

Rate Hike Hearings Draw Catholic Units

Representatives of several organizations, including the diocesan Office of Human Development, Holy Redeemer Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish, were cross-examined last week on their testimony intervening in the Rochester Gas and Electric Corp.'s request for a rate hike.

Conducted by the state Public Service Commission in the person of Administrative Law Judge Frank S. Robinson, and was designed to allow RG&E lawyers to question both PSC staffers who have opined against the rate hike and those from the community who have submitted written testimony against the hike.

Cross-examined on their testimony last week were Carol Schwartz of the Office of Human Development, Elizabeth Czarniecki of Holy Redeemer and William Henning of Immaculate Conception.

The events last week were but the latest round in a series that began last August when RG&E filed its requests. Should those requests be granted, RG&E would generate \$49.1 million in revenue, and according to company figures, would raise the monthly utility bills for the average consumer by \$8.40.

The hearing, which spanned several days in the auditorium of the Public Safety Building, was con-

The Catholic groups all are opposed to the proposal that RG&E raise its electric rates by 17 per cent and its gas rates by 4.4 per cent.

GVGET Seminar Scheduled, Feb. 12

The Genesee Valley Gifted and Talented Education Team, (GVGET), is a non-profit organization acting as an advocate for gifted-talented students in the seven county Genesee Valley area. The association is holding a free seminar in education policy and legislation, at Hubbell Auditorium, Hutchinson Hall, River Campus, University of Rochester, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. Moderator will be Jane Lipman, chairman of GVGET's legislative committee. Guest speakers will include James Shea, deputy assistant for Education, New York State Budget Division; Mary Alice Kendall, NYS Board of Regents; Dr. Irving Spitzberg, State University of New York at Buffalo; Steven Sanders, NYS Legislature, assembly, district 65. The

agenda includes a question and answer period to be followed by refreshments.

According to GVGET and based on the 1970 census there are 10,700 gifted-talented children in the Genesee Finger Lakes area alone, and the organization goals in meeting their needs include encouraging school districts to establish programs for the gifted and talented; promoting community awareness and understanding of the gifted and talented; working to cooperate with other local, state and federal advocacy groups regarding the gifted and talented.

For further information about the conference, contact Jané C. Lipman.

While two of the testimonies from Catholics included financial and demographic statistics to bolster their arguments against the rate hikes, the third, from Elizabeth Czarniecki, based its argument principally on moral grounds.

The Holy Redeemer testimony also included the proposal that "We urge the Public Service Commission to study the feasible aspects of delivery of gas and electricity to Rochester residents by a non-profit company or by municipal ownership. This would help to achieve fair and reasonable rates for consumers and free invested capital to move to more attractive stocks and bonds."

As things stand in the case, the issue may be settled by April, or as late as July.



A tiny, deserted child cries on a street in Cambodia before being taken to a nearby World Vision International orphanage. Meanwhile, in Washington, officials were concerned that Vietnamese forces are gathering near the refugee camps and may be planning a military operation to disperse the hundreds of thousands in camps just within the Cambodian-Thailand border. (RNS)

Refugee Helpers Confer at CRS

Jerome and Marcia Viana, the Rochester couple who last December worked at the Sa Kaew refugee camp in Thailand, and whose story was first featured in the Courier-Journal, are on their way to becoming spokespersons for the Catholic Relief Services effort for Cambodian refugees.

Since the Courier-Journal feature appeared, the Vianas have described their experiences on local television, and are this week in New York City, conferring with CRS officials on the Asian situation.

Peace Commission of the diocese. . . to the cause have been asked to send contributions to:

Cambodia Relief 123 East Ave. Rochester, N.Y.

CRS is the recipient of funds raised here.

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On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Who Runs The Church?

From Mr. X, a salesman:

"Who's running the Church these days? I thought Christ gave us shepherds to lead and guide His people. I thought the Pope and Bishops were ordained to do just that. I thought the

Fr. Cuddy Catholic Church taught a consistent unity of belief, like the science communities which have a unity of principles. As a salesman, my work brings me to many places, and I like to sound out the beliefs and practices of different parishes. Fifteen years ago I knew what to expect. Now, Ye Gods! Isn't anyone responsible for the Catholic religion? Or the way Mass is celebrated? And now my wife is mad. She went to an Adult Education session and came home exploding. "The speaker wants women priests. She says that the Pope doesn't understand American Catholic women."

The reply:

"To your question 'Who's running the Church?' the answer is: Pope John Paul II and the bishops. The Pope is clear that he is Christ's Vicar, and he intends that teachers of Catholic doctrine and morality, whether

bishops, priests, sisters, theologians, CCD teachers or adult education speakers shall teach the doctrine of the Catholic Church. From the papers it is evident that the Pope is in for contestation from some religious education bureaus, and from some theologians, especially from organized religious women who confuse ERA and women's movements with Catholic doctrine.

"There is a core of organized, determined women, mostly celibate sisters, who consider themselves the new Joans of Arc, battling not against the English, but against the Pope and other chauvinist males, especially bishops and priests. They have developed a subtle feminine anti-clericalism. These modern Joans consider the Pope and bishops as today's Cauchons, perpetrating injustice against women, who are 50 percent of the Church membership. They met in 1975 in Chicago. They laid the blueprint of offense: to get into every nook and corner of Catholic ministry they could; to make themselves visible to soften up the people so they would get used to their presence; to make themselves so needed that the bishops would finally capitulate, and swoosh — in like Flynn, the presbyteral Shepherdesses of the People of God will come into being!

"While these women espouse ERA and women's equality vehemently, I have not heard them protest the inequity of discrimination which was exercised in releasing women from hostage in Iran. I have heard no enthusiastic acclaim at the prospect of drafting women from 18 to 26 into the Military Service, in perfect equality with men. This passion for equality ignores a fact beautifully expressed by the poet Phyllis McGinley: 'Men and women are equal, but different. One difference is that men cannot become pregnant, with all that involves.'

"Do read The Battle for the Church in America, by Msgr. George Flynn (Doubleday, 1979). It elucidates the sources of the turbulence this past decade. It is optimistic that Pope John Paul II and his bishops are getting a firm grip on the helm of Peter's Barque."

Last week, in Rochester, they spoke with Rosalynn Carter on her efforts to aid the Cambodian refugees.

Also during this time they are assisting the local fund-raising effort jointly sponsored by the Diocesan Missions Office and the International Justice and

Rochester Pro Musica

Rochester Pro Musica will hold auditions for chorus members and vocal soloists on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7-10 p.m. in Christ Church, East Avenue at Broadway. The newly formed group will be preparing a concert for May 23, in the Arts Council's Downtown Friday series. The director is Robert Dwelley, who also is chorus master of Opera Theatre of Rochester and music director of Madrigalia.

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