

from Assemblyman Ed Crawford

# the alban letter

Dear Friends— These past two weeks have been caught in a crossfire of fiscal proposals divided between requests for increased expenditures and suggestions that the state retreat.

At a time when a great deal of stress is being placed on a return to budgetary pay-as-you-go, most of the State's school districts are urging adoption of a bill recommended by the Educational Conference Board which represents school boards, teachers and educators. The estimated cost of the Conference Board proposal is \$140 million toward which Governor Rockefeller's budget has provided the sum of \$40 million.

The net increase of the Conference Board plan would be \$100 million beyond the \$140 million increases in basic aid of the past three years.

The Conference Board proposal would raise the required local contribution from \$6.80 to \$9.20 per thousand full value; increase the foundation program from \$330 to \$450 per



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pupil and increase flat grants from \$129 to \$176 per pupil.

As well as the Conference Board's proposals, the Legislature has before it the Board of Regents' program, the estimated cost of which is \$123.3 million, of which \$40 million is in the Rockefeller budget. This program is broad in scope, costly in dollars, innovates new state policy and enlarges the State's share of responsibility for education.

Meanwhile, observers feel that some of the Rockefeller budget proposals mark the start of a serious effort to restore the State to pay-as-you-go fiscal policies. The contrast between what people expect from the State in assistance to local government and other State services, on the one hand, and willingness to bear the cost for service and assistance, on the other, can be

measured by the fact that the State has increasingly financed its program with borrowed money during the last four years. This procedure is considered costly because borrowing can inflate by more than 50 per cent the cost to the taxpayers of capital projects.

Last Wednesday afternoon I attended the hearing which the fiscal committees held on the proposed budget along with another 800 interested citizens. As one newspaperman noted the following day, the proposed tax increases were all but forgotten as speaker after speaker rose to ask new or larger appropriations for their particular programs. The most popular was increased aid for education. Those who had anything to say about the new tax proposals simply asked to have them twisted around so their particular group would be the least affected.

The Temporary State Commission on Coordination of State Activities has directed its staff to conduct a study of the administration and management of the Department of Public Works. The survey will take in every activity of the department, particularly during the past four years, and will include the procedure for the acquisition of property, and the participation of the department with other agencies of the State and local government in public works projects which involve substantial expenditure of public funds.

### My Favorite Prayer

submitted to The Laymen's National Committee by

MISS GRACE B. DANIELS, President, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., Washington, D.C.

Oh God, by whom the meek and light riseth up in darkness for the godly; grant us, in our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what Thou wouldst have us to do; that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in Thy light we may see light, and in Thy straight path may not stumble. Direct us, Oh Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

by J. S. VANDERPLOEG, President, Anacosta American Brass, Limited New Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Forgive my my sins and help me to be of some use.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Census figures show that less than one-third of New York state farms are growing potatoes today. Nearly every farm in the state had a potato patch 50 years ago.

A two-cent serving of potatoes contains one-fourth of the vitamin C needed daily by a normal man, seven per cent of the mally active man, eight per cent thiamine, other vitamins and minerals, some high value protein, and food energy.

### DOUBLE BUNDLE

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Crisafulli of 710 Academy St., and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ellis of Fulton R. D. 4, are parents of boys born Sunday at Lee Memorial hospital.

## BOY SCOUT TROOP 15



One of the highlights of Boy Scout Week in Fulton was a Court of Honor held at Holy Family Church for members of Troop 15. Scouts, parents and friends attended the ceremony during which awards were presented to successful scouters. Photo shows most of the 23 members of the troop.

## 'Women Better Patients,' Says Family Doctor of Year



Dr. Lonnie A. Coffin, 68, of Farmington, Iowa, back at work after being named General Practitioner of the Year by the American Medical Association.

"Women are better patients than men," according to Dr. Lonnie A. Coffin, Family Doctor of the Year. "They'll do what you tell them, but men won't." At 68, Dr. Coffin is a warm and happy man, busy with the health needs of more than 3,000 people in and around Farmington, Iowa. Enriched by 46 years of country doctoring, he is also a man who speaks his mind, a philosopher with concise and witty views on life. Here are a few of them:

On health: "The work of the voluntary health agencies makes me confident about the future. The National Foundation for instance, which helped us eight years ago when a polio epidemic hit Farmington (three of Dr. Coffin's four grandchildren were stricken), is now applying its March of Dimes funds to problems like arthritis and birth defects. That's good news and good health." On sickness: "If you're sick, go what you can to get well, but try not to worry about it. If you worry, you'll feel worse and so will everybody around you." On being sick at night: "We get sicker at night. That's scared off too many patients."

because we have more time to think about ourselves." On drinking: "There are only certain people who should drink. Those who can both control it and afford it." On fishing: "You can fish sitting down and I like that. If you catch something, fine. If you don't, exaggerate." On being a doctor: "I try to take care of people no matter what the hour, no matter where they live, no matter who they are. Where or when they get sick is not their fault." On being a doctor named "Coffin": "Well, it's true that's what they carry you off in, but the fact is my name hasn't all get sicker at night. That's scared off too many patients."

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## Biggest Sales Year at Armstrong

The highest level of sales and profit in the history of the Armstrong Cork Company, producer of resilient flooring, building materials, industrial specialties and packaging products, was reported for 1958. Earnings were \$13,607,000 on sales of \$249,858,000, as compared with earnings of \$11,069,000 on sales of \$246,529,000 in 1957. Earnings per share of common stock, after deducting preferred dividends, were \$2.60 based on the weighted average of shares outstanding during the year. This compared with \$2.19 in 1957. Dividends paid on common stock totaled \$1.40 per share, as compared with \$1.30 the year before.

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