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Area Leaders Urge Support for Cuban-Haitian 'Units'

What its chairman termed "a private group (which) has come together to perform a service the government should be dealing with," and which includes Bishop Matthew H. Clark, Bishop Robert Spears, Jr., Rabbi Judea Miller, the mayor of the City of Rochester and the president of the County Legislature, last week began a campaign to resettle 100 Cuban and Haitian "units" of refugees in the Rochester area.

The group, the Community Committee on Cuban/Haitian Refugees, headed by Timothy Sullivan of Waldert Opticians and a board member of Catholic Charities, announced at a press conference also includes Abraham Chatman, manager of the Rochester Joint Board Amalgamated

Clothing and Textile Workers Union (AFL-CIO-CLC), Gerald Brasley, president of the local AFL-CIO, and Ron Baug, president of Local 1097, United Auto Workers.

At a press conference featuring Mayor Thomas Ryan and County Legislature President Ralph Esposito, the group encouraged the community at large to contribute funds to a special resettlement appeal, and to offer sponsorships for refugee units. A unit may consist of either a family or a single individual.

According to Dr. Marcelino E. Weiss, a member of the group and the head of the Cuban Lyceum, about 17 Cuban refugee units have already been placed in the

Haitian refugees, according to John Walker of the diocesan Office of Black Ministries, have yet to find settlement here. Betty Marian Anderson announced at the conference that Immaculate Conception Parish has agreed to sponsor a Haitian unit.

Sponsorship entails, according to James Maloney of the Catholic Family Center, one of two resettlement agencies: meeting refugees at the airport; locating housing; transporting refugees; enrolling adults in English language programs and children in school; helping refugees find work. In all those tasks, Maloney said, the resettlement agencies play a major role.

Persons wishing to con-



Attending the press conference were, from left to right: (seated) Bishop Spears, Sullivan, Ryan, and Bishop Clark; (standing) Rev. Wismar, Maloney, Janet Gunkler of Church Word Service, Gail Kowalski, also of CWS, Downs, Rev. Witmer, Rev. Cassidy, Rev. Jim Rice, and Carol Shuckra of the American Red Cross.

tribute were asked last week to send funds to:

Cuban/Haitian
Emergency Appeal
123 East Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

Persons and groups wishing

to offer sponsorships or to learn further information were asked to contact:

Refugee Resettlement
Catholic Family Center
50 Chestnut St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

At present, other members of the group include: Theodore J. Altier, chairman and treasurer of Altier and Sons Shoes, Inc.; Rev. Jack Cassidy, Conference Minister, Genesee Valley Association of the United Church of Christ;

Continued on Page 2.

HYDE Supreme Court Ruling Seen As Challenge For More Work On Human Life Amendment

By John Dash

Last week's Supreme Court 5-4 decision in favor of the Hyde Amendment restrictions on Medicaid funding of abortions by the federal government was received with mixed feelings by the Family Life Office of the diocese.

Frank Staropoli, head of the office with his wife Susan, said that "first of all in both the majority opinion, and the concurring opinion, and in the dissenting opinions, it's still quite clear that a woman has the freedom of choice with regard to abortion. So from our standpoint, there is still a need to work toward a Human Life Amendment."

"At the same time," he said, "the court definitely recognized in the majority opinion the right of the government to protect the potential life of the fetus."

The ruling, announced last Monday, drew vigorous comment from all quarters of the nation. Karen Mulhauser, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League called the ruling "a quantum step closer to (pro-lifers) goal to make all abortions illegal. This will put the rights of embryos

above the rights of pregnant women."

The Civil Liberties Union said it is "a complete and cruel abandonment of the constitutional guarantee of equal justice."

Ellen McCormack, vice president of the Right to Life Party, commented, "States are interested in helping the problems of the poor, but they won't help the poor by eliminating or destroying their babies."

The history of the court test began Sept. 30, 1976, when Congress imposed the Hyde Amendment, named for Rep. Henry John Hyde (R-Ill.) who pressed for the measure, which restricts Medicaid money available for abortions. The appropriations measure was added to the budget of the Department of Labor and the then-Department of Health, Education and Welfare. It took effect the following day.

On that day, Cora McRae, a Brooklyn woman, filed suit. She had earlier sought an abortion at a Planned Parenthood establishment at which time she was told there was no Medicaid money available because of the Hyde Amendment. Three weeks

later, Federal Judge John F. Dooling, Jr., deemed the Hyde Amendment unconstitutional and refused to allow the Federal Government to enforce it. Mrs. McRae's lawsuit became a national "class action" suit.

In June the following year the Supreme Court, in *Maher v. Roe*, said that states have no legal obligation to pay for "non-therapeutic" abortions. The court did not, however, define fully "nontherapeutic." Nine days later the court set aside Judge Dooling's injunction and told him to restudy the question in the light of *Maher v. Roe*.

On August 4 Mrs. McRae's case was again presented in Judge Dooling's courtroom. Thirty-one months later, on Jan. 15 of this year, after hearing dozens of witnesses and perusing thousands of pages of testimony and submissions, and deliberating for 13 months, Judge Dooling's ruling again struck down the Hyde Amendment.

A month later, the Supreme Court agreed to rule on the constitutionality of the amendment. That ruling was handed down last week.

The crux of the majority opinion, as penned by Associate Justice Potter Stewart, said:

"It is the Government's position that the Hyde Amendment bears a rational relationship to its legitimate interest in protecting the potential life of the fetus. We agree. . . . Abortion is inherently different from other medical procedures, because no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life."

Staropoli lauded that determination last week. "It seems to me to clearly be the role of Congress to determine what is socially more desirable; and the Court affirmed that role, not that the Court necessarily agrees with congressional action, but that it agrees in principle with the function of Congress to determine what is in the national interest," he said.

The majority opinion also stated: "We are convinced that the fact that the funding restrictions in the Hyde Amendment may coincide with the religious tenets of the Roman Catholic Church does not, without more, contravene the establishment cause."



STEPHEN PAN

Religious Freedom In China Seen as Hoax

By Michael Groden

The resurgence of religious activity in Communist China has been generally looked at with a spirit of hope for better things to come in that country. Churches, idle for years, are being restored, seminaries re-opened, new editions of the Bible, the Koran and Buddhist scriptures are being printed.

This new policy of the Chinese government, however, might not be as hopeful as it seems. According to Stephen Pan, Ph. D., the sole purpose of this new policy is to make it

possible for China to "become an actual and factual ally of the United States," and to continue receiving economic and technical assistance from this country.

Pan, director of the East Asian Research Institute in New York City, said in an interview last week, that although the Chinese government now allows the open practice of religion, they have complete control over it.

This control is exercised, he said, through the "Three Self Independent

Continued on page 2