

Califano Criticized

Washington (RNS) — Two officials of the U.S. Catholic Conference took issue here with Joseph A. Califano, secretary of health, education and welfare, who had estimated that in the fiscal year 1979 federal expenditures to assist pupils in nonpublic elementary and secondary schools would reach "between \$100 million and \$250 million" out of a

federal school budget of \$6.9 billion.

Father Patrick Farrell and Richard Duffy cited an analysis prepared by the USCC's education department which put the federal expenditures at about \$54.2 million.

Califano also had predicted a possible future

increase of the same amount he predicted for 1979.

Duffy and Father Farrell said, "Mr. Califano's testimony outlines the hope of expanding government aid to nonpublic education by \$100 million to \$250 million. Our figures show that we are still looking for the first \$100 million to \$250 million to which nonpublic pupils are entitled according to the secretary."

The two also criticized Califano for implying that the federal government now spends approximately \$60 per student across the board to assist nonpublic pupils. They said most federal aid benefitting nonpublic education is targeted to poor and disadvantaged pupils, and even they have not benefitted equitably in comparison with public school students.

Father Farrell and Duffy called it "disservice to the American public to give the impression that all the school children in this country are being assisted by the federal government to the amount of \$128 for every public school pupil and \$60 for every private school pupil. In actuality, the federal government spends very little to benefit the large majority of school-age children... whether they attend public or nonpublic schools."

Will U.S. Bishops Consider ERA?

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — When the Roman Catholic bishops of the United States meet in Chicago May 2-4 they will consider a document to be presented to them by their Ad Hoc Committee on Women in Church and Society.

In early April, Bishop Dozier gave a strong statement in support of women's rights at a meeting of the National Conference of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education in Milwaukee.

He said that "hysteria" had taken over much of the debate for equal rights for women.

"To mention the Equal Rights Amendment as a positive solution in the area of political life for women's rights is to bring on one's head the charge that he or she is a lesbian, or gay, or some such," he told the educators.

Bishop Unterkoefler has been quoted in some news reports as saying of ERA and abortion, "I'm convinced, and I'm sure the majority on the committee are convinced, that these two issues are not necessarily related."

Others on the ad hoc committee are Bishops Daniel A. Cronin of Fall River, Mass., and auxiliary bishops George R. Evans of Denver and Amedeo W. Pröulx of Portland, Maine.

The contents have not been made public but already some controversy has been stirred by some inklings that the bishops will be asked to draw a clear distinction between the issues of abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment.

Two of the six bishops on the ad hoc committee — Ernest L. Unterkoefler of Charleston, S.C., and Carroll Dozier of Memphis have stated forthrightly that the two issues are not bound up together, a position that upsets many of the "pro-life" advocates who argue the opposite.

The committee chairman, Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, Mo., wants to let his committee's document speak for itself when it is finally released and "is making no response to press inquiries," one of his aides said.



Treaty Signed

President Carter shakes hands with Panamanian Ambassador to the U.S. Gabriel Lewis at a White House press conference on Apr. 18, after the Senate ratified the second of two Panama Canal treaties. The vote of 68 to 32, one more than the two-thirds majority required by the Constitution, settles an issue that has existed since Panama seceded from Colombia in 1903 and entered a treaty with the U.S. (RNS)

N-Bomb Stance Is Praised

Washington, D.C. — Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, has called President Carter's decision to defer production of the neutron bomb "reasonable, courageous and morally informed." The prelate said, "that the President's decision will help to promote significant progress in controlling the arms race."

Charismatic Mass April 28

Hornell — The monthly Mass sponsored by the Southern Tier Charismatic Prayer Groups will be Friday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Ann's Church. Father Francis Marino of St. Mary's House of Prayer, Corning, will be the principal celebrant. Rev. Lew Garlick will speak on healing.

4 to 6 Week Wait Then It's U.S. for Laos Family

It will be another four to six weeks before the family of Seng Vue, now in a Thailand refugee camp, arrives in the diocese to begin a new life.

The 11-member Laotian family has been in the refugee camp for the past two years. The four to six week arrival time is the first definite indication the family actually will come to the United States since it was sponsored by Blessed Sacrament Parish nearly a month ago.

At that time the family was facing critical deadline pressures. Not only was the immigration quota for such families filling rapidly, but one of the women in the family is well into pregnancy and it was feared that airlines would not transport her to the U.S.

In the meantime, the first crisis has been alleviated by the establishment in Washington, of an open door policy for allowing such refugees to enter the U.S.

According to Sister Marita, CSSF, who has been working with Blessed Sacrament Parish as a consultant in the case, it may be that the family now will stay in the refugee camp until the child is born. At any rate, she said, the Vues have another four to six week wait before they will be allowed to enter the U.S.

The Felician Sister from Buffalo who also works with the diocesan refugee resettlement office under the direction of Miss Angela Boella, praised the Blessed Sacrament group for "being very well organized." "The group is especially well oriented, and this will be a very positive experience for them," she said.

"You certainly have to give them credit," she said last week, "for dealing with society's rejects whose only other option is death."

"There's no other choice," she said of the Vue family.

Pro-Lifers Assail Carey 'Inconsistency'

New York (RNS) — The New York State Right to Life Committee has launched a blistering attack on Gov. Hugh Carey for what it calls "blatant inconsistency" in opposing capital punishment while "ramming" funds for abortion through the legislature.

According to the committee, the governor, who emphasizes his "personal opposition" to abortion nevertheless "has spearheaded efforts to thwart pro-life legislation in New York State while fighting

life or death."

"According to John Caselli, leader of the project to bring the Vues to the area, the parish's internal plans are shaping up well. He says that the present \$3,200 refugee fund which he has been collecting is a "good start." He is confident that the parish can raise the needed funds as time goes by.

Funds for the Vue family's resettlement are being collected through the Blessed Sacrament Refugee Fund, in care of John Caselli, 280 Rosedale St., Rochester, N.Y. 14620.

capital punishment with evangelical fervor."

The committee said it has taken no stand on capital punishment, but noted that numerous New York pro-lifers, including a "significant segment" which opposes the death penalty, have found the governor's positions on abortion and capital punishment "particularly and ironically inconsistent."

On April 11, Gov. Carey vetoed a death penalty bill that had been passed earlier by the legislature.

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