

Pro-Lifers Need Angel

By JOHN DASH

Right-to-Life groups are perpetually low on funds because they aren't connected with wealthy and influential patrons as pro-abortion groups are, the president of the National Right to Life Committee said last week.

Dr. Mildred Jefferson commented prior to a public lecture in Rochester last Tuesday that "We just haven't had the John D. Rockefellers to give us financial support, but we must find them."

Dr. Jefferson, the first black woman graduate of the Harvard Medical School and a nationally recognized spokesman for pro-life organizations, holds that "In a Capitalist system, the peoples' organizations must have money to have respect," and to be able to influence public policy.

Dr. Jefferson was in the diocese to give two public lectures, first at the University of Rochester and second at Cardinal Mooney High School.

In conversation before her lectures, she noted that another difficulty besets the right-to-life groups, the identification of pro-life activities with the Roman Catholic Church.

Dr. Jefferson, who is a Methodist, said that "the media focus on abortion as a Catholic issue." This is due, she said, to "a vicious anti-Catholic taint to all pro-abortion, anti-life efforts." That sort of propaganda "gains extreme ac-

ceptance," she said.

Other groups working in pro-life activities are "insulted by this focus on the Catholic Church," she noted. Dr. Jefferson cited the Southern Baptists, the Lutheran Missouri Synod and Evangelical communions as actively engaged in the anti-abortion struggle.

She said that the cause will not be achieved "unless we work through all of our religions. After all, it is the value of religion which motivates people."

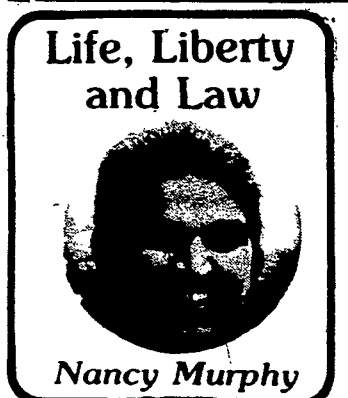
She eschewed discussion of other movements, such as the women's liberation movement, which some right-to-lifers see as inimical to their cause.

She simply commented that the aims of such other groups are different from right-to-life.

On the argument that a woman should have the right to control over her own body and consequently to abort should she desire, Dr. Jefferson noted that there is "a basic biological flaw in that argument."

The flaw is that it supposes the "female only gives life." The male's activity makes the fetus as much his child as the female's, she noted.

Right-to-Life is principally engaged in educational activities on the subject of abortion and on the passage of a constitutional amendment to protect human life from the moment of conception.



The old calendar-rhythm system of spacing births is dead, to begin with. As dead as a doornail. I trust that Charles Dickens would allow me to borrow from his classic phraseology. I do so to drive home a point because many sex educators "teach" that Natural Family Planning is the same as the old calendar system. Not true, not true, not true. NFP is based scientifically on observations of changes — repeated cyclical continued changes in a woman's body. These changes have been a natural part of woman since God, in His wisdom, created us. The calendar system was based on calendars.

"Natural Family Planning, followed carefully and knowledgeably, is medically safe and sure. It is as natural as natural childbirth or breastfeeding," one woman who teaches NFP told me. Another woman said, "It's just fantastic, something concrete for couples like us who want to live the fully Catholic life. If you're a Catholic, NFP is THE action way to live that morality." A third: "It not only provided us with the Vatican-approved way to regulate births, it opened doors of understanding and communication we never knew existed. It gave us a renewed sense of sharing, of harmony." A man pointed out "With NFP, both the lovemaking and the non-lovemaking are done

together. Artificial methods of birth regulation are always the responsibility of one person or another. NFP is carried out through MUTUAL cooperation, MUTUAL knowledge and MUTUAL consent, with MUTUAL rewards. And isn't that what marriage is all about? We did not like the pill and were turned off by the thought of sterilization, horrified to read of so-called Catholic hospitals performing sterilizations. God has provided a natural way to control fertility: NFP. With artificial methods you miss the fullness of God's plan, and never know the full glory of the human body or human birth. They should teach it in the Catholic schools instead of giving mere lip service. They should fund it."

A teaching couple: "We hated the pill and never went on it. We were really put off by messy contraceptives. They're so degrading and expensive. My husband read about NFP; we contacted a teaching couple and learned all we could. When we became a teaching couple ourselves, we learned all we could. We learned another joy. People who couldn't really communicate with each other have told us how much NFP helped cement their marriages. Some were afraid NFP was too complicated, but it's no big deal to understand. I don't have a college degree and I teach it."

Another: "We think NFP is a living tangible prayer, and we're not even Catholic."

Next week: Continued...

