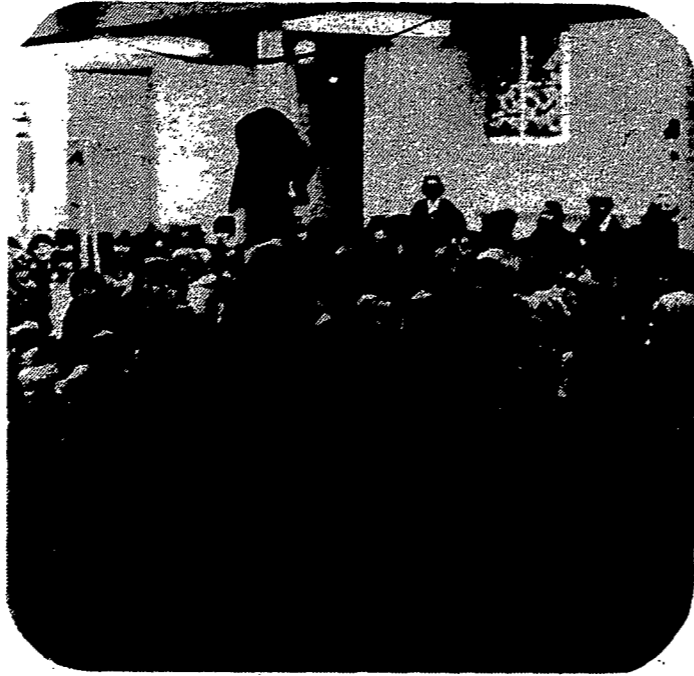


Actress Delights Students

Owego — Multi-talented actress Glory Van Scott took time from her varied writing and performing activities to delight the students of St. Patrick's School Dec. 8.

Ms. Van Scott, an affiliate artist performing for many groups and the public in Tioga County over a 10-day period, recently completed filming her part in the movie version of "The Wiz," the black version of the "Wizard of Oz," which has had a long Broadway run.

Ms. Van Scott thrilled the 150 students of St. Patrick's with her acting demonstrations, and her direction of them in some acting exercises. She performed scenes from "Miss Truth," a musical about Sojourner Truth which she wrote, and led the students in a jazz version of "Jingle Bells."



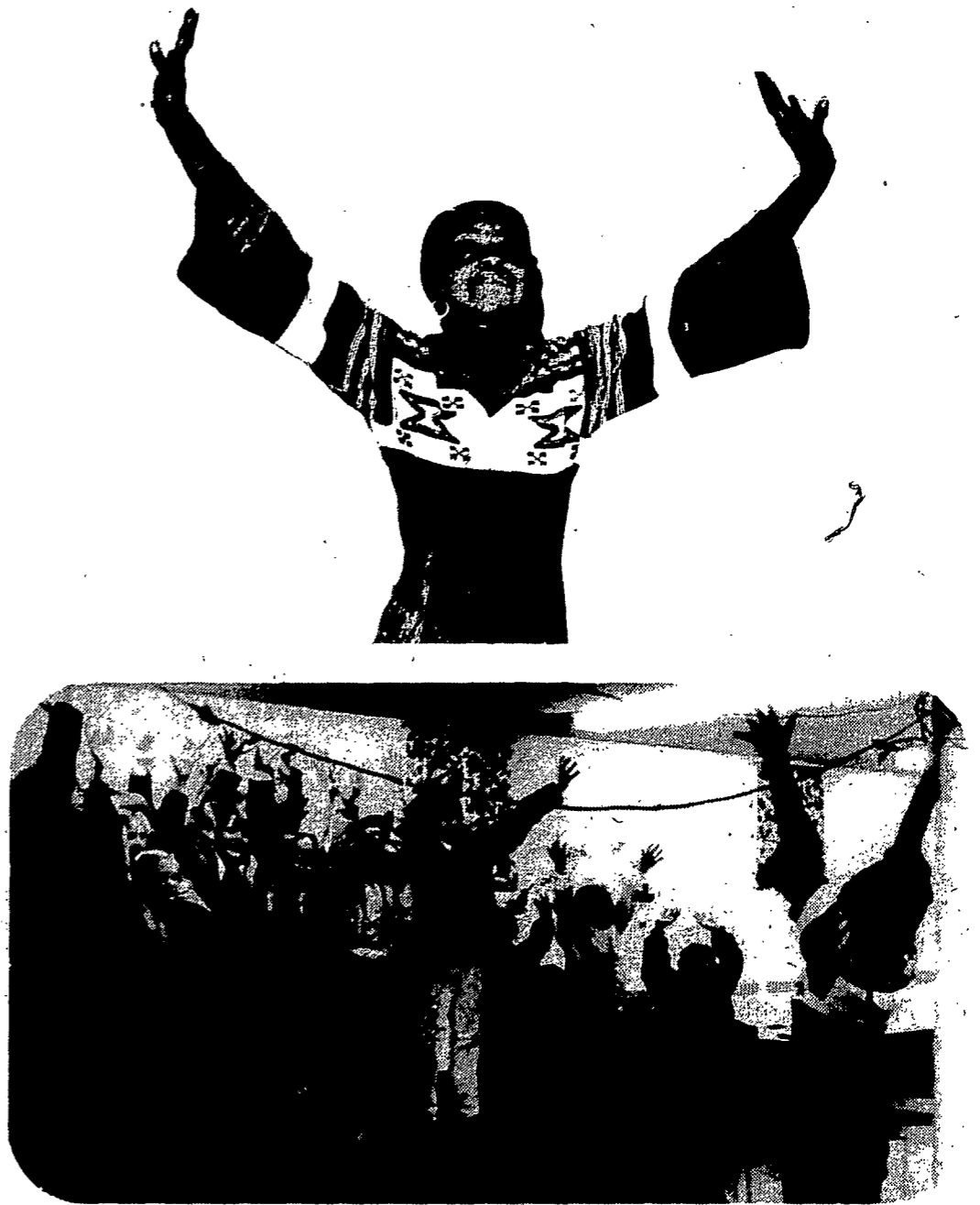
Responding to questions, she helped the students with a play they were working on, which was presented the

next night, with Ms. Van Scott attending.

