

Nuestra Vida
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Black Catholic Leaders
Hear Challenge
To Work 8

Charities Agencies
Protest Reagan
Budget 7

COURIER-JOURNAL

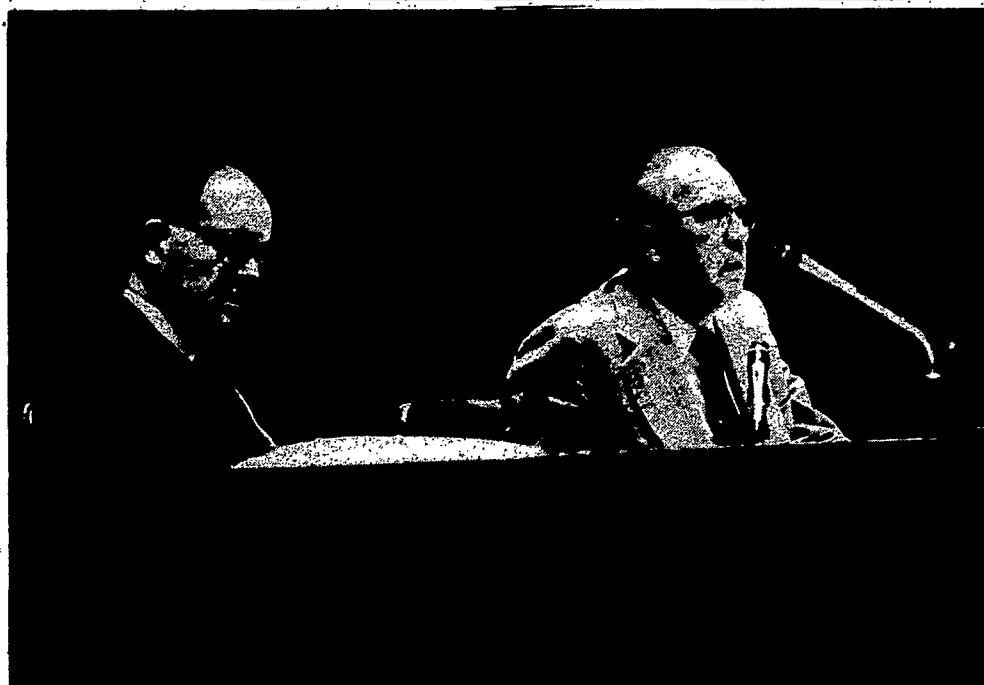
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Congressmen Conable and Horton.



The assembly pays close attention.

'The Poor Will Suffer,' Bishop Says of Budget

By Michael Groden

Courtroom Two of the Federal Building in Rochester was filled to overflowing last Friday as U.S. Representatives Barber Conable and Frank Horton heard testimony on the proposed federal budget presented to the Congress by President Ronald Reagan.

Horton and Conable heard testimony from some 27 scheduled witnesses urging the congressmen to carefully consider all the proposed budget cuts before voting on them.

Witnesses included representatives from community agencies, nurse practitioners, union representatives, farm worker groups and religious organizations including Bishop Matthew H. Clark, Bishop of Rochester.

The witnesses explained to the congressmen how the proposed budget cuts would affect their agencies and the work each performs.

In his remarks to Conable and Horton, Bishop Clark said, "A powerful nation cannot be great unless its leadership understands and responds to the needs and the hopes of the humblest citizen." He urged both representatives "not to make decisions without fully understanding their impact on our families, our children and our communities. A great nation is one which enhances the dignity and sense of self-worth of each citizen."

Bishop Clark added that "the poor will definitely suffer," and asked the congressmen to examine the 20 percent increase in military

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Bishop's Testimony

I am pleased that you are here today.

President Reagan's budget proposals call for basic changes in the role of the federal government and its relationships to the people and institutions of this country. His plans demand serious study, reflection, and honest dialogue in Washington and in every local community. Your presence is an important part of this dialogue and I hope you will continue to sponsor local hearings to measure the human impact of such dramatic cutbacks.

The current debate in Congress is a central concern for many groups within our community: local governments, human service agencies, taxpayers, individual citizens with great needs, industry — all will be directly affected. Some are hopeful. Some are very worried and fearful. All are anxious to know what will happen. It is a time when each segment of our community should pay careful attention to the concerns and problems of others, not allowing one's political perspective or economic theory to promote isolation. The times will test the openness, the strength, and the character of our community. Leaders should lay aside past differences for a common effort to build a future in which all can take pride, and in which all people will play a role. The two of you can offer much needed leadership in promoting this climate by your actions.