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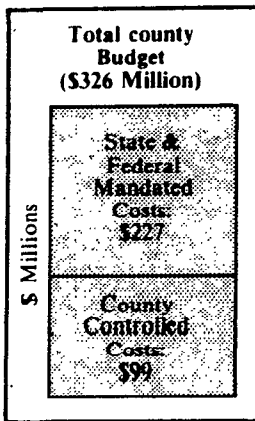
Facts for Monroe County Voters

Answers to Your Questions About Welfare, Pensions, and Other Costs.

Q First, I want to know about welfare and pension costs in the county budget. Who decides how much Monroe County must spend on welfare and pensions?

A It may surprise you to know that welfare and pension costs in the county budget are imposed on Monroe County residents by the Federal and State governments.

In fact, many people are surprised to learn that, out of the 1977 county budget that totals \$326 million today, the county has direct control of only \$99 million. That's less than one-third of our total budget.



Q Do you mean to say that more than two-thirds of the 1977 county budget was dictated by Albany and Washington?

A Yes. All of us in Monroe County are victims of the spending programs imposed by Democratic administrations in Albany and Washington.

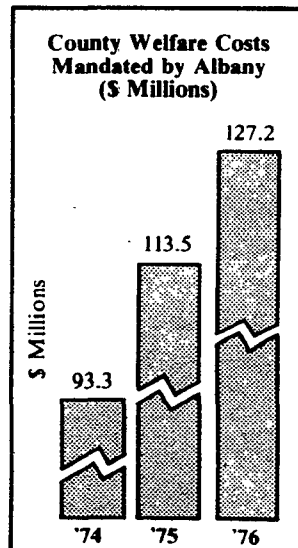
That's one reason why the Republican majority in the County Legislature had to face so many tough decisions in their efforts to restrain taxes at the county level. It's quite remarkable that, under Republicans, the county tax rate has increased only 4% in the last 5 years.

Q What can we do about Albany's spending programs that increase our county expenses?

A It's difficult to make significant changes under the current Albany policies of the governor and legislature.

For example, the legislators in Albany have been unwilling to modify significantly the pension system in the State, which threatens the financial future of all governments in Monroe County.

In addition, look at the figures for welfare spending in Monroe County, as mandated by Albany (see chart at right).



Last year, in a dramatic gesture to call attention to the financial disaster caused by the impact of welfare costs on the county, the Republican majority in the County Legislature took drastic steps. They passed a series of financial measures that they knew, at the time, might possibly be ruled unconstitutional by the State courts. You may take issue with such drastic actions, and Republicans do not enjoy the role of enacting measures that might be ruled unconstitutional. But it is one of the few weapons available to the county to alert you to the consequences of the spending spiral that dominates the government in Albany.

Q What about expenses that the county does control?

A The Republican county administration has worked to set priorities and control expenses.

First of all, the Republican county administration has recognized that it has a vital role to play in maintaining

financial stability for other governments in Monroe County. For example:

	1977	1978 (Proposed)	Increase (Proposed)
Towns	\$19.1	\$21.9	\$2.8
Villages	2.0	2.3	.3
Town Schools	10.5	12.1	1.6

In addition, the Republican county administration has paid particular attention to the City of Rochester, which faces many of the economic burdens of Northeast cities.

In fact, in the past 30 years, a total of 19 services—once performed by the city—have now been consolidated into the county. The value of these services, under the consolidation agreements, amounts to more than \$44 million each year... including the school nurse program, mental health, public health, the airport, and solid waste disposal.

Q Do Republicans see other areas for city-county cooperation that could save us money?

A Yes. With the exception of the solid waste program, city-county consolidations virtually ended when the Democrats took control of City Council in 1974. Many of the proposals put forward by the Republican county administration have fallen on deaf ears in the Democratic City Council.

The Republican majority in the county would like to explore additional consolidation opportunities.

And Republicans have a proposal: Create a City-County Commission, made up of legislators from the County and representatives from City Council. Their mission would be to explore further areas for consolidation. Republicans recognize the importance of maintaining financial stability in the City... but such an effort depends on the willingness of the Democratic city administration.

Q What do the Republicans propose for the 1978 budget?

A The Republican administration's 1978 budget has an overall increase of only 2.4%. Here are some of the reasons the increase is so low:

1. The economy is better, both locally and nationwide.
2. Sales tax revenues are up.
3. Tax collections are up.
4. Social welfare costs have stabilized and the caseload has been decreasing in the last few months.
5. The County has maintained essential services while reducing employees largely through attrition and retirement.

Q It sounds like Republicans have done a good job, but I vote for the candidate, not the party.

A Fine. But when you vote on Election Day, ask yourself this question:

If Republicans demonstrated effective county management and made the tough decisions to hold the line on taxes, yesterday...

then shouldn't you support Republicans, today... otherwise, who will have your mandate to hold the line on taxes, tomorrow?

On November 8, you're voting for a candidate—and more. You're voting for Republicans who will continue to work for progress within a budget we can afford.

Vote Republican. It matters.

Paid for and authorized by Monroe County Republican Committee, Thomas Gosnell, Treasurer.