At the completion of the hour-long program, many of the children lined up to get her autograph.

In addition to her acting credits, Ms. Van Scott has authored two musicals, "Miss Truth," which has been performed at Carnegie Hall, and "Sylvilla Suite," which premiered at the Lincoln Center, about the life of Syvilla Fort.


Her stay in Tioga County was sponsored by the Tioga County Council on the Arts, and the state Council on the Arts.



A "Glory-ous" day was had by all as actress Van Scott entertained and directed pupils at St. Patrick's School in Oswego. Photo by Martin Toombs

SOUTHERN TIER
AUBURN-GENEVA

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

A Christmas Meditation

Adeste Fidelis!

When God gave His Only Begotten Son to us (John 1), He could not have given a Greater Gift.

Through His Spirit, may we be sensitive to those who need to be remembered: the sick and aged, the people in nursing homes, prisons, hospitals, rooming houses: uneasy sinners, striving saints.

Natum videte Regem angelorum.

The highlight of Christmas for us, of course, is Holy Mass. There Christ again: becomes Incarnate, not in a cave nor on Calvary nor from the Virgin's womb, but on a paten and in a cup from the sacred hands and words of His consecrated priest.

Deum de Deo, Lumen de Lumine:

As we adore the Divine Presence and receive Him into ourselves, may we go forth from Mass not in the smug selfness of fabled Narcissus, but emptying self of self and filled with Him Who by grace makes us a paler incarnation: sensitive to those who need to be remembered: the sick and aged, the people in nursing homes, prisons, hospitals, rooming houses: uneasy sinners, striving saints

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Nos cum prole Pia Benedicat Virgo Maria!

Abortion Funding Arguments Heard by Chemung Legislature

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—A resolution to cut off Medicaid funding for abortions in Chemung County remains before the county legislature's Health, Education and Welfare Committee after an informational session of the legislature Dec. 8.

The meeting, requested by the HEW Committee, came after the committee was approached by members of Chemung Right to Life seeking a legislative resolution against Medicaid funding of abortions.

The hour-long session gave about 20 persons an opportunity to speak on the topic, which was then referred to the committee for further study.

Speaking at the end of the meeting, Louis J. Mustico, Chemung County attorney, reported that the issue involved is one of civil rights, an area that is preempted by state and federal law. The county "cannot adopt laws contrary" to state law, he said, which currently requires funding of abortions under Medicaid. He also noted that the abortions will cost about \$8,000 this year, a small part of the \$20 million Social Services budget.

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Social Services Commissioner Raymond Fortier has said that he would continue to pay for abortions in compliance with state law, even if ordered to do otherwise by the county legislature. A similar case in Niagara County currently is in the courts.

Of those who spoke, more than half supported an end to Medicaid funding for abortions.

While several persons spoke only to the morality or immorality of abortion itself, Father Joseph Egan, associate pastor at St. Mary's, Elmira, pointed out that the issue was not the general subject of abortion, but a "restricted issue," government payment for abortion.

He questioned whether the funding helped the poor, stating that you "really don't help the poor by cutting off the life stream that comes with human reproduction."

He noted that the Supreme Court has decided that governments aren't obligated to pay for abortions, and that President Carter has voiced the same opinion. Father Egan said that he is in favor of the poor, that is "in favor of raising their standard of life, not in terminating" life.

He also questioned the propriety of government's

funding abortions, noting that they could be funded privately, as are many other things that specific groups want.

Paul Hill, who identified himself as a preacher in the Church of Christ, said that he is "concerned about the spiritual and moral welfare of poor people," and that "suicide is high among women who have had abortions." He added that "I am for the rights of the poor," but not in favor of Medicaid payments for abortion.

James Burke, Elmira attorney, argued that "once you have conception, you have a human being" that is "not part of the mother's body, as the propaganda goes."

He raised the possibility of Social Services workers persuading women to get abortions for financial reasons, so the child will not be supported by welfare.

Dr. James Mark, Elmira obstetrician, seconded Burke's comments, noting that he is "strongly opposed to my funds, by my tax money, being used for abortion." He added that the funds should be used for pre-natal care and adoption placement of unwanted babies.

Herba Clark called on the legislature to reject restrictions "on abortion

funding, stating, "let it be known that Chemung County believes in equal services for everyone."

Rev. David Durham, pastor of Christ's United Methodist Church, called for the legislature to take no stand on the issue.

Edward Hoffman, Elmira attorney, noted the legal complications involved in a funding restriction, and called discussion of a county restriction useless.

Support for continued Medicaid funding also came from the Citizen's Advisory Council to the Chemung County Social Services Commissioner. Father Neil Miller, council chairman, read the council's statement that "since abortion is a legal medical procedure, we recommend that Medicaid funds be disbursed as they would be in any other Medicaid covered treatment or procedure. Any failure to disburse such funds in this manner would be denying the segment of the population dependent on Medicaid funds their freedom of choice."

As chairman, Father Miller noted, he votes only to break a tie; the only negative vote on the statement was cast by Sister Juliana O'Hara, he added.

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