

ecumenical  
task force\*

of the

NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.

6431 GIRARD AVENUE  
NIAGARA FALLS N.Y. 14304



photo by William D. Cecil, Jr

\*  
to address  
THE

LOVE CANAL

disaster

an interfaith response

PROGRESS REPORT  
OF  
THE ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.

6431 GIRARD AVENUE  
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
MARCH 20, 1979 - AUGUST 1, 1980

*Where there is no vision  
the people perish*

*Proverbs 29:18*

PREPARED BY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD  
STAFF  
AND ADVOCATES

COORDINATED BY  
SR. MARGEEN HOFFMANN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our sincere thanks go to all those persons who assisted in the preparation of this report--especially to Sister Jane Frances Gregoire, OSF for the calligraphy used throughout the book and to Sister Candice Tucci, OSF for the cover design. Betty Watts, our secretary, did outstanding work in typing and printing this report and deserves major accolades for the job.

To William D. Cecil, Jr., who took the cover photo, we express our special appreciation. He certainly did not realize that it would become the ETF symbol when he took the photo.

Finally, we must thank Joann Breitsman, our coordinator of volunteers and the person who suggested in February, 1979 that the "churches have to do something about the Love Canal situation." Without Jo, the ETF wouldn't even have existed.

\* Permission is granted to quote from material in this report when due acknowledgement is given to the ETF or author.

\*\* Additional copies of this report may be secured for \$5.00 by contacting the Ecumenical Task Force, 6431 Girard Avenue, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304.

## FOREWORD

The  
earth  
lies  
polluted  
under  
its  
inhabitants . . .

Isaiah 24:5

The following essay expresses a theological rationale for the Interfaith community's appropriate concern for

- ... caring stewardship of the earth,
- ... inadequate government response to human needs, and
- ... guaranteed rights of each citizen.

We share it with you in this report, since its words set the stage for the existence of the Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier.

It is entirely fitting that the Foreword for this report should be taken from the writings of the Rev. Dr. Paul L. Moore, an organizer and first Chairman of the Ecumenical Task Force.

The Executive Board, Members and Staff of the ETF appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank Paul L. Moore for sharing himself and his abundant talents to assist in addressing the staggering problems which are the fibre of that tragedy called "the Love Canal disaster".

## THE LAND IS CURSED

I speak as a Christian charged by God in the Scriptures with a cultural mandate to be a careful, meek and responsible steward of this good earth which in the beginning came from the hand of the Creator pure and fresh and clean - a lovely, living thing of exquisite beauty, a magnificent habitat fitted by ingenious design for God's highest creation - the human family - to live, move, have their being, and - in cooperation with their Creator - fashion a social order grounded in justice.

Therefore, as a creature made in the image of God and charged with the responsibility for the protection of the earth

... I am not to pollute its waters,  
... I am not to befoul the air,  
... I am not to defile the land.

And when I find others corrupting our common environment, I am commanded by God to challenge the injustice of such cruel, irresponsible and arrogant behavior.

I speak for the Earth - our loving mother who gave us birth and faithfully sustains us. I speak for her, because she cannot speak for herself. When, as a vulnerable woman, she is ravaged and raped by brutal exploiters and hearless profit-takers, and then discarded as a worthless, spent thing - wounded and sore - it is my duty to stoop to her weakness, bind her wounds, and heal her hurt.

I speak for the Earth, because wholesale pollution of the air, water and land goes on - often times unchecked and unprotested by local, state and federal governmental officials.

Therefore, as a representative of the religious community, I call upon our officials charged with the responsibility for protecting our social and physical living space - to be better caretakers of our common environment.

Citizens deserve the right to breathe safe, clean air,  
the right to drink safe, pure water,  
the right to safe, environmentally clean housing,  
the right to a safe, clean environment in which to work.

When citizens are denied these basic rights of man and nature - then the government officials - local, state, and federal - should be called upon to assume their full responsibility in assuring that these basic rights for all its citizens are guaranteed.

I am reminded of the apt, but sobering words of Isaiah: "The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants, for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes. Therefore a curse devours the earth and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt. There is an outcry in the streets...desolation is left in the city. The earth staggers like a drunken man, its transgression lies heavy upon it and it fails, and will not rise again" (Isaiah, Chapter 24).

The prophet's biting words sting: "...the inhabitants of the earth have broken the laws, disobeyed the statutes, and violated the eternal covenant."

This is God's good earth, not ours. We do not own the earth; we are but stewards of the earth. God has established an eternal covenant with the dwellers on the earth: "Take care of my earth, and you will live; exploit it, and you shall surely die."

In Niagara County, God's law has been broken, his eternal covenant violated, and we are reaping the bitter consequences - ecological disaster and human tragedy.

Will we yet honor the eternal covenant, and live? Or are there more Love Canals in the making?

Paul L. Moore, Minister  
First Presbyterian Church  
Lewiston, New York

*"... our lives are dependent upon an earth which can, fortunately, absorb considerable abuse but whose limits of resilience have been exceeded in numerous places..."*

*"We can, as a society persist in our own self-destruction. Or, we can begin now to reduce the slaughter. But for it to have an effect, we must do it soon..."*

*"A major research effort must be instituted, by government and industry, so that in the end toxicants will have been pulled apart and returned to the environment as simple, benign molecules."*

*- Michael Brown, Laying Waste: The Poisoning of America by Toxic Chemicals*



## ETF MEMBERSHIP AND PERSONNEL

You are the salt of the earth ...

You are the light of the world ...

Matthew 5: 13,14

## WHO WE ARE

The Ecumenical Task Force (ETF) is an association of the Interfaith Community of Niagara County and Western New York, joined in a common effort "to address the Love Canal disaster" from a religious and ethical standpoint. While claiming no monopoly on ethical motivation, we feel that our religious perspective offers something unique to the situation and differentiates us from other groups of concerned citizens:

- Although we represent churches which have members living in the Love Canal area, we are not a residents' organization but an interfaith task force formed to aid and support the residents in four specified ways:
  1. to provide direct aid of a sort that does not duplicate other available services and resources;
  2. to provide an advocacy voice of the religious community on behalf of the residents;
  3. to make local and national religious organizations and congregations aware of the situation and of our common responsibilities;
  4. to provide an advocacy voice that will contribute to long-range solutions to the chemical waste problem both here and throughout the country.
- We make no claim to neutrality in the present situation, but, because we represent a general concern rather than a particular interest; we offer a mediating possibility in the midst of a complex and emotionally charged situation and we strive to work for justice through understanding and reconciliation.
- Furthermore, even in the face of institutionalized violence to human life and well-being, we renounce for our purposes even the threat of violence, and we seek to employ means that are peaceful as well as effective.

While thus offering our distinct perspective and contribution, we seek to work cooperatively with other organizations, agencies and officials dealing with the Love Canal Disaster, and we urge the community at large to join in these various efforts.

## RESOLUTION

### ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER INC.

#### PREAMBLE:

In light of the experience of the first year of its existence, the Executive Board of the Ecumenical Task Force recommends to the general membership the following resolution:

#### RESOLVED:

- Be it resolved that the Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier continue as an Interfaith Task Force to respond to the human dimensions of the Love Canal disaster through direct aid where needed, through advocacy for the rights of all residents, through education of church members and of the general public, and through advocacy for a clean and healthy environment.
- Be it resolved, further, that during the coming year
  - We will intensify our response to the human needs of residents and also seek to "be with" residents as they leave the area, offering continued support and service insofar as this is possible;
  - Gradually and insofar as our human and financial resources permit, we will extend the range of our activities to people in other parts of Western New York affected by chemical or radioactive dumping;
  - In addition to our pastoral ministry to victims of inherited disasters we will undertake a more explicit prophetic ministry: speaking against the irresponsibility that continues to produce man-made disasters, and speaking for all efforts to develop the technical means, the legal constraints and the moral purpose required for the complete neutralization of toxic wastes.

Adopted May 14, 1980  
General Membership Meeting  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
9610 Colvin Boulevard  
Niagara Falls, New York

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First Unitarian Universalist, Niagara Falls  
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## GOD'S GOOD EARTH\*

### THE CALL

In the beginning of time, God fashioned the earth a lovely, living thing of exquisite beauty fitted by ingenious design for His highest creation--the human family--to live, move, have their being, and, in cooperation with their Creator, fashion a social order grounded in justice.

God declared His individual acts in creation to be good, and viewing the creation in its wholeness, pronounced it very good. He gave mankind dominion over the whole creation, which is to say that He appointed mankind as caretakers over the whole of that creation. As caretakers we are charged to

- ... accept custody of that creation,
- ... accept responsibility for all that is part of that creation,
- ... protect that creation from others who would defile it,
- ... allow no one or no thing to mar the pureness, freshness and exquisite beauty of that creation,
- ... love that creation as its Owner loves it, for we do not own the earth: we are but care-takers of the earth.

If, as caretakers, we find others corrupting and marring that creation, we are required by God to challenge the injustice of such cruel, irresponsible and arrogant behavior. Indeed, we are to speak for those other parts of creation--to cry out for them. We are to speak the words of God....

### THE PROBLEM

"There was once a town in the heart of America where all life seemed to live in harmony with its surroundings. The town lay in the midst of a checkerboard of prosperous farms, with fields of grain and hillsides of orchards where, in spring, white clouds of bloom drifted above the green fields...

---

\*From a homily given by Mrs. Donna Ogg, Ecumenical Task Force Executive Assistant, August 19, 1979.

"Along the roads, wildflowers delighted the traveler's eye through much of the year. Even in winter the roadsides were places of beauty, where countless birds came to feed on the berries and on the seed heads of the dried weeds rising above the snow... People came to fish the streams, which flowed clear and cold out of the hills and contained shady pools where trout lay. So it had been from the days many years ago when the first settlers raised their houses, sank their wells, and built their barns.

"Then a strange blight crept over the area and everything began to change. Some evil spell had settled on the community... Everywhere was a shadow of death. The farmers spoke of much illness among their families. In the town the doctors had become more and more puzzled by new kinds of sickness appearing among their patients. There had been several sudden and unexplained deaths, not only among adults but even among children...

"There was a strange stillness. The birds, for example - where had they gone?... It was a spring without voices...

"The roadsides, once so attractive, were now lined with browned and withered vegetation as though swept by fire. These, too, were silent, deserted by all living things. Even the streams were now lifeless. Anglers no longer visited them, for all the fish had died...

"No witchcraft, no enemy action had silenced the rebirth of new life in this stricken world. The people had done it themselves."<sup>1</sup>

Rachel Carson continues in her book, Silent Spring, "I know of no community that has experienced all the misfortunes I describe... (but) this imagined tragedy may easily become a stark reality we all shall know."

The following words from the same book, accurate in 1962 when they were written, "This town does not actually exist..." became inaccurate in August, 1978. The community in Carson's fable does exist. This community has experienced all the misfortunes she describes. The imagined tragedy has become a stark reality. That community is the Love Canal neighborhood of Niagara Falls.

## HISTORY OF LOVE CANAL

Forty years ago the Love Canal neighborhood, located at the southeasternmost corner of the city which is called 'the Honeymoon Capital of the World' enjoyed a semi-rural setting. Trees of large peach and apple orchards spread their abundant branches over much of

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<sup>1</sup> Carson, Rachel, Silent Spring, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1962

the one-half square miles of verdant land bounded by Bergholtz Creek on two sides and the might Niagara River on the third side.

Crystalline streams fifteen inches in depth meandered their way through the sparsely populated neighborhood and provided a welcome habitat for the graceful fishes that swam there.

All of these streams met a larger body of water, from twelve to thirty feet deep, which had been intended as a means for water-going vessels to bypass the Falls on the American side of the river. That inviting body of water - used by people from the neighborhood, from other parts of the city and from the surrounding countryside for swimming and fishing - was called the Love Canal.

It was to this neighborhood that young couples came with their children to build modest homes and it was to this same neighborhood that older persons came in their retirement years, for it was a good place to live.

Others came also. First, trucks from the city of Niagara Falls came to dump their garbage. Then chemical corporation trucks came to dump the drums filled with chemical waste products. Soon, the canal existed no longer. It had been covered over and was now like a long empty football field.

Still others came. The Niagara Falls Board of Education allegedly decided the vacant space would be a good place to build a school for the large and still growing numbers of neighborhood children. The chemical corporation that owned the property insists that it demurred at the offer to purchase the land but relented when the city threatened condemnation of the property, and that it included a disclaimer clause in the deed along with a recommendation not to interfere with the condition of the soil on the former canal area. Regardless of what the truth was in that situation, a school was built, a school playground was constructed, and some of the rest of the property was sold to developers who built additional residences. The modest size of the homes in the area attracted two major groups of people: young families purchasing their first homes whose children would spend many of their childhood years in the neighborhood, and retirees who - in some instances - placed their life's savings into the home which would house them so long as they were able to care for it. A third major group was to move into the large, neat complex of low-income apartments. These people lived happily, innocent of the creeping, underground menace until two years ago.

"Then a strange blight crept over the area and everything began to change." Something was happening to the neighborhood. The people spoke of much illness among the members of their own families and their friends' families. In the city the doctors and hospital nurses became more puzzled by new sickness appearing among their patients and were sometimes unable to diagnose the illness or malady. There had been several sudden and unexplained deaths, miscarriages were common, large numbers of children were born with birth defects, many

in the area were treated for or died from some form of cancer, types of illnesses seemed to be found in clusters of homes. Even the animal and bird life did not escape the menace. Domestic pets died at young ages in the neighborhood, and birds had been seen to fall out of the sky - dead.

Browned and withered vegetation replaced much of the once-green playground cover; the playground was no longer smooth, but great ridges now marred its surface; in the playground and in back yards, black, gooey material oozed from the ground in round patches resembling the size of the top of drums which had been buried there 25 years earlier; the health department - called in by concerned residents - covered over those patches and left; most of the residents - unaware of the impending disaster - remained.

Then on August 2, 1978, the New York State Commissioner of Health declared a public health emergency and the Governor ordered 239 families - from homes closest to the former canal - evacuated from the area. Residents of Western New York were the owners of our country's first human-made ecological and public health disaster attributable to the disposal of chemical wastes. What Rachel Carson had warned of in 1962 had occurred 16 years later...

Isn't the Love Canal problem unique, you wonder? Sadly, no. Its only uniqueness lies in its being the first. Beyond the Love Canal lie an estimated 50,000 other chemical dumpsites in the United States. All those other thousands may be spewing unimaginable quantities of poison into our water, land and air. The bitter harvest of that which has been planted is now being reaped - ecological disaster and human tragedy.

#### THE RESPONSE

So, today, I speak for the other human beings who live in that area of devastation. I speak for them because they suffer--emotionally, physically, economically. When their cries are regarded with suspicion, I dare not hold them suspect. When they are denied the right to choose where they shall live, I dare not remain silent. When their pleas for help are rejected, I dare not ignore their plight. When their life is in turmoil, I dare not rest comfortably.

