

### Oratory Winner

Photo by Susan McKinney

John L. Miller, a student at Bishop Kearney High School, is congratulated by Grand Knight John Patynski of the Pius XII Council of the Knights of Columbus shortly after he won the council's annual oratorical contest. Miller is now eligible to compete in further K of C contests which may result in his winning a \$2,000 scholarship. His topic was "Is There Really an Energy Crisis?" Other winners in the local match were Lois M. Rappi of Bishop Kearney, and Ted O. Hyde of Wheatland-Chili High School.

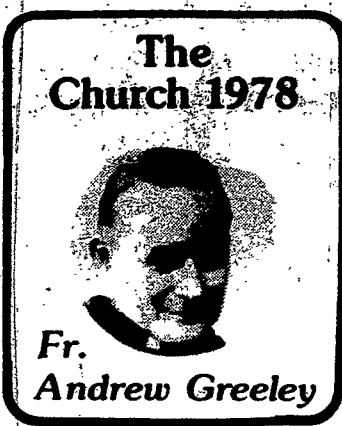
### Mindszenty Conference March 3-5

St. Louis, Mo. — Archbishop Nicholas T. Elko, former spiritual head of the Byzantine Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh and now auxiliary bishop of Cincinnati, will deliver the keynote address at the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundations' annual Leadership Conference here March 3-5.

Also featured will be Cardinal John Carberry of St. Louis, author and essayist Leopold Tyrmand, director of the Rockford College Institute, foreign affairs and trade analyst Miles Costick of Washington, D.C., and Phyllis Schlafly, recently named by

editors of the World Almanac as one of the 25 most influential women in the United States.

Archbishop Elko, who has traveled frequently behind the Iron Curtain, and throughout the Soviet Union, will report on the survival of Christianity under Communist dictatorships. For years he has worked in the rehabilitation of refugee laity and priests who have escaped from Russia and Soviet satellite nations. He also is president of an international organization which provides scientific and monetary assistance for food production in Third World countries of Africa and Asia.



A little passage in President Carter's State of the Union address has enormous implications for Catholic schools. The president only made two comments about education. He proposes to set up a new Department of Education and to provide more financial assistance for college students.

The first proposal bodes ill for Catholic schools. The educational bureaucracy inside the present Department of HEW is mostly anti-Catholic, and does its best to pretend that Catholic schools do not exist. But the second proposal of the president's, harmless enough in itself, is part of a very subtle attempt on the part of the administration and HEW Secretary Califano to head off tax relief for the parents of students in Catholic primary and secondary schools.

The story — and I can't tell you how I found out about it but it was NOT from Catholic school authorities, and it was NOT from the Senate, either — goes something like this: The president has instructed Califano to do all in his power to block the Packwood-Moynihan bill which would provide tax credit for tuition paid by parents sending their children to any school (religious or not; primary, secondary or higher) which charges tuition. Similar bills passed the Senate before and have foundered in the House, but it now appears that the demand for some sort of relief for middle-class citizens is so great that the House will be hard put to resist pressures from their constituencies in favor of the Packwood-Moynihan bill. There is especially heavy pressure also from the higher educational institutions which attribute some of the decline in college enrollment to the inability of middle-class Americans to pay for their children's college education. Hard as they are in a bind created by inflation and taxation.

The leaders of the higher educational association told Califano that they could only weaken their support for Packwood-Moynihan if there was some other legislation providing assistance to college students. Hence, the president's promise in the State of the Union address. Since the higher educational lobbyists are not fooled, Califano is going to have to deliver some kind of student assistance programs or they will flock back to support the tax credit bill. The bottom line is that any form of tuition assistance which is going to take some of the pressure off the middle-

class family will be almost as expensive as the tax credit spree — and given the administrative costs of all government programs — probably more expensive. The Califano-Carter alternative to Packwood-Moynihan, in other words, will provide help for everybody BUT parents paying tuition for private, primary and secondary schools, which is to say, for the most part, parents of children in Catholic primary and secondary schools. However, one may judge the intelligence of Mr. Carter and Mr. Califano — and it would be a mistake to overestimate their intellectual ability — it's perfectly clear that their "compromise" does: Something for everybody but Catholics. So what else is new?