Our economic and social problems call for a national debate. I hope that we can make every effort locally to comprehend large scale economic theories and planning. But the reverse is also true. A powerful nation cannot be great unless its leadership understands and responds to the needs and hopes of the humblest citizen. I am worried about this. For example, a recent study by the University of Chicago found that the administration's proposals would reduce the income of the working poor (a mother with two children making about \$4 per hour) to \$533 per month, about the same level as a similar family on Public Assistance. A spokesman for the Office of Management and Budget did not dispute these facts and added, "the Administration has not done a state-by-state analysis of the proposed budget cuts on individual families." He called this cut

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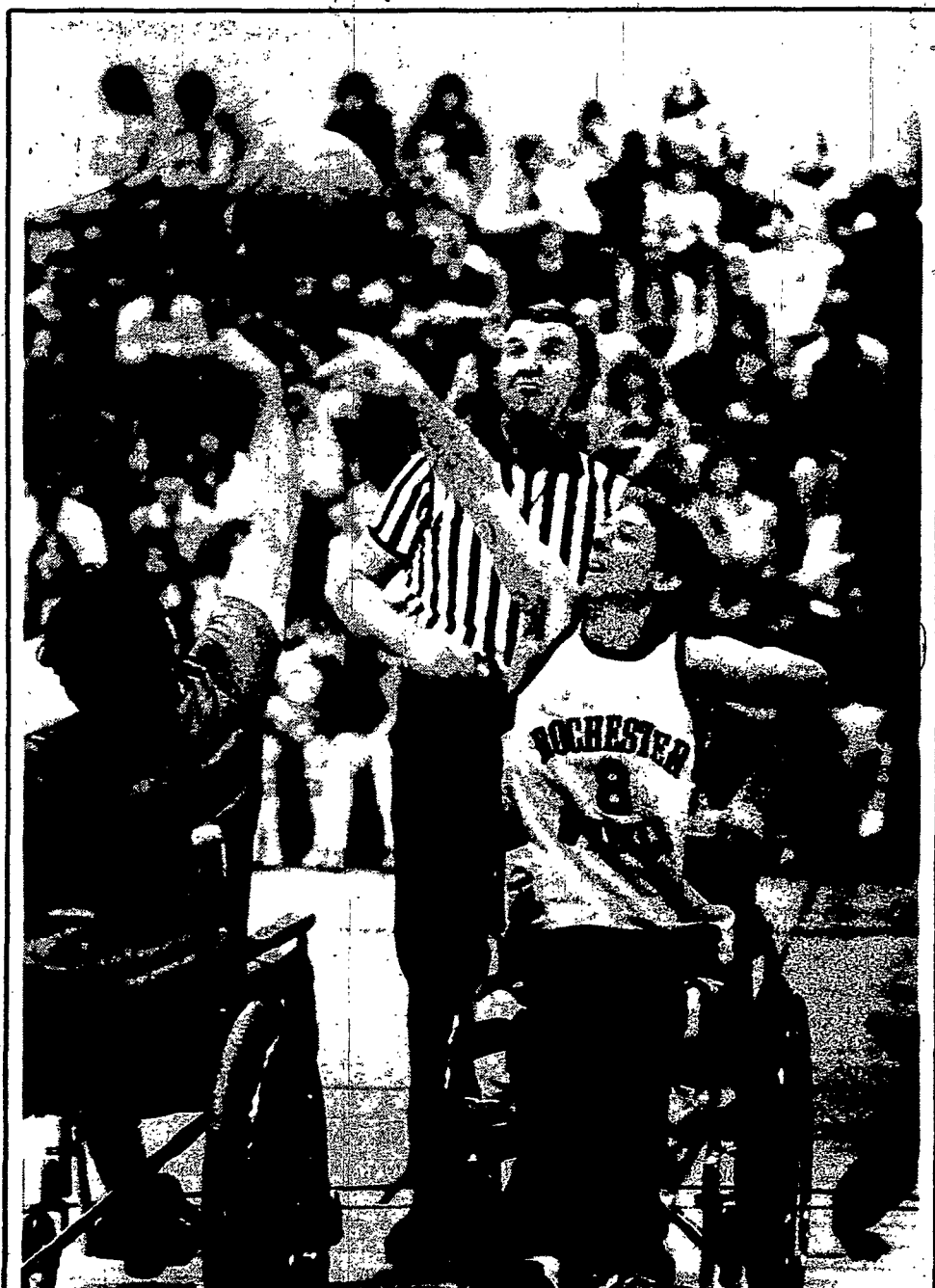


Photo by Torrance J. Brennan

Taking Control

Paul Henning, center for the Rochester Wheels wheelchair basketball team, wins the opening tipoff during a charity exhibition against Penfield teachers on Thursday, April 9, at Penfield High School. Referee George Steitz looks on. Story and photos on page 7.