I speak, further, the words of God which He gave to the prophet:

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

If you take away from the midst of you  
the yoke,  
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wicked-  
ness,

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and  
satisfy the desire of the afflicted,  
then shall your light rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be as the noonday.

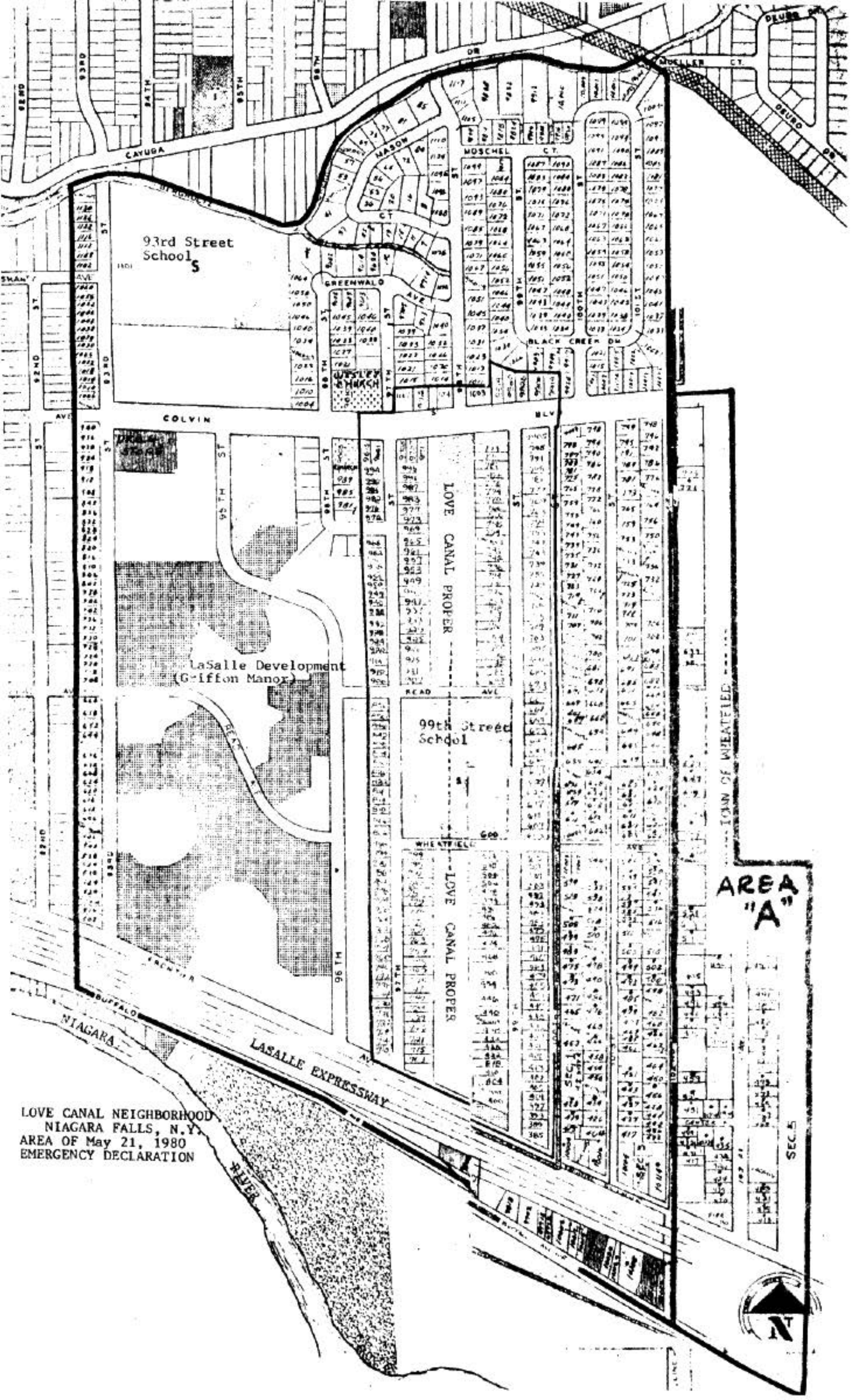
-Isaiah, 58:6, 9b,10

LOVE CANAL, NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

... the river will be parched  
and dry; and its canals will  
become foul - - -

Isaiah 19: 5,6





93rd Street School

LaSalle Development (Giffon Manor)

99th Street School

AREA "A"

LOVE CANAL NEIGHBORHOOD  
 NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.  
 AREA OF May 21, 1980  
 EMERGENCY DECLARATION



SEC. 5

INTERFAITH RESPONSE AT LOVE CANAL

There is one body and one Spirit...  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of us all . . .

Ephesians 4: 4-6

## PREFACE

In the midst of the almost frantic activity of alleviating the suffering of those affected by the Love Canal chemical dumpsite disaster, several things become clear as the Ecumenical Task Force continues its second year of existence.

The prolongation of the crisis has had a staggering effect upon the victims who live in the area and upon those who work among them. The word "overwhelm" comes to mind. In its root form, it means to be overturned completely, as in a boat by a great wave. At this writing, almost two years have passed since the initial "discovery" of the problems encountered by New York State at Love Canal.

Residents of the Love Canal neighborhood have had a plethora of interviews, medical tests, soil and air monitoring in and around their homes, and twice have had a Federal Emergency Declaration which allowed them to be temporarily relocated. They have hoped for a resolution to their plight, and there has been none. Repeated failures by government to resolve the issue of voluntary permanent relocation and inadequate testing have severely hampered the effectiveness of helping agencies to provide hope for victims.

Churches have traditionally responded with compassion to persons in natural disasters with direct aid to the victims. This has been true with the Love Canal. But response to a human-made disaster requires much more because of the complex psychological, political, legal and social implications. In addition to care for the people, more emphasis must be given to the political and legal resolution of this human-caused disaster. Both our Executive Board and staff have given time and energy to shape an ecumenical response to the uniqueness of Love Canal. It is clear that our stance must be both pastoral and prophetic.

We assist the individual in need, and we prod at agencies unprepared and unwilling to share in resolving the crisis. Love Canal is not a natural disaster whose characteristics neatly fit the present criteria of Church World Service, the Red Cross, or The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It isn't merely an "issue" which needs to be addressed by national and local boards of church and society.

From every quarter we are met by the fear of precedent. Hence, this is not a problem for business, government and law alone; it is an issue for religious structures, too. New interchurch and intra-church structures addressing the specifics of human-caused disasters need to be fashioned. New definitions of our ethical and moral response need to be shaped. Attempts of the ecumenical community to respond only pastorally or prophetically will be unauthentic and ineffective. Any uneasiness of the church to deal with business, government, law and science will thwart efforts to alleviate the sufferings of victims.

The Ecumenical Task Force (ETF) model is only partially complete and effective; it is our resolve to pursue this crisis to its just completion. We have learned many things during our first year; we will continue to learn in the months ahead. Only with the help of our member churches, agencies, denominational representatives and volunteers can we continue to respond to the victims of Love Canal in a significant manner.

It is our aim that this response will result in a model which can be replicated or creatively adapted for future interfaith organizations addressing human-made disasters.

The Reverend James Brewster  
Executive Board Chairman  
Ecumenical Task Force  
1980 - 1981

*"There is also the temptation to think that the problem has been solved or will go away. The problem is still with us and will be for a long time. Through our state and federal governments we need to plan on how we are going to confront and deal with the problem of toxic wastes.*

*"One of the problems that Love Canal families had to deal with was that no agency, social or governmental, was prepared or equipped to handle the disaster. We need a plan, a method to deal with future Love Canals.*

*"This is a human problem, a moral problem. As Christians we must carry out our Christian responsibility to do what we can to help those affected."*

*- Father David Lee, WNY Catholic Visitor*

# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## INTRODUCTION

This progress report has been compiled to summarize and highlight the activities of the Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier (ETF) from its inception in March, 1979 to August, 1980. Its purpose is also to point out the work which remains to be done, not only at Love Canal, Niagara Falls, New York, but for future interfaith response to man-made disasters.

"The technological, social, and political developments of the twentieth century are compounding and expanding the range of traditional natural hazards...." (Hilary Whittaker, director, National Governors' Association, Emergency Preparedness Project, March, 1979)

Although it was necessary to be selective in the presentation of the material, the topics and items chosen encompass the range of complex and interactive components which daily face those addressing this problem. The particular issues and needs of the Ecumenical Task Force, representing the first interfaith organization responding to a man-made disaster are described. For purposes of organization, these issues and needs can be divided into the theological/philosophical, psychosocial, and financial.

The chronology gives an historical account of the major events surrounding the Love Canal and the role undertaken by the Ecumenical Task Force. Because of the almost daily occurrence of issues at the Love Canal since August 1978, it is necessary to list only those of major significance. A daily log of activities is recorded at the ETF office.

I hope that in some ways you will find this report disturbing. I hope you are challenged by your fundamental values to question what has and is happening at Love Canal; how government relates to people; how science defines and establishes priorities; how community agencies and the community-at-large respond to a front-yard problem.

## PROGRAM

During the past year, the ETF has provided a comprehensive roster of services to the victims of Love Canal including counseling, advocacy, financial aid, direct intervention with governmental and community agencies, educational programs, forums and communication. Members of the ETF Executive Board, staff, volunteers, residents of Love Canal, and the United Way Outreach Counselors have cooperated in and coordinated such endeavors. A brief description of some of these follows:

### COMMON GROUND

We have published and distributed three issues of COMMON GROUND, our newsletter, to members of the ETF, residents of Love Canal, congregations, demoninational representatives, community and government agencies and other interested persons and groups. Nearly 1500 copies of COMMON GROUND are distributed each time. Residents volunteer to distribute the newsletter to Love Canal homes.

### RE-LOCATION REPORT

The ETF publishes the RE-LOCATION REPORT, as needed, for residents who are relocated to motels and those still residing in their homes. This current report keeps all informed of the often fast-breaking events and constantly changing government regulations related to the Emergency. Residents assist in distributing this report to the various motels and homes.

### LOVE CANAL INFORMATION AND COUNSELLING SERVICE

This service is a joint effort of the United Way Outreach Counselors and the Ecumenical Task Force. The purpose is to help meet the needs of Love Canal residents who are temporarily relocated in motels and apartments. Professional counselors and ETF-trained volunteer Advocates provide counseling and/or are available to provide information about community resources.

Residents who are temporarily relocated in the motels have volunteered to act as coordinators for their motels. These coordinators alert the ETF or Outreach Counselors' offices to any problems or needs of residents. They also help to control rumors and to distribute and communicate information.

## LOVE CANAL DROP-IN CENTER

Representatives of the United Way Outreach Counselors Team and the Ecumenical Task Force are available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Thursday evenings, at Wesley United Methodist Church in the Love Canal neighborhood. Residents are invited to drop in for conversation, update information, personal counseling if desired, fellowship and refreshments.

## LOVE CANAL HOT LINE

A phone bank located in the ETF office is available during regular office hours and as needed during critical points in the Emergency. The telephones are staffed by professional counselors and ETF-trained advocates and are located in private areas in order to insure confidentiality for counseling.

## ADVOCACY TRAINING

In order to provide proper service to the victims of the Love Canal, volunteers and staff of the ETF participate in training sessions provided for interfaith advocates by Nancy Freye of The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) staff. To understand the role of the Interfaith Advocate and the work of the ETF, this training has also been taken by the United Way Outreach Counselors, leaders of Love Canal resident organizations and victims who volunteer with the ETF.

Because of the nature of the Love Canal disaster, this training has been slightly modified from that given to advocates of natural disaster victims. However, because of the uncertain outcome in the resolution of the Love Canal problem, the lack of government guidelines, the inability to get federal disaster relief funds, and the uncertain long-range impact of the disaster, new approaches, skills and models of training should be designed. It is one of the goals of the ETF to initiate and encourage such models.

The cumulative effects on residents of continued fear about damage to health, the depression spurred by altered living conditions, a sense of loss, and the stress created after two and one half years of dislocation, disruption of family life and finances, and inconsistent information and programs by government, make the bolstering of the role of the interfaith advocate a necessity.

### OTHER

A description of the direct aid given to the victims of Love Canal is presented in the financial section beginning on page 50.

Other activities undertaken by the ETF on behalf of the residents include telephone networks, letter writing to government officials, preparing resumes for residents who are relocating to a new city or state, and making referrals to private and public resources. Negotiating with government officials, interpreting the program of health testing, air and soil sampling, and working on press releases and other relevant information with resident organizations is all part of the ETF program.

### ECUMENICAL SERVICES

One of the needs of the victims addressed by the ETF has been to provide religious services. Sunday prayer services are held at the various motels. Local ministers and priests and members of the Executive Board arrange and conduct these services and are available for personal counseling to the residents. Other prayer vigils and meetings have routinely been held at one of the community churches. It is significant that the church has played a role in helping to maintain a sense of community and support. The ETF has been requested to fulfill the role of mediator in times of stress and dispute and to begin many of the Love Canal public meetings with a prayer. On October 17, 1979, an Ecumenical Prayer Service was held with the theme of, "Let My People Go". Members of the ETF, resident victims, volunteers and community leaders took an active part in this service. It is our conviction that the religious community must see that the Faith dimension is not lost.



## MODEL OF RESPONSE

### PRAGMATIC

The preceding program has been described in order to present some practical ways in which the Ecumenical Task Force has been present to people devastated by the tragedy of Love Canal. The fact that the ETF has had no historical role accepted and expected by the community, no past to encumber it, allows it to expand in a variety of ways and to work toward the development of a model of response by the ecumenical community.

For the past eighteen months we have been engaged in a monumental task of collecting data, dealing with the power structure, seeing the truth, researching causes and effects, counseling with the Love Canal families, educating the public through forums, meetings, seminars and workshops. But most of all, we have been standing beside suffering people as people of God. As so aptly said by Msgr. Graeber at our evaluation in March, 1980, "Let it be said of us as church, that we did not stand by, but stood up."

### PASTORAL

In a man-made or societal disaster, opinions, prejudices, profit and political interests are a daily diet. Politics is power, and when one group vies against another, victims, the average people, are often forgotten. So it has been in the Love Canal situation. The Federal Government, the State of New York, the City of Niagara Falls, and the County of Niagara have been more often concerned about cost and cleaning up the property for future sale and development than about people whose health and families, whose very lives have experienced a brokenness that is in some cases irreparable. What sort of model of response can adequately mend that brokenness?

There is a vast difference between coping with a natural disaster that one that is humanly caused. People respond positively and heartily to requests for food and blankets, but when people are fearful, distraught, or the victims of miscarriages, birth defects and internal illnesses as well as psychological pain, it is not so easy to respond. The needs are less tangible and immediate; more is required of the human spirit.