Will they get away with it? Surely, you jest! Of course they'll get away with it. The hierarchy is busy spinning its wheels in the anti-abortion crusade. The new secretary of the education department of the USCC is the man responsible for their catechetical directory that scarcely mentions Catholic schools. Catholic educational leaders ought to mount a massive campaign in favor of Packwood-Moynihan and against the Carter-Califano subterfuges. Instead, it's a reasonable bet that once more, we'll lie down and play dead while they drive their snow plows over us. The role of Mr. Califano in all of this is especially interesting. He is the "token" Catholic in the administration, obediently

following the president's instructions to once more sink the blade into Catholic education. Mr. Carter would not dream of asking black officials to torpedo legislation which would benefit American blacks, nor would a black official dare to accept such instructions if they were given, nor would the black community tolerate such betrayal if it were attempted. But in the case of Catholics, Mr. Carter gives the instructions; Mr. Califano complies; and the Catholic community remains silent.

Mr. Califano, in other words, is the Catholic representative in the Cabinet in the same way that Mr. Justice Brennan is the Catholic representative on the United States Supreme Court.

## Holiday Hours at RG&E

RG&E's Main Office at 89 East Avenue and all of our District Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20 in observance of Washington's Birthday.

Our Urban Offices, at 723 Hudson Avenue and in the Bull's Head Plaza, will be open Monday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Brookwood Science Information Center located on Lake Road in Ontario, will also be open to the public on Sunday and Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Emergency service is always available at RG&E, 24 hours a day. For gas or electric emergency service in the Rochester and Monroe County area, call 546-1100 (or 454-1133). Emergency phone numbers for service in our Districts are: Enterprise 9149 in Canandaigua/Finger Lakes District; Enterprise 9188 in Genesee Valley District; and Enterprise 9429 in Lake Shore District.



## Courier Calendar

**Spaghetti Dinner** — Annual affair at St. Francis Xavier, 316 Bay St., noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19, tickets at door, \$2.50 for adults, \$1 for children.

**Spaghetti Dinner** — Feb. 19 at St. Charles Borromeo school hall, Maiden Lane, Greece, 1:30 to 6 p.m. For reservations, 663-6851 or 663-2436.

**Godspell** — Presented by Holy Cross Performing Arts Group, 8 p.m. Feb. 24, 25 in school, 4492 Lake Avenue, Charlotte. Free, but reservations suggested, through 663-7512 or 663-3852.

**Harp Recital** — Eleven Malone's Eastman School students in performance at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19, Memorial Art Gallery. Free.

**Poetry and Music** — Jane Creighton, Susan Jordan, Leah Warnick performing at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at Friends Meeting House, 41 Westminster Road. Benefit of Rochester Women Against Violence Against Women.

**Skating Party** — Tomorrow night, 7:30 to 10 p.m., at USA Roller Rink, 1250 West Ridge. Free. Tickets \$1.25 for Muscular Dystrophy Association.

**Community Players Auditions** — Tonight at 8 at The Playhouse, 820 S. Clinton. Tryouts for men, women and children for eight roles in Speaking of Murder. Production opens March 24. Further details 474-7550.

**Art Show** — At Beaver Gallery, R11 pottery by Robert Schmitz, posters by Antonio Fasson.

**Energy House** — At Rochester Institute of Technology, noon to 7:30 p.m. weekends, 9:30 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. Advance arrangements required for weekday tours, through 475-2400 \$1.

**NFP Class** — At Christ the King, Irondequoit 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23. Limited to six couples. Fee \$15. Registration through Natural Family Planning office, 716-464-8705.

**Health Care Costs** — Talk by State Sen. John D. Perry at St. Ambrose, 25 Empire Blvd. 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 19.

**City Redevelopment** — Subcommittee hearing chaired by Assemblyman Gary Proud, Feb. 24 at Neighborhood Street Academy, Bay Street.

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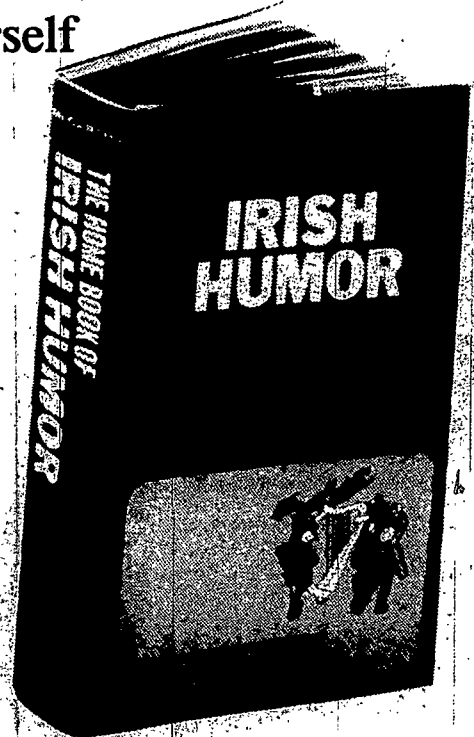
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