Official Secrets Act, was American Maryknoller Sister Janice McLaughlin. The arrests followed a police investigation into a commission report, scheduled to be published soon, alleging a campaign of brutality and torture against black civilians by Rhodesian security forces.

In Bay City, Mich., a relationship exists between the parochial and public high schools that has now made about 700 students at All Saints High School there "victims of circumstances" when their school closed down because the public school teachers in the area went on strike. All Saints, which works on a principle of "reversed shared-time," has nine public school teachers who teach secular subjects independently of the Catholic faculty and administration. When the nine went on strike, it was the principal's decision that it "was almost impossible" to keep the school open without them. The principal will recommend that the Catholic school board terminate the shared-time program if the strike is not settled soon.

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Chavez Report Causes Concern

New York (RNS) — The Division of Church and Society of the National Council of Churches has expressed concern about a visit made to the Philippines in July by United Farm Workers President Cesar Chavez.

In a resolution, the agency expressed "disappointment and sadness" that the union leader had accepted an award from the Philippines government, and voiced "profound concern" about reports that Mr. Chavez had made statements favorable to the Marcos regime.

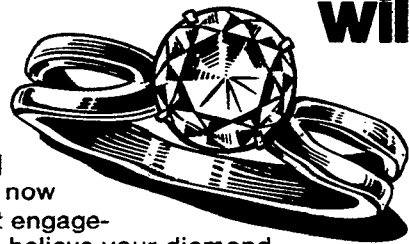
The Church and Society resolution was prompted by a July 29 article in the Washington Post by reporter Bernard Weidman entitled, "Cesar Chavez Hails Philippines Rule." The story said that Chavez "was impressed by what he had seen of martial law in the Philippines," and quoted him as saying that he had met with 60 union leaders and "every one of them said it's a hell of a lot better now than it was before."

In its resolution, the NCC agency asked Chavez to respond affirmatively to requests for a meeting with

concerned Filipinos in the U.S. to clarify his position.

Meanwhile, Father J. Bryan Hehir, associate secretary for international justice and peace, of the U.S. Catholic Conference told Religious News Service that the comments attributed to Chavez in the Washington Post article "didn't correspond to the situation as we knew it in the Philippines." He said he and Msgr. George G. Higgins, secretary for research of the USCC, had sent Mr. Chavez several items on the martial law situation.

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