## PROPHETIC

Injustice and unjust land use affect the environment. The prophet Hosea said: "There is no faithfulness or kindness, and no knowledge of God in the land. . .Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air; and even the fish of the sea are taken away" (4:1-3). Responsible stewardship must be an element of our model. It must be built into the response which the interfaith task force makes wherever it confronts another Love Canal. Therefore, we must continue to have research, seminars, and seek the advice and the assistance of those trained in the technology of how to treat toxic wastes. It is incumbent that we learn and investigate what alternate sources of waste treatment exist. I would propose, that beginning with the Love Canal, the church invest and apply for whatever grants or resources exist to install a complete waste treatment system in one of the landfills of Niagara County. At the very least we must be active and support those legislators and groups who are proposing such a system.

We must continue to call attention to the moral and ethical issues involved in the manufacture of toxic chemicals and the handling and disposal of their wastes. We must not grow weary but continue to respond to each new proposal and program offered by government officials to "solve" the Love Canal problem. The Ecumenical Task Force has now begun work on a paper entitled, "Toward a Reality of Hope: A Response of the Ecumenical Task Force to the Revitalization Plan in the Love Canal Area." As stated in the working document:

"To bring life back again!" Revitalizing!  
This is indeed the religious principle.  
Out of the helplessness to bring strength;  
from despairing, hope; out of pain, the  
relief from the suffering; out of death,  
resurrection and immortality. The task  
for the Faith is to bring good news of  
deliverance to those who are imprisoned,  
to release the captives. Revitalizing is  
the task to which the churches are called.  
(July 29, 1980)

Moral and ethical responsibility cries for resolution not only by the church, but by government, corporate business, and the legal profession. We must have the courage and vision to foresee and forestall the same mistakes being repeated at other "Love Canals". Unfortunately, present laws do not permit the use of federal funds for permanent relocation and the acquisition of homes in disaster areas. The families

of Love Canal have been the victims of jurisdictional hassles. We, the church, must be informed and educated to call attention to those areas of the political structure and bureaucratic system that can and must be changed. We ask if it is morally and ethically correct to prolong the tragedy while an agency's (FEMA) organizational development is in process.

If we are to deal with ourselves and our situation, we will have to "go public", so to speak, with both our hopes and our fears. We cannot hide behind official images which oppress us, and which deny us the painful but life-giving experience of coming to our senses, of realizing that our future lies beyond our present myths and paradigms. Our lives depend on how we understand and respond.

As stated in the preface of this report, the ETF model is only partially complete and effective. It is our goal to work toward that completion and effectiveness. The major task is to have the insight and foresight of how to respond. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs, 29:18)

### CONCLUSION

The age of technological man-made disasters had to happen. Sooner or later, the past "state of the art"---indiscriminate dumping of toxic chemical wastes, the residue of atomic wastes from the Manhattan Project, the lack of laws and regulations concerned with the environment, substandard methods of treatment, and poorly constructed housing development in and around the dumping sites----caused the poisons to leach to the surface, migrate through underground streams to our municipal drinking water plants and rivers, enter and infiltrate basements of homes, schools, and eventually penetrate not only the air but the bodies of man, women, children and the children yet-to-be-born. *The practices of the past are our poisons of the present.*

In May, 1980 I was privileged to be a participant at a consultation of the World Council of Churches in Gallneukirchen, Austria. The thesis of my presentation was that the people of poverty and the people of pollution are one people. No longer can we be merely divided into the rich nations and the poor nations. While one group may be dying from economic starvation, the other is dying from ecological pollution. When companies from the developed world began to make plans to ship their toxic wastes to "Third World" countries, no longer can we remain silent. *Love Canal is not only a local problem, but a global problem.*

The tragedy of Love Canal is not only what is taking place in a 16-acre site in Niagara Falls, New York, but in landfills of toxic pollution in numerous areas of Western New York, Long Island, Tennessee, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, and the States of New Jersey, Delaware, Kentucky. . . Love Canal is not a site, but a symbol.

"Our arrogance and our science have implanted in the life-sustaining soils and waters toxic substances with which they, and we, cannot contend. Only when we acknowledge our folly and temper our greed will our society begin to conform to the needs of the nature outside and inside ourselves."

- Michael Brown, Laying Waste: The Poisoning of America by Toxic Chemicals

## LIVING WITH CHRONIC DISASTER: A PSYCHOSOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

The area identified as the Love Canal neighborhood is not comprised of a homogeneous population. Although it was once seen as an ideal suburban location it contains a low income housing development, working class homeowners, retired city and industry employees, and young middle class professional people just beginning their families.

It has been reported that the average person living in that census tract has completed 12 years of school. Only 10% of the working residents there are employed by the local chemical industry. Prior to 1978, there were only five home-owning families there receiving Public Assistance from Niagara County Department of Social Services. Indeed, up to August, 1978 most residents of that neighborhood were not users of social services. They see agencies as belonging to "downtown Niagara Falls".

Overnight, the neighborhood has been transformed. A once isolated, peaceful area is now a tumultuous fishbowl--under scrutiny by scientists, politicians, and the media as a great "laboratory to study the effects of toxic chemicals on a civilian population". Dr. Robert A. Love of Alfred University has described it as a "neighborhood under stress". This stress has developed as a result of the residents' daily worries about their health, their family's inability to cope, their lack of financial security and the destruction of their neighborhood. All that they have worked for, their dreams and goals--everything is shattered.

As I have watched this occur over the two year period, I have noted a progression in the reaction by residents to their loss. It began with fear of the seen and unseen chemical destruction and anger toward those responsible. As the days led to months and they still found themselves living in the neighborhood, frustration became prevalent and many who were active began to feel discouraged and withdrawn. While residents were preoccupied with Love Canal some friends and relatives on the "outside" were becoming unsympathetic. Loss of initiative, sporadic outbursts of anger, and feelings of guilt followed; in a few instances this led to self destructive behavior. Families, already under stress before this disaster, fell apart. We became aware of divorces, separations, drug and alcohol abuse, illnesses (physical and mental), nervous exhaustion, and child maltreatment and abuse. All this can be directly attributable to the Love Canal crisis.

This crisis has gone on for two years now in a roller-coaster fashion with periods of elevated hopes for relocation dashed by more bureaucratic red tape and mistakes. The victims have become demoralized, cynical of "help", insecure, and distant in relationships. They have begun to question and abandon previously held values and standards. These families have lost control of their lives. Dr. Kai Erickson has

described this type of situation as a "chronic disaster". He describes such a condition as one that gathers force slowly and insidiously. Those affected are unable to mobilize their normal defenses against the threat because they have elected to ignore it, they have been misinformed about it, or because they cannot do anything to avoid it. In this, Dr. Erickson sees similarities between the symptoms of chronic poverty and a chronic disaster, i.e.

A numbness of spirit, a susceptibility to anxiety, rage and depression, a sense of helplessness... a heightened apprehension about the physical and social environment and a retreat into dependency.

--Everything In Its Path, Dr. Kai Erickson

There are also similarities here to the psychological atmosphere of Belfast:

Everyday you wonder where the next bomb will go off. It takes effort to carry on. It seems never-ending. The people there don't plan ahead. Everyone is a wee bit jumpy.

--Acts of Union, Anthony Bailey

Many have questioned and speculated about the long term effects on the children in the Love Canal area. The children ask:

-- "Will I grow up to be normal?"

-- "When I move should I tell others I am from Love Canal?"

-- "Will they think I'm contaminated?"

There has been a lack of response by local health and social service agencies to immediate and long range concerns of the residents. Since August, 1978, Catholic Charities has provided direct financial aid to residents, family counseling and advocacy and day care assistance, as well as financial and technical assistance to the Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier. The United Way of Niagara provided three "out-reach workers" from a one-time-only state grant. Other than these two efforts, local agencies have not given priority attention to the concerns of the Love Canal residents. In my judgement, there are several reasons for this:

First, there is a high rate of unemployment in this heavily industrialized city. Many local agencies are funded through business and employee contributions to the United Way. As the number of contributors to this organization has declined, agencies of the United Way have experienced across-the-board budget cuts. Consequently, there has been a greater tendency to fund specific programs rather than provide categorical services.

Second, agencies here have seen a continual increase in case loads. For example, Catholic Charities of Niagara County has had an 86% increase in family counseling cases in the past four years. A 1979 human resources survey showed that 46% of the social service agencies interviewed in Niagara County had waiting lists. Eighty-one percent of those on the lists had to wait more than two weeks for service.

Third, with the billions of dollars of lawsuits pending, and in light of governmental fears of establishing precedents for the thousands of other toxic dump sites across the country, many agencies are caught up in the political implications from becoming involved, while others have even denied the existence of any problem at Love Canal.

The Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier is serving an important role in filling a void left by local human service agencies' inability to adequately respond to this miasmal disaster. The direct aid report of the Task Force shows that there is a sizable number of medical, housing, and moving expenses that could not be met through existing resources. Equally as important, the Task Force has remained an independent, objective, and professional advocate voice for residents who daily encounter bureaucratic red tape, run-arounds and arbitrary administrative interpretations of the law. Time after time, the Task Force has successfully linked residents' requests for help with the appropriate local, state, and national agency or program, and in turn educated those organizations about the unique requirements of this emergency.

It should also be noted that the Task Force has wisely encouraged the residents' participation in seeking out resources to meet their problems. Probably for the first time, some are involved in community organizations and are doing things for themselves. The troubles have produced resident interest and involvement in health problems, environmental pollution, neighborhood development and our political processes. In this, the Ecumenical Task Force has perhaps provided a foundation on which the residents can rebuild their futures.

John A. Lynch, C.S.W.  
Executive Board ETF  
Director, Niagara County  
Catholic Charities

*"Life only demands from you the strength you possess. Only one feat is possible -- not to have run away." - Dag Hammarskjold*

## AN ADVOCATE REPORT

The daily disasters in the lives of people are only stories in the news until...until they happen to us or to someone we know in our family, among our friends or neighbors. Even then we can be very fickle in dismissing the struggles of the victims! Seldom does our sympathy last throughout the situation. Problems are so painfully daily; and there is the agony of slow-motion help that drains the human spirit and stands counter to hope.

So it has been for the people of the Love Canal disaster. After the original 200 families were moved out, their homes boarded up and fenced in, the people of the surrounding areas who left their homes because they were "unsafe" due to the presence of toxic chemicals, still wait to find out if they will be able to finance a home elsewhere or find one. Those same people are waiting to be "tested" by a team of doctors to prove that their health has been affected by the leaking chemical waste. They have been sent to motels to live in a state of suspended anxiety and unrest. Many families have left or are planning to leave Niagara Falls. Others are trying to piece together their confused and broken lives, regain their health, and overcome whatever physical or emotional ailments they have suffered, and to start again.

A flood or fire is a well defined disaster; the effects are clearly revealed and assessable. But chemicals leaching through the ground, working into basements, walls and gardens, working their way also into the body of a child, a pregnant woman, a man...these are more elusive, hard to see, hard to measure, hard to prove. While companies worry about profits, politicians and elections and while government decides who and what is to be tested--sick children get worse, families worry over health, finances, where they shall go and what they shall do, and how they can take a loss. Worry and stress lead to greater physical and psychological complications. Families are torn apart and neighbors become enemies, as some protest while others acquiesce.

There are two lessons to be learned from the Love Canal case. One is that people should come first... before profits, before industry, before progress. Any situation involving research, economics, politics, public funds, family health and the general well being of a community is very complex. But the welfare of the people must be top priority, not lost among the entanglements of bureaucracy and politics.

The second lesson is that the Love Canal of Niagara Falls is only one of more than 50,000 such danger spots across the United States, where people will be facing the questions: What chemicals? How harmful? Where did they come from? How can we get rid of them?



We sense the precious fragility of our earth-home, our interdependence with all others on this planet. We need to be alert to the life styles we perpetuate, to question waste and extravagance, to monitor industry's use of natural resources, to be guardians of water, air, and soil, to demand actions which enhance human life and the natural world, and to refuse those things which demean human life and contribute to the pollution of our earth long after we will have left it.

If unbridled technology has adverse effects upon human health and environment, raping the land and poisoning the water, we need to be called to accountability.

Love Canal may be a misnomer, but it can also be a model in dealing with human-made disasters. The Ecumenical Task Force represents the caring answer of a community that recognizes our interdependence and our mutual needs. To be an advocate for others is to attempt to stand beside them in their trial and struggle.

Roberta Grimm  
ETF Advocate and  
President, NYS Church Women United

*"Voluntarism, in its variegated manifestations,  
is America uniquely at its best."*

— Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.  
President of Notre Dame University

*"NEVER, 'for the sake of peace and quiet', deny your  
own convictions"*

— Dag Hammarskjöld, MARKINGS

## TIME TO RISK

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Niagara County Legislature:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this afternoon. As the Executive Director of The Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier, I am speaking on behalf of the churches and Jewish community of Western New York for the Citizens of the Love Canal neighborhood, City of Niagara Falls, County of Niagara, New York.

Our concern today, April 1, 1980, is that you deliberate wisely and justly on a situation of physical, psychological and moral crisis that has suffered for 2 1/2 years the impact of the kind of trauma that is experienced by any community stricken by the forces of tornado, hurricane, flood or nuclear disaster.

The living patterns of the people of the Love Canal neighborhood have not had a normalcy since August 2, 1978. People there cannot think about the future--but function on a day-to-day basis. Each day their stamina, resilience and determination like that of a natural disaster survivor is tested. People there have lost control and command over the ordinary decisions made by people in a "normal" neighborhood. They are--the victims of a disaster.

Access to relief is tangled in a maze of bureaucratic red tape, agency-run around, medical tests, soil sampling and governmental and corporate denial of responsibility. Control over their own destinies is minimized--the fate of the victim persons rests in the hands of outsiders. However, our purpose today is not to question the rightness or wrongness of the situation. It is to bring relief and a solution which will lead to recovery of a torn apart people and community.

If a community is not in control there is no opportunity to get "back on its feet". Therefore unhealthy and inappropriate behavior is exhibited in both individuals and in the whole fabric of the neighborhood--its families and organizations.

It only makes good psychological sense for a community to care for itself, to deal with the changes and losses which have occurred, to make decisions concerning rebuilding, and to plead on behalf of those members who have been ignored, forgotten, or damaged emotionally and physically.

I am not speaking today from what I have read in a book, but from practical experience from my work with disaster victims in other parts of the country. (Cite examples of depression, suicide, marital and family breakup, vandalism, delinquency and illness.)

What part do the churches play in all of this activity?

Why the Ecumenical Task Force? Why am I addressing you today? Churches are grassroots institutions which are looked to for help, comfort and leadership in times of stress and crisis. Research has proven that persons with personal problems are almost twice as likely to seek counsel from a clergy than a mental health counselor. In time of disaster, this is no exception. Here, too, the churches and their leaders are regarded as resources; they are looked to for help, counsel, and comfort. Moreover, we can be trusted. We have nothing to gain in the present situation either financially or politically.

Second, churches have a mandate: they must be concerned with the welfare of individuals. They must address the concerns of the poor, the needy, and the victimized. They, as institutional representatives of God, must be active and responding to the needs of people. Government as representatives of the people must no less respond to those needs. Both then, the church and government must be actively involved in the recovery process of the individuals within the community.

Last evening your Finance Committee heard and discussed the legal and long-range plans of a Corporation designed to revitalize and stabilize the area of the Love Canal. The immediate task of this entity would involve acquisition of homes. We understand the ramifications and liabilities involved, but where the needs of people victimized by circumstances beyond their control are involved, the risk is minimal--it is for this generation of children and the children yet to be born that we ask you to take a risk.

The County you lead and speak for now has the opportunity to design a means whereby the human problems at Love Canal can be alleviated. If the present entity is unacceptable to you--redo it--have the drafters of the bill work with you; they are your spokespeople in the State. Demand that the State provide you with the proper data on which to base your decisions. At a World Council of Churches meeting, in May, in Austria, I will represent North America and how we are confronting the problem of toxic waste. This County of Niagara, State of New York, City of Niagara Falls, and churches have a unique opportunity to show the country and the world that we took an "unmanageable" problem and faced it squarely with compassion, wisdom, and technology.

Churches like government are among the basic institutions within any social unit. As institutions, they have several characteristics. They represent groups of people. They have "territories" within which they have social, physical and economic, as well as "spiritual" concern. They have some visibility and strength which their individual members do not have. As a cornerstone of any community, churches should assume responsibility in working with other institutions such as local, county and other governments and the business community in the rebuilding process.

But neither the Churches nor the local units of government have the personal, social, or even technical resources needed to deal with all the problems which are the consequences of the disaster or crisis situation in addition to the ongoing concerns they deal with.

So, recognizing this inability to deal effectively with the complexities inherent in long-term recovery, the churches have learned to pool their resources--financial, technical, professional, personal and to work together to address the problems which they ought to be addressing. We respectfully and urgently now ask the government of the County of Niagara to join in like manner with the other units of government to aid in the recovery and rebuilding of human lives and the community.

Thank You.

Sister Margeen Hoffmann  
ETF Executive Director

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*a time to be born, and a time to die;*

*a time to plant, and a time to pluck  
up what is planted;*

*a time to kill, and a time to heal;*

*a time to break down, and a time  
to build up;*

*a time to weep, and a time to laugh;*

*a time to mourn, and a time to  
dance;*

*a time to cast away stones, and a  
time to gather stones together;*

*a time to embrace, and a time to refrain  
from embracing;*

*a time to seek, and a time to lose;*

*a time to keep, and a time to  
cast away;*

*a time to rend, and a time to sew;*

*a time to keep silence, and a time  
to speak;*

*a time to love, and a time to hate;*

*a time for war, and a time for peace.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

## THE CHURCH: UNPOPULAR VOICE - PROPHETIC VISION:

### RESPONSE TO MAN-MADE DISASTERS

An outstanding American once said: "Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change..."

I believe those words, spoken by the late Senator Robert Kennedy, point to a basic need in our time--the need for moral courage. I believe that we have neglected, if not abandoned, the concept of moral courage and have adopted a complacent, almost apathetic attitude toward some of the major issues of our time.

Man-made disasters are among those major problems or issues that demand moral courage for us in order to respond to them. All too often such moral courage is absent.

In a recent magazine interview, Fr. Thomas Berry said: "The bottom line is not profit, not even what is happening to our society--it is what is happening to our planet." Man-made disasters and the potential for continued man-made disasters is what is happening to our planet. And moral courage is necessary to muster a moral, ethical response to what is happening.

While we are here because of the immediate reactions and concerns engendered by the Love Canal disaster, we are here for another reason too. We are here to examine what more than 50,000 such Love Canals could do to the Planet Earth and what the Church's role is in response.

Father Berry, Director of the Teilhard Association for the Future of Man, also states: "The human community has taken over control of the planet through science and technology, which have in nature, no limiting factors." And in this we find a fundamental problem.

The only limiting factor is our understanding that all things have a sacred domain that demand our reverence. All things on this Planet Earth, all things which make up the rich resources of our nation--all these things have a sacred domain. In our profit-oriented, indifferent society, we must question whose responsibility it becomes to uphold the sacred domain of all things that demand our reverence. Would it be too bold to presume that it is the responsibility of the Church?

#### UNPOPULAR VOICE

In his speech to the Mexican bishops at Puebla in 1979, Pope John Paul II said:

The voice of the Church, echoing the voice of human conscience...deserves and needs to be heard in our times...when the growing wealth of a few runs parallel to the growing poverty of the masses...It is then that the Church's teaching, according to which all private property involves a social obligation, acquires an urgent character. With respect to this teaching, the Church has a mission to carry out: she must preach, educate individuals and collectivities, form public opinion and offer orientation to the leaders of the peoples. In this way, she will be working in favor of society, within which this Christian and evangelical principle will finally bear fruit...Christ did not remain indifferent in the face of the vast and demanding imperative of social morality. Nor can the Church... it must be emphasized once more that the Church's solicitude looks to the whole man."

It is the voice of the Church saying there can be no indifference to the imperative of social morality that questions the existence and even the possibility of man-made disasters..

The words of Amos and of Jeremiah, the Prophets, speak clearly to this. The words of the parable of the Good Samaritan and of the Judgment scene of Matthew 25 speak clearly too. They teach that it is the duty and the obligation of the church--concerned about the needs and suffering of humankind, not merely to address these needs in the esoteric language of a theological conference--but to address these needs in the bold, direct language of confrontation and advocacy.

The Church would fail in its mission if it confined its comments to a Sunday or Sabbath service. The Old and New Testaments were not written merely to script a worship service! They were written to be applied in our lives--to be lived by those who believe in them. To apply them and to live them demands moral courage, "a very rare commodity."

In the area of natural disasters the role of the Church, as a helping servant, is now more easily understood. In man-made disasters, the role of the Church is most often misunderstood, if not rejected. Why? I believe the answer is basic, elemental. In man-made disaster someone is at fault. Someone has erred. The scientific and technological system has broken down, failed. The Church then enters this arena. Not merely to give blankets or hot soups to the victims. She enters to call the society that has allowed this failure to task. And no one wants to be called to task! No one wants to take the blame. No one likes to be reminded to mistakes. And thus, the Church's voice is an unpopular one when it questions, "How did this happen? Why did it happen? Who allowed this to happen?" I offer these are legitimate questions to affirm reverence for the sacred domain that all things have.

But soon there arise murmurings and complaints about "naivete", about "do-gooders", about "not knowing what is good for our society, our town, our city", about...well, you all know the litany.

It is spoken by government agencies, by industry, by politicians running for office, and by many common people who are not directly affected. In an almost unanimous assent they state that the Church should stick to worship services. In fact, the anger generated by the Church's voice calling society to task can give rise to these verbalizations: "If they don't shut up, we'll all stop contributing. They need our money. That will teach them to interfere." Or again: "Maybe we should tax all church property. That would teach them not to meddle in what doesn't concern them" Unfortunately, many think the Church is good for very little but as a place to pray, as an organization to sop the anxieties of the elderly.

Such crass naivete! The Church is not called to be an aggregate of mute shepherds. Its vocation is to voice the unpopular teachings of Scripture. It is to be a prophetic voice, giving prophetic vision to our day. Prophetic voices are always unpopular. Why? Because they, in calling us to task, cause us to experience discomfort. This unpopular voice says things we would rather not hear. The Church proclaims truths to live by. That is, it proclaims the moral standards of what is right or wrong--the Ethic of the Act. But the mediocrity of our age has conditioned us to live in perpetual gray. This causes us to forget that there is indeed black and white--everything is not all gray. There are definite norms that point to what is right or wrong. However, all too frequently, the subjective fog of what is seemingly "good or bad", at this moment, overrides what is morally right or wrong.

Certainly political advancement, community development, steady jobs, corporate profits can all be good--most frequently they are. But the Church must take the risk and ask: Are they always right? As she must question others: Are they always wrong?

Unfortunately historical circumstances seem to give the sad answer that our system has equated good with right. But, as they sang in the famous old song, "It ain't necessarily so!" In fact, the "immediate good" philosophy can often inflict longlasting social wrongs and harm on peoples.

In this milieu, there is no way that the Church voice, daring to proclaim--even as a prophet--the teaching of what is right and wrong can be anything but unpopular.

There is a point, however, that cannot be overlooked. It is a given that must be maintained in any advocacy or confrontation for what is right, over and against what is wrong. That given is this: The prophetic voice must always be honest. A dishonest prophetic voice, no matter what right ends it might seek to attain, is always wrong!

How easily our emotions can cloud our perspectives! How essential it is no matter what the disaster we are dealing with, that our voices

remain reasoned, even if they might not always remain calm! Our words, our directions, our pointing out of failures and mistakes that cause man-made disasters must always manifest honesty. Why? Because we as Church are teaching, stating principles, reminding our communities of moral standards. To abandon this stance of moral responsibility is to forfeit our vocation as Church! We have to exercise a responsibility towards the environment, towards the community, towards our economic system, towards business and profit, but above all towards a known people. The victims of man-made disasters are not anonymous faces in a nameless crowd. The Church, as unpopular voice, must see that this is never allowed to happen to any victim.

Despite threats of economic boycott, of taxation, of coercion of any sort that would seek to hinder its mission, the Church remains the one sure voice for the rights and the dignity of infants and children, of parents and grandparents, of singles and widows, of the lonely and forgotten. No one can be allowed to fall between the cracks because of the Church's limited concerns or fear of consequences. Ours, then, is a moral voice responsible to all segments of society, to maintain human dignity and to insure the inherent human rights of each and every person.

Certainly this voice is poorly served when it is only strident. But fear of being strident should not silence us before we have spoken against the wrongs that man-made disasters inflict on the rights and dignity of our brothers and sisters.

According to Father Berry, "We have to have a beautiful world, or else we are not going to have beautiful people."

Our unpopular voice in man-made disasters is raised to create, or to re-create a "beautiful world". Systems that perpetuate man-made disasters project results that destroy the "beautiful world" and thus, the possibility of "beautiful people". Such actions are morally wrong and ethical failures.

If the Church speaks out now in hopes of preventing future man-made disasters of a similar nature to Love Canal, perhaps it will be heard. I personally am less hopeful. Profits, progress and politics have a way of deafening even the most ardent plea for what is right. It is only when the message is repeated loud and clear in defense of people and, where necessary, is condemnatory of that which destroys the environment in which we live, that the message may begin to be heard and heeded.

For too long the Church has accepted as carte blanche what the rest of society accepted. Those things that are hidden deceitfully in such explanatory phrases as "Results from the latest tests are inconclusive", "They're just a couple of neurotics", or "Don't destroy a vital tax base".

So easily we allow our sensitivities to be detoured if not deadened, until we come face to face with the reality of the man-made



disaster with all of its destructive force (a black, bubbling ooze that destroys genes, and people and life).

On October 4, 1979, in Des Moines, Iowa, Pope John Paul II said,

You who live in the heartland of America have been entrusted with some of the earth's best land: The soil is rich in minerals, the climate is favorable for producing bountiful crops, the fresh water and unpolluted air are available all around you. You are stewards of some of the most important resources that God has given to the world. Therefore, conserve the land well, so that your children's children and generations after them will inherit an even richer land than was entrusted to you.

We know that his words are true. We also know that he had to fly half-way across America to speak them. His words were spoken in that ideal setting of Iowa countryside, because so much of our natural beauty has been defiled. The absence of fresh water and unpolluted air would have given lie to his message.

Yet Niagara Falls, the Hudson River, Oakland and San Francisco Bays, the hills of West Virginia, the back country of Kentucky, the desert lands of Nevada and Arizona, the plains of Wyoming and the Dakotas are all natural resources we have received. The Church's unpopular voice says, "Conserve them well. Protect them from the debacle of man-made disaster. Why do such pleas for preservation continue to fall on deaf ears? If you defile or destroy them we will demand to know how and why and to what purpose!"

We must speak out in confrontation against the causes of man-made disasters, because it is a matter of basic justice. To be mute, to be fearful would be to be unjust ourselves. Simply put, the unpopular voice of the Church is to call those responsible for man-made disasters to task, to make them feel discomfort for the wrongs that have been perpetuated.

But who is called to task, made uncomfortable? Industry, business, politicians, apathetic citizens--and, the Church herself. Dostoevsky stated: "We are all responsible for everything that happens to any of our brothers (or sisters)..." Indeed, we share a common guilt for having been silent, for having done little for all too long. The Church's voice, as I have stated again and again, is that of moral responsibility--even when it seems reprehensible. Its duty continues to be to teach what is right and what is wrong.

Certainly this responsibility is best exercised in conjunction with the other social entities involved: science, industry, business, government. Together they should formulate an ethic that meets the need to preserve the environment, to preserve our resources, and above all to protect our people--those born and those yet to be born. Even if others do not join her, it remains the Church's duty to do this!

I have spent an inordinate amount of time on the subject of the confrontative voice of the Church in response to man-made disasters. I have done this because I think that this is an important facet of the Church's ministry of justice to all hurting people. And because we too easily draw away from such confrontation--for some of the reasons mentioned previously--or for others, perhaps better left unmentioned.

But remember when the Church's voice is raised in advocacy, it is also unpopular. This is true in natural as well as in man-made disasters. Again, our advocacy is to insure that the victims of man-made disasters receive just recompense, just help from the government and compensation from the cause of the disasters that have affected them.

This unpopular "advocate voice" will go on far longer than the confrontative voice. The needs of the victims are not known nor met within a short span of time. Most particularly when we are dealing with the effects of a chemical or nuclear disaster, the basic needs may not arise for months or years afterwards.

And even at that late date, the Church must still be there to speak for the victim--to speak to his or her needs, to stand with the victim against whatever Goliath the opposition may be. As Robert Kennedy said, this takes "moral courage", because the vocation of advocacy is seeking "to change a world, a society that yields so painfully to change".

Here too, there are a thousand and one reasons why the Church should not be involved: a political process, socialism, radicalism, etc. Perhaps too, it is the latent fear that we as Church will not be popular. But is the Church a society of popular people doing nice things? Isn't it rather people who are caring for the needs of the least of their brothers and sisters--no matter what the cost? I am idealistic enough to hope so--to believe so!

#### PROPHETIC VISION --THE FUTURE

It would seem that the experience at Love Canal should show that there is a need:

...For ecumenical or church task forces to be available as viable and working entities at times of man-made disasters. If the churches are set on developing such teams for natural disaster, they should have the same dedication to the man-made disaster site.

The difference is that such a task force is not 18-months oriented as in a man-made disaster. Its job can go on and on and on... until all the confrontation and advocacy has attained the results necessary to insure the rights of the victims.

...For effective response the National Council of Churches, the United States Catholic Conference, and the American

Jewish Conference should designate knowledgeable representatives to informally discuss joint ventures in this field.

After these initial dialogues, the three major religious groups should then move to form a unified response:

1. To include policy statements as to why they are in the field.
2. To undertake training of task force coordinators, and to provide advocacy training adapted to the particular circumstances of man-made disasters.
3. To initiate a campaign to make the public aware of the potential dangers of man-made disasters at dump sites and nuclear sites that exist around the country through Religious News Service, National Catholic News Service, National Jewish News Service and whatever other media sources are available.
4. To suggest that every State Council or State Association of Churches have an ad hoc committee to be familiar with the hazards of disasters in their state, either man-made or natural. The National Governor's Association has excellent materials delineating potential disaster or hazard areas. There is no reason that Church State Councils should not avail themselves of this information to help their constituents, and to prepare for any eventual disaster.
5. To alert local Councils of Churches to the existence of potential disaster sites and to suggest that the local Council take an interest in any health problems, physical or emotional, that people living near the site may be incurring.

Again, according to Father Berry, "One survey estimates 20% of all living species could be extinguished by the end of the century: that includes thousands of plant species..."

The Church's prophetic vision at this late hour should be to preserve as many of the living species as possible by being able to alert people to the potential of man-made disaster, in hopes of forestalling the same. The Church must act

- ... by motivating people to demand the protection of the law through strict, uncompromising enforcement of existing government regulations to prevent the potential of disaster
- ... by raising the consciousness of the unaffected as to the harm that the planet is suffering with each such man-made disaster.

"Moral Courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence, yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change..."  
(RFK)

It is incumbent upon all of those who are Church people --upon all of us --to exercise the moral courage necessary to change a society that fights so desperately against change.

After all, the bottom line is what is happening to our planet. And about this we cannot be silent.

Reverend William J. O'Connell  
Consultant, Domestic Disaster Office  
Church World Service

May 22, 1980 at a Conference on  
Man-made Disasters: The Church's  
Response --Sponsored by the ETF  
"What is the Moral Thing To Do?"

*"If we who profess to be servants of God, called upon to serve the world with faith, hope and love are neutral on moral problems that are a matter of life or death for the human family -- then we risk the threat of nothing-ness, for to be neutral is to be nothing!"*

- The Rev. Dr. Paul L. Moore

# HISTORY OF DISASTER AT LOVE CANAL

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

The name, Love Canal, became a household word in western New York in 1978, but the idea for the place that was to carry that name originated in 1836 - only 60 years after this country adopted a constitution and became a nation.

Just as the first thoughts of the place that came to be known as Love Canal began many years ago -- so, undoubtedly, the memory of that place will linger. Many fear that the chemicals buried in Love Canal will continue to produce a bitter harvest for years into the future.

The Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier was formed to serve as an advocate for the relief of the physical, psycho/social, and economic distress of persons living near Love Canal, the first residential area in the U.S. afflicted by a non-natural disaster.

- 1836 - A U.S. government engineer surveyed Niagara County to determine the best site for a canal connecting Lakes Erie and Ontario. An area between the upper Niagara River and Lewiston was chosen primarily because the 300 foot escarpment on the Lewiston side could be used to generate electrical power. At the time, electricity could not be generated over long distances.
- 1837 - An economic depression and a series of other events postponed construction of the Canal.
- 1892 - William T. Love, a colorful entrepreneur, decided to revive the idea of a canal connecting the upper Niagara River with Lewiston. The canal was to be the focus of an industrial city of 600,000 people.
- 1894 - William T. Love's idea failed because of the great depression of 1894 and the invention of alternating current which meant that electrical power could now be transmitted inexpensively over long distances.
- 1920 - Hooker Chemical used the canal as a dump site for toxic wastes.  
to  
1953
- 1953 - Hooker Chemical sold the canal to the Niagara Falls Board of Education. The agreement reportedly included a disclaimer releasing Hooker of responsibility.
- 1953 - 1970 The Board of Education built a school on the land and homes were built adjacent to the Canal.

- 1970 - 1978 Several reports were made from the residents of the Love Canal area to the County Health Commissioner of noxious odors and black sludge oozing from the ground.
- January, 1978 The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) urged city officials to investigate the dump site.
- April 25, 1978 NYS Department of Health declared Love Canal "an extremely serious threat to the health and welfare of residents".
- August, 1978 Local, state and federal officials have been aware, at least since this time, that millions of pounds of toxic chemical wastes with carcinogenic or teratogenic potential are buried in former Love Canal.
- NYS began health tests in area by taking more than 2,800 blood samples.
- Plan for remedial construction at canal in attempt to contain toxic leachate developed.
- NYS Love Canal On-Site Interagency Task Force appointed to deal with Love Canal problems.
- Visit to Love Canal by William Wilcox, Federal Disaster Assistance Administration Director.
- United Way provided for temporary relocation of several families whose physicians indicated that illnesses could be aggravated by living in Love Canal area. These families not included in NYS relocation.
- August 2, 1978 NYSDOH declared State of Emergency at Love Canal. Two rings (rows) of homes closest to canal declared "imminent health hazard". Pregnant women and children under two years of age ordered evacuated and 99th Street School located a few yards from canal ordered closed.
- August 7, 1978 NYS Governor Hugh Carey offered permanent relocation of 239 families in homes "most immediately adjacent" to canal proper.
- President Jimmy Carter declared a Federal Emergency for same area (97th - 99th Streets).
- October, 1978 Remedial construction begun at Love Canal toxic waste dumpsite.
- November 21, 1978 NYSDOH confirmed contamination outside first two rings of homes.
- December 9, 1978 NYSDOH confirmed finding of dioxin, most toxic substance synthesized by man, in Love Canal area soil.

- December 11, 1978 Six residents arrested for disorderly conduct after forming informational picket to warn construction workers of possible dangers of exposure to dioxin.
- December 12, 1978 Additional residents arrested.
- Construction workers hospitalized to determine cause of body rashes. Dioxin can cause chloracne—a serious skin rash.
- February 8, 1979 NYSDOH reported "small but significant increase in the risk of miscarriages and birth defects" (twice the usual risk), and recommended temporary relocation of pregnant women and children under two years of age from wider area (93rd to 103rd Streets).
- February 20, 1979 Dr. Beverly Paigen, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, and consultant to Love Canal Homeowners' Association challenged NYSDOH report re miscarriages and birth defects. Her studies revealed significantly higher incidences of both than NYSDOH claimed.
- February, 1979 Concerns expressed by 2 members of First Presbyterian, Lewiston, N.Y. that churches should be doing something to help Love Canal families resulted in letter calling religious community to informational meeting (see Appendix).
- March 13, 1979 Meeting for "Religious Community Concerned for Love Canal" at Wesley United Methodist in canal neighborhood.
- More than 230 attended including H. McKinley Coffmann, representing office of CWS Domestic Disaster Coordinator.
- Following informational presentation, the Rt. Rev. Harold B. Robinson, Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of WNY, suggested formation of Ecumenical Task Force and was supported by ranking representatives of each denomination present. Motion was unanimously supported by all others present.
- March 20, 1979 First meeting of Ecumenical Task Force to Address the Love Canal Disaster at Wesley United Methodist.
- Rev. Dr. Paul L. Moore and Donna H. Ogg, organizers of previous informational meeting, appointed chairman and secretary pro-tem. Also, Task Force membership defined, name chosen, goals adopted:
1. To provide direct aid to residents.
  2. To assume the advocate role in applying political pressure.
  3. To gather and interpret appropriate data.
  4. To seek reconciliation through justice.
  5. To advocate for complete neutralization of toxic wastes.

- March 22, 1979 Dr. Beverly Paigen recommended further evacuations of families living on or near "wet areas" where they appear to be more susceptible to medical problems.
- April 6, 1979 Report by NYS Interagency Task Force on Hazardous Wastes revealed that compounds produced for U.S. Army may have been dumped at Love Canal.
- April 23, 1979 ETF membership elected officers:
- Dr. Paul L. Moore, Chairman  
 Rev. James Brewster, Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Roger Cook, Secretary  
 Mr. John Lynch, CSW, Treasurer
- and additional Executive Board members:
- Mrs. Therese Mudd  
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Richard Graeber  
 Rev. Andrew Kennedy  
 Rev. Charles Lamb  
 Mr. Alvin C. Ogg
- April 27, 1979 ETF Executive Board meeting with Niagara Falls Mayor Michael O'Laughlin to discuss concerns re residents of Love Canal.
- May, 1979 New dioxin results showed 6.7 ppb in yard near canal.
- Residents told there would be no further permanent relocation.
- May, 1979 Paul L. Moore and Donna H. Ogg presented statements to N.Y.S. hearings sponsored by Legislative Committee on Toxic Wastes and Interagency Task Force on Hazardous Wastes at Niagara Falls' International Convention Center calling officials to responsible action re Love Canal residents.
- Executive Board interviewed Sister Margeen Hoffmann, O.S.F., for position of ETF Executive Director. Board offered job; Sister Margeen accepted, to begin late in July.
- Added Donna Ogg to Executive Board with administrative responsibilities until arrival of director - salary an in-kind contribution of Lewiston Presbyterian.
- Located ETF office for 3 months at Lewiston Presbyterian - rental an in-kind contribution of the church.
- Hired Elizabeth Watts as part-time secretary.



May, 1979

ETF letter to Superintendent of Niagara Falls Schools appealed for careful thought re considered closing of Cleveland Avenue School which would necessitate another school transfer for Love Canal children.

ETF invited to become ad hoc member of Governor's Love Canal On-Site Interagency Task Force.

ETF report and proposal for funding prepared and submitted to CWS and denominational judicatories.

ETF accepted invitation of United Way Executive Director to serve on United Way Advisory Committee re \$200,000. N.Y.S. Love Canal grant.

June, 1979

Residents express fears that toxic fumes during remedial construction may be dangerous to health.

Reports of contaminated leachate overflowing or bypassing containment facilities continue.

Residents attempt to stop remedial work via court order until "adequate" safety plan is developed.

N.Y.S. Supreme Court Justice Norman A. Stiller orders one week temporary evacuation (renewable weekly) for residents suffering adverse health effects which could be causally related to remedial construction if the causality were confirmed by physician.

Day Care center and day camps for Love Canal area children opened to remove children from neighborhood during hours of remedial construction when escaping toxic fumes may be more severe.

Accepted offer of Wesley United Methodist Administrative Board to locate ETF permanent office there -- no rental charge.

ETF sponsored Walk of Concern thru Love Canal neighborhood.

Executive Board met with representatives of NYS agencies and elected state officials.

ETF accepted invitation to become member of Love Canal On-Site Task Force.

Encouraged letter writing campaign to government officials to inform them of the ETF's existence and goals.

Established communications with residents, helping agencies and as many WNY congregations as possible.

Conducted several bus tours of Love Canal neighborhood for out-of-state church groups.

July, 1979

N.Y. Governor Carey gave final approval to bills allowing partial property tax exemptions for Love Canal area property owners.

Remedial construction's tile drainage system became blocked preventing free flow of leachate through system for detoxification at on-site treatment facility.

Panel of federal experts including representatives of HEW (HHS) and EPA concluded that the "population in the Love Canal area has suffered certain adverse health effects as a consequence of exposure to a chemically contaminated environment."

July, 1979

*ETF provided counseling and aid to residents - sometimes by referral, sometimes directly.*

*ETF received contributions totalling \$6,775. from local and national sources. Also recorded \$5,450. in local in-kind contributions through first half of month.*

*We welcomed Sister Margeen on July 23, and introduced her to community the next evening where the speaker was the Rev. Dr. Paul McCleary, CWS Executive Director.*

August, 1979

Additional blockage occurred in tile drainage system around canal.

Dioxin confirmed in southern section of canal and reportedly present in Black Creek (north of canal's northern terminus).

Late in month, residents began to leave neighborhood because of severe chemical fumes in area. Under provisions established by court, N.Y.S. was required to pay food and lodging for 48 hours for family if any member's illness was believed causally linked to remedial construction. At end of 48 hours, family was expected to provide N.Y.S. with verification from physician that illness could be causally related to canal work to receive continued payment. Family then was permitted to remain away from home for one week. However, physician statements were rejected in virtually all cases because physicians' wording was unacceptable to N.Y.S.

Ultimately, 130 families evacuated.

Dr. James Dunlop, Niagara Falls School physician, recommended closing 93rd Street School (second area School) as a precaution against exposing children to chemicals determined to be present on and near school property; Board of Education accepted Dr. Dunlop's recommendation.

August, 1979

ETF moved into permanent office at Wesley United Methodist in Love Canal neighborhood, one year after declaration of state and federal emergency.

Staff hired:

Barbara Hanna, Receptionist  
Elizabeth Watts, Executive Secretary  
Donna Ogg, Administrative Assistant

Executive Board accepted Donna Ogg's resignation from Board and Rev. Bruce Stearns, Pastor of Wesley United Methodist, added to ETF Executive Board.

ETF staff and volunteers began to spend many hours counseling temporarily evacuated residents at motels when longer term evacuation caused its own set of problems.

August 29, 1979

ETF received request from N.Y.S. On-Site Coordinator to find housing for temporarily relocated residents for Labor Day weekend, since local motels had previous registrations to honor. ETF also requested to counsel residents in motels to "keep the lid on."

ETF secured temporary housing to accommodate up to 300 residents for Labor Day weekend.

Residents staying at motel informed ETF they would go to Stella Niagara Education Park (a Sisters' of St. Francis provincialate and elementary school in nearby Lewiston, N.Y.) for weekend, provided they were assured of returning to motels rather than being forced to return to contaminated neighborhood. On-Site Coordinator agreed to put assurance in writing to ETF at residents' request.

August 31, 1979

N.Y.S. employees left town for holiday weekend. Red Cross, United Way counselors and ETF left behind to facilitate residents' registration and all weekend questions and problems at Stella Niagara.

September 3, 1979

ETF sponsored picnic for Love Canal residents at Stella Niagara.

September 4, 1979

Former N.Y.S. On-Site Coordinator recalled to Love Canal to assist with mounting temporary relocation problems.

N.Y.S. Senator John Daly and Assemblyman Matthew Murphy, representing Love Canal area, urged governor to purchase at full market value the home of any resident wishing to leave canal area. Also challenged Federal government for "callous disregard" for residents and asked that Federal government relocate residents of LaSalle

September 4, 1979 Development, a Federal housing project in the  
Cond't. neighborhood.

Approximately 200 persons relocated to Stella  
Niagara and elsewhere during holiday weekend.

N.Y.S. relocation officials insisted upon receipt  
of medical statements from residents to continue  
temporary relocation, but no medical form  
acceptable to N.Y.S. was available.

September 4, 1979 *ETF requested 2 week extension of temporary  
relocation to have time to develop medical form  
acceptable to both N.Y.S. and local physicians.*

*ETF Board officially adopted stance calling for  
N.Y.S. permanent relocation of Love Canal homes  
which are believed to be contaminated.*

September 5, 1979 *ETF Board and Staff negotiated for more than  
10 hours with N.Y.S. officials to:*

- 1. Return Love Canal residents to motels, as  
promised, and to permit school to be at  
Stella Niagara.*
- 2. Work with ETF to develop medical forms.*
- 3. Consider physical and mental health of  
residents in all decisions and to cease  
subjecting them to intense suffering through  
bureaucratic ineptitude.*

September 6, 1979 *Just past midnight, N.Y.S. began to process Love  
Canal residents' registrations to allow them to  
return to motels from Stella Niagara, with no  
N.Y.S. decision about how long they could remain  
at motels.*

*Small children were included in group of people  
who awaited that decision. Two women collapsed  
and were taken by ambulance to hospital for  
treatment. Another had required medical treat-  
ment during previous afternoon and numerous other  
individuals had become extremely upset emotionally.*

September 6, 1979 *ETF received N.Y.S. agreement to work on medical  
form.*

September 7, 1979 *ETF received medical form agreed to be acceptable  
to N.Y.S. and local physicians. By now (Friday)  
119 families had left canal area. Extension was  
granted by N.Y.S. until Tuesday, 11:00 A.M., to  
secure signed medical statements allowing residents  
to remain away from canal area.*

- September 9, 1979 ETF Board and Staff worked through weekend to find physicians willing to go to motels to examine residents to verify continued illness.
- A Buffalo psychiatrist began examination of residents at motels, free of charge. ETF provided assistance to him. By late that evening approximately 80 persons had received signed medical forms - agreed to be acceptable to N.Y.S. two days earlier.
- September 10, 1979 ETF Staff found note tucked under office door indicating that N.Y.S.D.O.H. had decided medical forms were not acceptable and supplying alternate form.
- Deadline for submission of forms remained September 11 at 11:00 A.M.
- Two Buffalo psychiatrists began examining and re-examining residents in attempt to comply with September 11 deadline only to discover error in N.Y.S. form which permitted relocation of "illness" rather than "person". One physician gave up in disgust. The other continued to work until 112 families had received certification of illness.
- September 11, 1979 ETF presented 113 medical forms to N.Y.S. officials 2½ hours before deadline. All requirements of Spring court order had been fulfilled.
- ETF Board accepted resignation of Rev. Dr. Andrew Kennedy, Unitarian Universalist, because of transfer.
- ETF Board added Rev. Joseph Power, O.S.F.S., Stella Niagara Center of Renewal and Mr. G. Thomas Martin, Unitarian Universalist representative, to Board.
- At 4:00 P.M., ETF was advised that N.Y.S.D.O.H. had rejected 112 medical forms (all describing illness as "acute depression"), because N.Y.S. had never had a mental health epidemic. (See June, 1980)
- At the same time, Dr. David Axelrod, Commissioner of Health for N.Y.S., accused ETF and physicians of having acted in bad faith.
- September 11, 1979 Residents in motels were told they would be required to return to Love Canal homes on September 12.
- September 12, 1979 Residents refused to return to homes.
- September 13, 1979 ETF and United Way counselors assisted Red Cross who established "disaster headquarters" at St. Paul's United Methodist, Niagara Falls, to house again uprooted Love Canal victims.

- September 12, 1979 Mid-evening N.Y.S. announcement of compliance with court order secured by Love Canal Homeowners' Association to allow residents to return to motels. Justice Stiller also allowed one week for residents to secure another medical form.
- Also in  
September, 1979 Burglaries occurred at vacated Love Canal homes raising fears of some who remained in canal area about wisdom of temporarily relocating.
- Team of federal doctors indicated readiness to assist with health examinations to verify illness and possible causal relationship to remedial construction. Dr. David Axelrod indicated that N.Y.S. would not accept signatures unless physicians were certified by N.Y.S.
- Local physicians began to sign medical forms for their temporarily relocated patients now that such form existed.
- October 10, 1979 Remedial construction completed on southern sector of canal.
- October 12, 1979 Dr. Janette Sherman, EPA Toxic Substances Advisory Committee, "strongly urged" relocation of Love Canal residents "as soon as possible".
- October 14, 1979 U.S. House Commerce Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigation report criticized N.Y.S.'s handling of canal matters and supported Dr. Paigen's suggestion that additional families be moved.
- October 25, 1979 *Public Policy Committee of N.Y.S. Catholic Conference appealed to Governor Carey at ETF behest.*
- October 26, 1979 State officials announced plans to purchase homes in Love Canal neighborhood at Fair Market Value and indicated that option to leave would be open to anyone in neighborhood desiring to do so.
- November 1, 1979 N.Y.S. Legislature passed Murphy/Daly bill providing \$5 million for "stabilization and revitalization" of Love Canal area. Bill included provision for establishment of an "authority" to purchase homes and design future use of the neighborhood.
- Note: N.Y.S. Council of Churches lobbied for passage of bill at ETF request.*
- November 7, 1979 Remedial construction on central and northern sectors of canal completed. N.Y.S. indicated that funds for temporary relocation would stop on November 8.

- November 8, 1979 Many families evicted from motels assisted by ETF in securing alternate housing, but many others returned to homes. Food and counselling provided by ETF at Wesley United Methodist for evicted persons.
- November 10, 1979 N.Y.S. confirmed presence of dioxin in Black Creek.
- November 14, 1979 EPA air sampling in Love Canal area begun.
- November 14, 1979 ETF office moved from Love Canal area because of "responsibility to protect staff and volunteers from any adverse health effects caused by unnecessary proximity to Love Canal". New office located in Madonna building of Niagara Catholic High School - no rental charge.
- November 17, 1979 Niagara Falls' Mayor Michael O'Laughlin named to chair task force to establish the "stabilization and revitalization authority."
- November 28, 1979 EPA scientists returned to Love Canal to re-sample ambient air in homes.
- November 30, 1979 First meeting of Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force chaired by Mayor O'Laughlin Group will ask for appraisal of Love Canal homes.
- Also in November, 1979 ETF formally designates Attorney Barbara Morrison as legal counsel to task force.
- ETF assisted Alfred University's School of Allied Health Services, Dean Robert Love, in arranging for university taping of documentary entitled "Love Canal: A Community Under Stress".
- Various resolutions adopted by religious organizations supporting ETF's call for permanent relocation of Love Canal residents.
- Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier (note change of name) adopts By-Laws.
- Additional persons added to ETF Executive Board included Rev. Robert Grimm (Buffalo and N.Y.S. Council of Churches), Rev. Donald Lawrence (American Baptist Churches of Niagara Frontier), Rev. Guy Peek (Episcopal Diocese of W.N.Y.).
- ETF representatives continued to provide presentations re Love Canal at request of congregations.
- ETF continued to advocate for renters lest they be overlooked in negotiations and decisions.

- November 1979  
Cont'd.      ETF arranged for N.Y.S. Senator John Daly to meet with residents who wish to remain in neighborhood for purpose of answering their questions - meeting chaired by Rev. Dr. Moore at Wesley United Methodist Church.
- December, 1979      U.S. Justice Department suit for \$197.5 million against Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corporation filed.
- Appraisals of Love Canal homes to be conducted in January.
- Nearly 450 homeowners requested appraisals.
- December, 1979      ETF received grant proposal request from Environmental Defense Fund for health testing to be conducted on Love Canal residents.
- ETF attempted to secure apartment buildings for long term temporary relocation for residents who cannot return to homes while awaiting state action on permanent relocation.
- ETF established close communications with Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force.
- ETF sent letter to Dr. Axelrod requesting information re charges of N.Y.S. harassment of Dr. Paigen for her Love Canal activities.
- January, 1980      Home appraisals begun.
- January, 1980      Letter sent to Roswell Park Board of Visitors indicating ETF opinion that Dr. Paigen's assistance at Love Canal has been valuable public service.
- ETF gave tentative endorsement to EDF grant proposal and sent on to CWS for possible funding.
- February, 1980      ETF sponsored Public Forum to attempt to answer residents' questions re stabilization and revitalization.
- Added Sister Joan Malone, O.S.F. to Board.
- ETF responded to public request from Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force for priority list of residents who should have homes bought. After lists were submitted to ETF by residents' groups, ETF sent priority list to Mayor and Task Force.



March, 1980

N.Y.S. indicated unwillingness to be part of "authority" to purchase Love Canal homes and consider neighborhood revitalization.

County of Niagara also indicated hesitation to join "authority".

These actions stalled forward movement on purchase of Love Canal homes.

March, 1980

Sister Margeen, Roger Cook, Sister Joan, Barbara Morrison of ETF and representatives of Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility met with Occidental Petroleum attorneys in New York City.

ETF Board had day-long evaluation with H. McKinley Coffman, CWS consultant to ETF, assisting in process.

ETF continued presentations to church groups and visiting denominational representatives.

ETF began development of volunteer advocate program.

ETF continued to express concern to all government officials for suffering of people.

Technical advisory group to ETF will be established comprising both locally and nationally recognized experts.

April, 1980

ETF advocated very strongly and in great depth for Niagara County Legislature's participation on Stabilization and Revitalization Authority.

We received major assistance in this from the Very Rev. Edward D. Head, Bishop of Diocese of Buffalo.

ETF representatives attended meeting with Peace and Justice Commission, Diocese of Buffalo.

ETF Volunteer Advocate Training provided by Nancy Freye, CRWRC.

Presentations by ETF to church groups continued.

April 29, 1980

Niagara County Legislature reached decision not to participate on Stabilization and Revitalization Agency, thereby potentially impairing that group's ability to function.

[Note: ETF advocacy had positive though insufficient impact on final decision.]

May 1, 1980

Sister Margeen attended World Council of Churches consultation at Gallneukirchen, Austria. She was one of only 25 persons from 17 different countries invited to attend.

Sister Margeen returned from Gallneukirchen with a Statement of Solidarity [see Appendix] signed by all but one participant to the WCC Consultation. The single individual who did not sign statement could not do so for political reasons.

ETF Annual Meeting included election of officers, approval of 1980-1981 budget, and decision to continue ETF response for another year, since serious need for interfaith response continues.

ETF sponsored Conference on Toxic Wastes for interfaith community called "What Is the Moral Thing To Do?" Keynote speaker for the conference was Father William O'Connell, CWS consultant to the ETF. Other representatives from industry, the interfaith community, the field of science, and government officials participated.

May 17, 1980

The EPA released during simultaneous press conferences in Niagara Falls and Washington, D.C., chromosome study contracted by EPA to Dr. Dante Picciano, Biogenics Laboratory, Houston, Texas. The results released that day indicated significant damage to the chromosomes in the blood of a number of Love Canal residents.

That announcement catapulted the Love Canal story into the front pages and TV screens of America once again. Picciano study's validity challenged later by other government experts.

May 17, 1980

Telegram sent from ETF to President Jimmy Carter requesting federal disaster declaration in view of EPA announcement of "chromosomal aberrations" among 11 of 36 residents tested.

May 19, 1980

ETF again contacted President Carter and Governor Carey requesting that they take whatever steps necessary to produce a federal declaration of disaster due to the "unbearable anguish and emotional strain" on residents caused by the continuing "inhuman response" of government.

The EPA announcement's adverse impact on the mental health of residents was area of major concern to ETF. ETF sent professional pastoral counselors, social workers and volunteer advocates to assist residents in meeting the crisis.

ETF received request via U.S. Congressman LaFalce's office from Gene Eidenberg, White House aide, to submit a plan for coordinating expected relocation effort among local social service agencies.

- May 19, 1980 Members of Love Canal Homeowners' Association held 2 federal EPA officials hostage at Association office in Love Canal neighborhood for several hours.
- May 19, 1980 Homeowners' Association requested ETF to send clergy to counsel residents in extremely distraught frames of mind earlier that day. Board members remained available throughout day in and near Association office.
- May 21, 1980 President Jimmy Carter declared the area between 93rd. and 103rd. Streets and Bergholtz Creek, and Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, a Federal Emergency area.
- Residents of the area were offered temporary relocation with federal funds to be administered by N.Y.S. officials.
- May, 1980 The ETF cooperated with the United Way Outreach counselors in offering referral, counseling and rumor-control services to residents.
- Rev. Douglas Behm representing Niagara Council of Churches added to ETF Board.
- ETF, Catholic Charities and 4 residents' groups objected to elements of EPA proposed health testing and indicated that none would encourage residents to participate unless major changes occurred in protocol for testing and until permanent relocation became possible.
- June, 1980 Sister Margeen appeared with Hillis and Sandonato families, residents of Love Canal, on nationally televised "Good Morning, America" program for discussion of severe psychological problems associated with stress upon residents and their families.
- Sister Margeen, Mayor O'Laughlin and leaders of several residents' groups invited to EPA/federal agencies meeting in Washington.
- ETF representatives began attending Federal Coordinating Officer and State Coordinating Officer meetings weekly.
- Sister Margeen assisted in producing a 10 minute segment for NBC Nightly News detailing the problems faced by one woman suffering severe mental anguish in conjunction with stresses of living in a chemically contaminated neighborhood.

June, 1980

ETF arranged meeting with federal personnel and local Board of Realtors and continued to host meetings of local service agencies to discuss problems, concerns, and responses to the crisis.

ETF supported "Right to Know" legislation with WVN Council on Occupational Safety and Health pending in N.Y. Senate and Assembly with letters to 41 daily newspapers and all legislators. Bill was passed before Legislature adjourned.

June, 1980

N.Y. Legislature passed bill creating Industrial Development Agency to replace proposed Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force. Still only \$5 million available to them with additional \$15 - \$20 projected need.

N.Y. Governor Carey submitted plan including permanent relocation to White House.

The Governor and Dr. Axelrod are in agreement that a "mental health emergency" now exists in the Love Canal area.

June, 1980

ETF remained in daily contact with many residents, service agencies, and government officials.

ETF received notice of incorporation after lengthy delay reportedly stemming from advocacy nature of ETF activities.

Father William O'Connell, in brief visit, indicated that ETF should:

1. Clearly define its relationship to CWS to insure ongoing assistance and consultation.
2. Provide for debriefing of Board and Staff.
3. Indicate in writing the purpose of Board and manner in which it can remain viable rather than becoming entangled merely in responding to inaction of government agencies.

July, 1980

Federal Relocation Task Force has been established to prepare "package" of available programs for Love Canal residents.

Plans for environmental and health tests performed by/for federal government continue to be made and discussed.

July, 1980  
Cont'd.

Agency for Stabilization and Revitalization  
named 3 persons to represent residents:

Rev. Leotis Belk  
Mr. John Lynch, CSW  
Mr. William Waggoner

and have chosen Mayor Michael O'Laughlin as chairman.

*[Note: Mr. Lynch is Niagara County Director of Catholic Charities and Treasurer of the ETF.]*

Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia held educational meeting re chromosome study for Love Canal residents. Intense stress of residents showed in unorderly, vocal displays at meeting.

Javits/Moynihan Amendment to Supplemental Appropriations Bill approved by Congress. Entire bill signed by President Carter. The amendment allows the President as much leeway as necessary to implement permanent relocation of residents. (As this goes to press, there is no indication about whether President does or does not intend to implement.)

July, 1980

*Betty Watts assumes full-time secretarial position and Barbara Hanna accepts part-time administrative assistant position for ETF.*

*ETF advocated in depth and at length for full use of FEMA authority. It is ETF contention that "regulations" can and must be changed to address problems associated with Love Canal.*

*Experts continued to respond positively to ETF invitations to form our Scientific Advisory Board.*

*ETF strongly supports Presidential implementation of Javits/Moynihan Amendment.*

*ETF assisted, as possible, N.Y. Assembly Task Force investigating alleged Army dumping at Love Canal.*

*ETF and United Way Outreach counselors staff a Drop-In Center daily at Wesley United Methodist.*

*Rev. Donald S. Brown added to ETF Board.*

*ETF Report from March, 1979 through July, 1980 prepared and readied for distribution to members, funding sources, friends.*

LOVE CANAL RESIDENTS SPEAK

--- Know that I am with you  
always ; yes , to the end of time

Matthew 28:20

THANK YOU TO WESTERN NEW YORK

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY

I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord,  
and he heard me.

- Jonah 2:2

I wish to thank you, the many people of the Western New York Churches "For hearing our cries, for coming over to help."

For so long we, the people of the Love Canal area, have cried out in darkness it seems. But now a light is in our midst. A light so powerful that it will not go out.

Our cry is not only for the people of Love Canal, New York, but for our Country because Love Canal's are all over. Are we not people, the same all over? Yes, we are the first, but we will not be the last.

So we must cry out the loudest, to be heard by all.

The names, the people, you know who you are.

My heart is lighter for your support, your love, your prayers, your voice.

With this voice, we will be out of this man-made chemical horror. There may be scars with us wherever we go. For our children and their children may know the scars as well, but there is hope, for you have seen our tears. God has blessed us already with people like the ones I met Tuesday, March 13, 1979 at Wesley United Methodist Church.

That Church and the chemicals are outside the State's fence, but God is inside and outside, and His will, will be done.

Mrs. Ann Hillis  
Love Canal Resident  
March 15, 1979

*"Ethics is responsibility without limit  
towards all that lives."*

- Albert Schweitzer

## PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF RESIDENT AND SENATOR'S RESPONSE

My name is Ann Hillis. My testimony today, before the New York Standing Committees, is basically the same testimony I gave in Washington on March 28, 1979 before Senate Subcommittees on Environmental Pollution and Resource Protection. Mr. James Clark and I testified before the Subcommittees chaired by Senator Edmund S. Muskie and Senator John C. Culver. The day we testified was the same day that the Three Mile Island Nuclear accident occurred.

I have been honored by Senator Muskie quoting from my testimony in a speech on April 2, 1979 in Boston, Massachusetts before the American Society of Civil Engineers. Senator Muskie said:

"Until recently, this nation's attitude toward hazardous chemicals has been 'out of sight, out of mind'. We are paying a price for that philosophy. Poisonous chemicals buried years ago are oozing back to the earth's surface at an alarming rate--in every region of the country. Names like 'Love Canal', 'Valley of the Drums', and 'Toone, Tennessee', have become synonymous with pain, suffering and the shabby management of industrial waste.

"In the Senate last week, we held hearings on some of these incidents. Witnesses presented sad commentaries on just how tragic lives can be when living near seeping chemicals. One woman who has lived by Love Canal for more than 13 years testified. Her account was dramatic and penetrating. Occasionally it is useful to recount personal testimony, because it illustrates the real human damage that occurs from unsafe practices. Let me share with you some excerpts from her story:

My name is Ann Hillis. I am a wife, a mother. I live in Niagara Falls, New York. I also live close to a "dump". A dump called Love Canal. I don't want to live there anymore. I hate Love Canal; I hate my life at Love Canal. It's a strange life that I lead now, it is filled with disruption, frustrations, sleepless nights and a grip of fear that only those in similar situations can understand...We've lived in the home for 13 1/2 years. We lost a child there. My 10-year-old son went to 99th Street School, as did other children in the neighborhood. Some of those children are gone now after the August, 1978 emergency was declared by... President Carter.

I want to tell you about my son. As I said before, he's 10. He's a bright boy; he has a 91 average in school. As a baby he never required much sleep; he was put on a sedative at about age 7 months to about 18 months; he developed rashes, frequent bouts of diarrhea and respiratory problems--always respiratory problems...When we became aware of Love Canal, my son went into a depression, withdrawing from the



school and his mother and father; he begged to leave;...  
I promised, we would leave soon!...

One night last winter I got up to go to the bathroom--I looked in on him, his bed was empty. I looked all over, it was 2:00 a.m. I heard a cry from under the couch, my son was under there with his knees drawn up to his chin, crying. I asked him to come out, and what was wrong. His reply, "I want to die, I don't want to live here anymore--I know you will be sick again and I'll be sick again."

"That was powerful testimony. Cases like this have taught us an important point. We have learned the hard way, that like nuclear waste, we have never really disposed of hazardous chemicals--we have only stored them. Our new awareness of the hazards of poisonous chemicals in the environment has taught us that the threat of contamination will only disappear when the waste itself becomes harmless."

\* \* \*

Further quotes from Senator Muskie:

... "No longer is the Federal Treasury an easy piggy bank to be cracked open whenever people are threatened by pollution. The doer of the harm must be the payer of the bill. Industry will have to abide by a "cradle to grave" management system of waste. There is a growing national consensus that industry should pay the cost of clean up and damages of chemical contamination."

... "Anyway we look at it, the cost of cleaning up and managing hazardous chemicals and waste will not be cheap. But then, we have already paid dearly for not managing chemical wastes in the best manner available."

... "Ten years ago, disposing of hazardous waste did not seem to be a problem. Industry was advised to bury it. Today, government has become more responsive to the safety of our citizens because we have become more sophisticated about what dangerous chemicals can do."

"It would be a shame if the nation refuses to recognize the Doctor Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde of its technological capabilities."

"It would be a shame not to recognize the legitimate government interest in public health and safety."

\* \* \*

Yes, it would be a shame--a shame to leave the people in the Love Canal area. It would be a shame to leave my family, all the other families living in that contaminated hell. It would be a shame to leave them there a moment longer.

Ann Hillis  
Love Canal Resident  
May 3, 1979

## INSIDE "LOVE CANAL" LOOKING OUT

"When you live in Hell, you have no fear of death! It's the living that you fear."

With eyes wide open, you peer out the window. The house next door looks the same--and from the outside, your own house looks the same. Up the street --down the street. Why? There is no indication of anything wrong. It's odd to see so many For Sale signs in a nice neighborhood like this. You don't see as many kids running around-- you know, all that play that little kids do! And where are the animals and pets?

Turn your eyes! Look inside now! The living room, the kitchen you once cooked so many meals in, the bedrooms - one pink, for you and your husband to share so many years of precious moments, love making, sharing feelings. One, red, white and blue for the son that came from that love.

Now, take a deep breath, look again! Glass all over the floor! Your treasurers strewn all about! What has happened here? You have not lived here for months. Your house, once your home, has been vandalized twice, three times! You don't feel any great pain at that, or even over the things that are broken and stolen! You are in a stupor!

Take another deep breath. Yes, you feel giddy; your heart races; nausea hits you. It is I, myself, that's been vandalized. Now you feel the pain. You want to scream out; you open your mouth and nothing comes out. You open the door of your house and you look up the nice street and down the nice street, and you rush to your car and you cry. Yes, your very existence has been vandalized. You look up and down the street once again; your house is noxious; their houses are noxious; the whole outside is noxious! You want to run! But where? You want to scream! But at whom? I don't want a Love Canal house; I don't want to be a Love Canal victim. But, Oh God, I am!

Ann Hillis  
Love Canal Resident  
May 10, 1980

*"No landfill can be considered forever safe,  
so in the long run their very existence is not  
acceptable."*

*- Michael Brown, Laying Waste: The  
Poisoning of America by Toxic Chemicals*

STATEMENT TO  
OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM ANNUAL MEETING\*

My name is Luella Kenny, I am a cancer research assistant at Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, New York. From July 1, 1969 to September 5, 1979 I resided at 1064 96th Street, Niagara Falls, New York, which is located approximately 0.1 mile from the northern boundary of the Love Canal. My husband and I, with our two surviving sons, were forced to abandon this residence because of the presence of toxins that had migrated from the Love Canal. Since that time we have lived a vagabond existence waiting for this problem to be resolved.

An old stream bed, which intersected with Love Canal, runs through our property. This stream bed is now filled and is part of our yard. In addition, at the back edge of our property is Black Creek which has been found by the Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Health Department to be contaminated with chemicals. Also located on our property is a storm sewer which drains the area North of the Love Canal. Large amounts of Dioxin were found where this storm sewer empties into Black Creek.

My sons spent many hours playing in the creek by this storm sewer. Our seven-year-old son died October 4, 1978 from complications that resulted from nephrosis. During the spring of 1980, EPA erected a six-foot fence in our yard and along Black Creek because of the toxic hazard.

Jon became ill on June 6th, 1978. Initially his illness was diagnosed as an allergy. However on July 1, 1978 he was diagnosed as having nephrosis. Nephrosis, in its early stages, is often masked by symptoms resembling allergies. Jon responded to treatment for nephrosis and was referred to Children's Hospital in Buffalo, New York because of the chronic nature of the disease. He had three relapses in two-and-a-half months and then developed convulsions, visual hallucinations and eventually a massive pulmonary embolism. His death was caused by a cardiac arrest, brought on by the exertion of trying to breathe.

At the time of Jon's death we had no idea that it could be linked to chemical toxicity. We requested an autopsy because we wanted to know why our son had died when we had been told all along that nephrosis was nothing to worry about. To quote the urologist at Children's Hospital, "Nephrosis is the best disease a child can have, because it can be cured." However, this same doctor was puzzled by the fact that Jon's symptoms were not typical, particularly the convulsions and his lack of response to treatment.

After Jon's death we read in the newspaper that the State of New York was going to investigate his death. It was at this time that my husband and I began to learn more about the disease. We began delving into medical journals and corresponding with leading research groups in the field of nephrosis. We were shocked to find that during the past ten

\*Favoring adoption of Corporate Responsibility Resolution

years there have been countless reports of people developing nephrosis when they were exposed to chemicals. We also did some research into Dioxin toxicity and discovered that many of Jon's autopsy findings were related to Dioxin poisoning— for example, a shrunken thymus.

Since we left our home in September, 1979, our two sons have shown a remarkable improvement. The older boy who had frequent headaches is much better, and our younger son's appetite has returned.

Dr. Beverly Paigen, from Roswell Park Memorial Institute, compiled an epidemiological study of the Love Canal area. This study clearly shows higher incidences of miscarriages, birth defects, nervous disorders and suicides to name only a few of the many illnesses that are being experienced by the residents. Many of these illnesses follow the filled-in stream beds indicating a migration of chemicals. These illnesses were even more graphically portrayed when we were living in hotels last fall. It is one thing to read the statistics, but it is something else when you have hundreds of people together under a common roof with related illnesses.

It is amazing that all of these illnesses are prefaced with the term ideopathic, that is, origin unknown. Jon's illness is referred to in medical journals as ideopathic nephrosis. Melissa Gibbs, the four-year-old daughter of the Love Canal Homeowners' Association President, was rushed to the hospital in April, 1980, when her blood platelet count dropped from a normal of 150,000 - 400,000 to 1,000. She was diagnosed as having a blood disease called I.T.P. The "I" of course, stands for ideopathic.

The following words are truer today than they were in 1776 when Thomas Paine penned them in his American Crisis#1. He wrote: "These are the times that try men's souls." Inflation has forced both individual consumers and giant corporations to reassess their "style of living". The current political unrest that exists all over the world has left us in fear of another world war.

However, we won't have to worry about the luxuries we can't afford because of inflation, and why worry about an enemy who will destroy us when we are self-destructing? We don't need sophisticated nuclear weapons; all we need is the multitude of dumps strategically placed all over the country that will insidiously destroy everything and everyone in its path.

We have the power and the ability to stop this now— before it is too late. I'm sure that our ancestors found it difficult to eliminate child labor and sweat shops. Certainly they must have felt that this would be their downfall, but history has proven that giant corporations can grow and still have concern for their employees. Now is the time to publicly exhibit what a giant we are and magnanimously lead the way in insuring a world for our grand-children and future generations.

Luella N. Kenny  
Member, ETF  
Love Canal Resident  
May 21, 1980

## ETF FINANCIAL REPORT

Truly, I say to you, as you did it  
to one of the least of these my  
brethren, you did it to me

Matthew 25:40

## GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### RATIONALE:

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you received me into your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me...  
"I tell you, indeed, whenever you did this for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me"  
- Matthew 25:35,40

Financial contributions given by individuals and organizations have been entrusted to the Ecumenical Task Force for distribution to residents of the chemically contaminated neighborhood of Love Canal, Niagara Falls, New York. It is the mandate of the ETF to dispense these gifts with the same generous spirit in which they were given and with a sense of responsibility.

### GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING NEEDS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. Need for financial aid must be causally related to residency in Love Canal area.
2. Requests for financial aid are considered only after all other resources for assistance have been exhausted.
3. Any person or persons on a fixed income, insured under Social Security or another system, but who have lost large amounts of personal property and are not able to financially compensate the loss.
4. Any person or persons (family/household) who have used available resources and are experiencing financial hardship because of added expenses caused by the Love Canal.
5. Any person or head of household who is unemployed because of disability and has little or no cash income.
6. Interest-free loans are available to resident victims to maintain a sense of dignity and to provide responsible use of ETF funds.

## PROCEDURE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

1. Ecumenical Task Force office receive referrals from Advocates, Religious Organizations, Community Agencies or Victim.
2. Interview with victim is held by Family and Neighborhood Services Coordinator and application completed.
3. Application reviewed by and confirmed by Executive Director.
4. Amounts requested up to \$500.00 will be approved by a member of the Committee on Criteria and taken to the recipient by the Advocate or paid directly to the provider of services.
5. Requests for amounts over \$500.00 are presented to the Executive Board with documentation of need by a member of the Committee on Criteria.

### COMMITTEE ON CRITERIA

Rev. James Brewster  
Mr. John A. Lynch CSW  
Mrs. Therese Mudd  
Mrs. Joann Breitsman

*"As the families are being moved, it's important to not forget them. They have been through so much worry, pressure, and fear, nor do they know what problems they will encounter in the future."*

*- Father David Lee, WNY Catholic Visitor*

## DIRECT AID GRANTS

Over the past year, the Ecumenical Task Force has assisted 22 individual families and groups representing approximately 300 families with Direct Aid Grants. These grants were given to meet needs of Love Canal Residents which could not be met through existing private or public resources.

Grants given to groups such as the Concerned Area Residents and LaSalle Development served approximately 300 families. These groups were given money for food and phone bills, and some of the 300 families benefitted from monies spent for temporary housing prior to the May 21, 1980 Emergency Declaration.

Grants given to groups totalled \$4,002.05 or an average of \$11.43 per family.

Grants given for food, phones and printing benefitted more families than any other category. These amounts are:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>#FAMILIES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AVE./FAMILY</u>
Food	9/79 - 2/80	200	\$1,598.16	\$7.99
Phone	12/79; 4/80; 6/80	300	299.98	1.00
Printing & Copying	1/80; 4/80	300	107.35	.35

Twenty-two individual families representing approximately 120 persons received grants totalling \$7,679.40. Of this total, the greatest dollar amount was spent for Medical care for four families. This figure is \$3,334.78. All 22 families received assistance for housing when relocated prior to the Emergency Declaration from September, 1979 to February, 1980.

As the crisis continues in Love Canal, more and more once productive, independent families are exhausting their financial resources and are seeking Direct Aid.

The accompanying graphs and chart show the flow of Direct Aid monies, and increase in need as the year progressed.

Interestingly, the largest single dollar category, medical, has been granted to only four (4) families. This number is low because the United Way received a grant from the State of New York which included \$28,000.00 for diagnostic testing.



This grant is administered by the Niagara Falls Chapter of the American Red Cross and is available from April 1, 1979 through October 1, 1980. To date the Red Cross has spent \$16,596.47 of the \$28,000.00 available.

Experience in the month of July 1980 indicates that the need for Direct Aid Grants is sharply increasing. The Emergency Declaration, under which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized to temporarily relocate families, does not have specific guidelines to deal with a human-made disaster.

The Emergency Declaration only empowers FEMA to temporarily relocate victims of the Love Canal disaster. This federal program is administered by the New York State Department of Transportation, with the FEMA office as the interpreting agency. As the temporary relocation continues, it is evident that families leaving their homes must bear many expenses of the move independently. Required are grants for boarding of homes for families who moved before the Emergency Declaration and moving expenses beyond the amount paid by the Emergency Declaration.

Only two (2) agencies, the Ecumenical Task Force and Catholic Charities of Niagara County offer special financial assistance aside from the assistance designated by the Emergency Declaration, to serve the human needs of the residents of Love Canal.

With the receipt of each individual grant request, alternative ways of attaining the assistance are checked prior to the grant being approved. (See Direct Aid application in Appendix.) Agencies contacted include, but are not limited to American Red Cross, United Way, Department of Social Services, SSI, and Social Security. However, most agencies are unable to assist either for financial or political reasons.

Upon request of Direct Aid, interviews are held with the victim and advocate by the Family and Neighborhood Services Coordinator, and reviewed by the Executive Director. A member of the Committee on Criteria is routinely contacted for review and approval. (See Guidelines, pages 50 to 51).

Amounts up to \$500.00 may be approved by the Executive Director. A member of the Committee on Criteria presents cases over that amount to the Executive Board.

Where it is determined to be realistic for a family to be able to repay part or all of a grant to the Ecumenical Task Force, a loan is given. Loans are assured with the recipient's signature on a promissory note. (See copy in Appendix.). Terms of repayment are mutually acceptable to the Ecumenical Task Force and the recipient. Loans are given interest free.

In the category of housing and rental, persons relocating to apartments are often granted money for security deposit. This money is repaid to the Ecumenical Task Force by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) following the processing of a voucher, as provided by the Emergency Declaration.

Diane Sheley  
Family & Neighborhood Services Coordinator

## BREAKDOWN OF DIRECT AID GRANTS

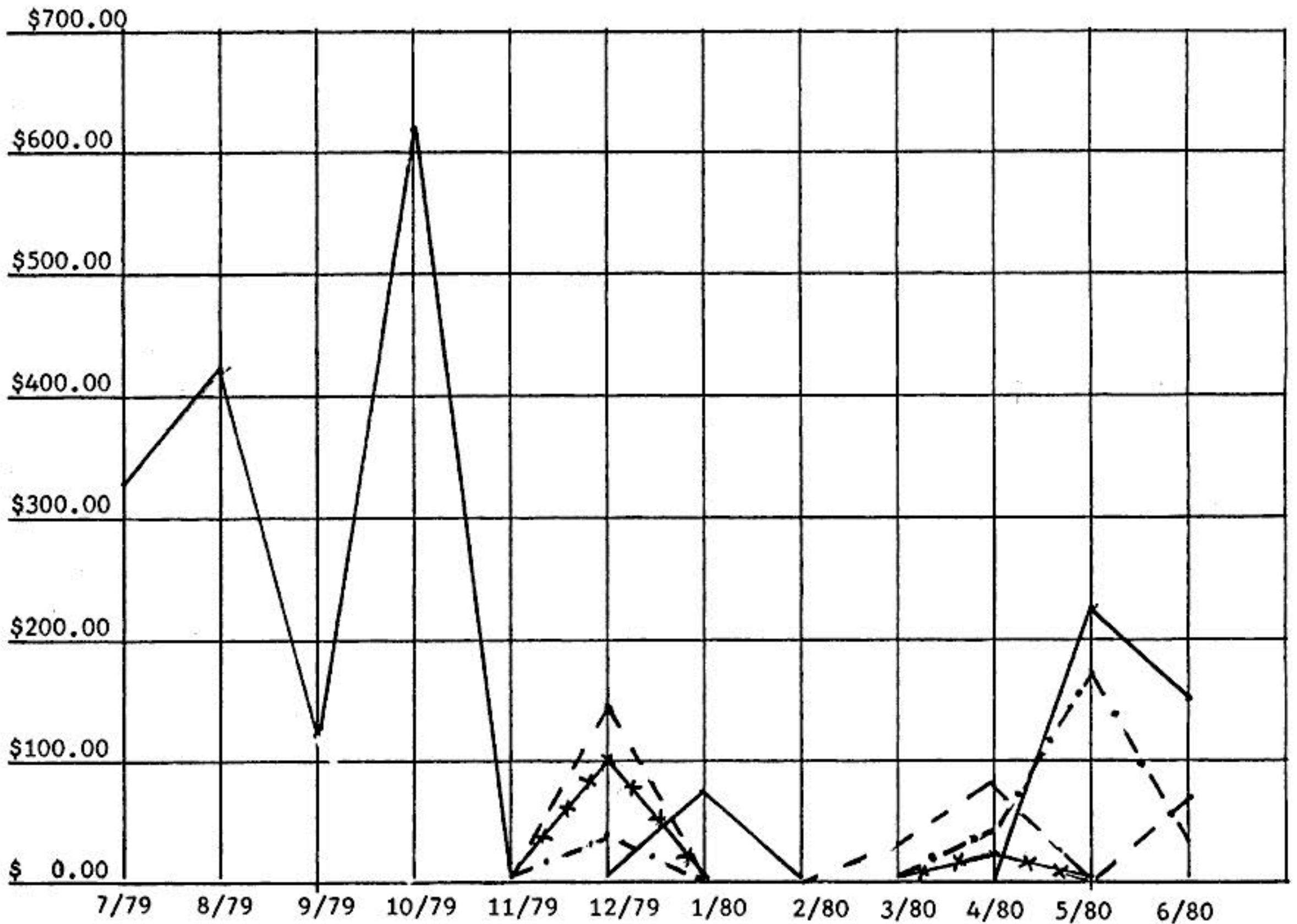
The following table represents the funding of Direct Aid grants to Love Canal Victims by the Ecumenical Task Force from July 1, 1979 through June 30, 1980.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>#FAMILIES RECEIVING GRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Medical	4	\$ 3,334.78
Rental/Housing	21	3,025.93
Transportation/Moving	10	1,976.13
Food	approx. 200	1,648.16
Utilities	4	995.06
Telephone	approx. 300	320.41
Material Assistance	4	235.15
Printing & Copying	approx. 300	107.35
Clothing	1	<u>38.48</u>
	TOTAL	\$11,681.45

*"The personal, emotional and economic consequences of exposure to toxic substances must be addressed."*

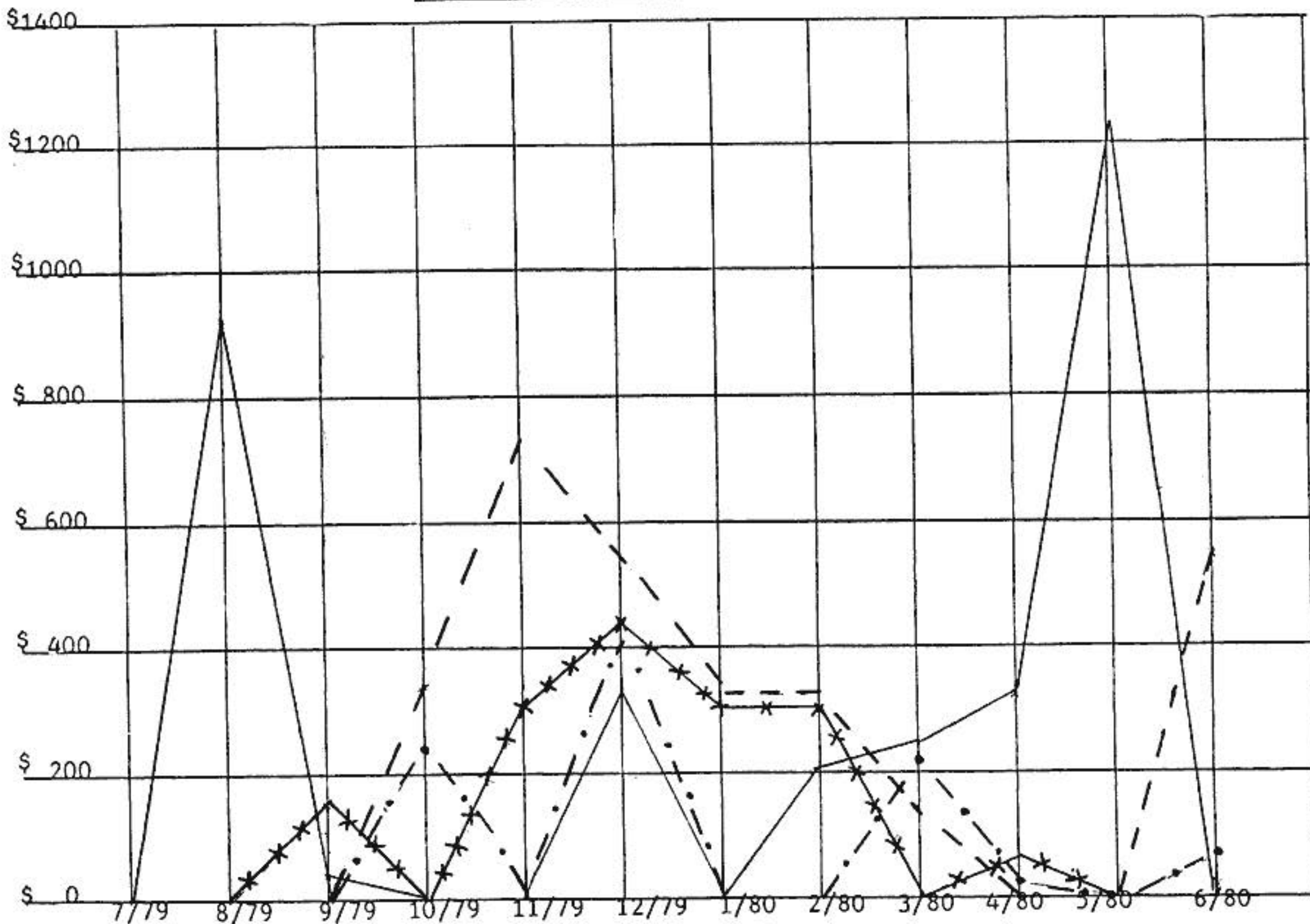
*- The Ginsberg Report*

CATEGORICAL DIRECT AID DISTRIBUTION



Key: Transportation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone - - - - -  
 Material Asst. - . - . -  
 Printing & Copying \* \* \*

### CATEGORICAL DIRECT AID DISTRIBUTION



Key: Medical   
 Food

Utilities   
 Rental Housing

# ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER

## STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD April 1, 1979 TO March 31, 1980

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>IN-KIND SERVICE</u>
National church organizations	\$63,000.00	\$51,380.14	
Local denominational contributions	3,500.00	4,500.00	
Local churches & organizations	3,000.00	2,590.39	\$16,036.00
Individuals & service organizations	500.00	755.11	425.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>	<b>\$59,225.64</b>	<b>\$16,461.00</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS

### TOTALS

#### ADMINISTRATION

##### Executive Director

Salary	20,000.00	13,871.81	
Auto allowance	1,500.00	---	

**TOTAL DIRECTOR** 21,500.00 13,871.81

##### Executive Assistant (Part-time)

Salary	6,474.00	4,316.00	
Payroll Taxes	1,026.00	684.00	

**TOTAL EXEC. ASS'T** 7,500.00 5,000.00

##### Administrative Assistant (Part-time)

Salary	3,673.60	1,082.76	
Payroll Taxes	326.40	83.90	

**TOTAL ADM. ASS'T** 4,000.00 1,166.66

##### Executive Staff Secretary (Part-time)

Salary	3,673.60	2,319.80	2,764.44
Payroll Taxes	326.40	193.00	237.49

**TOTAL EXEC. SEC'Y,** 4,000.00 3,001.93

##### Travel, Workers' Expense

Mileage and Auto	600.00	---	
Meals	100.00		
Air Fares	3,800.00	2,105.00	
Room and Board	1,500.00	100.00	

**TOTAL TRAVEL EXPENSE** 5,000.00 2,225.00

**TOTAL ADMINISTRATION** \$42,000.00 \$24,776.27

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
<u>OFFICE</u>			
Telephone	\$2,400.00	\$2,071.51	
Office Rental	2,400.00	---	
Supplies	1,200.00	764.37	
Equipment Purchase	700.00	599.00	
Equipment Rental	1,700.00	1,739.27	
Utilities	820.00	---	
Disability Insurance	180.00	64.19	
Subscriptions, Publications, Printing, Publicity	800.00	1,445.79	
Postage	2,000.00	285.77	
Petty Cash	700.00	625.00	
<b>TOTAL OFFICE</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>		<b>\$7,594.90</b>

DIRECT AID

Medical	3,500.00	1,765.00	
Food	500.00	1,598.16	
Rental/Housing	1,500.00	2,475.93	
Transportation & Moving	6,000.00	1,595.68	
Telephone	1,000.00	162.16	
Utilities	1,000.00	885.16	
Material Assistance	800.00	16.05	
Clothing	500.00	38.48	
Printing & Copying	200.00	100.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT AID</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>		<b>\$8,636.62*</b>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>			<b>\$41,496.92</b>
<b>BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 1980</b>			<b>\$17,728.72</b>

NOTE: The budget was set up on a twelve month period; the salary for the Exec. Secretary started in April 1979; the salaries for the Director and other staff members started August, 1979.

\* April, May, June 1980 expenditures for Direct Aid raise the total to \$11,681.45 as reflected in the Direct Aid Report and Charts.

CONTRIBUTIONS  
THROUGH MARCH 1980

NAME OF GROUP	AMOUNT PROVIDED TASK FORCE	
	CASH RECEIVED TO DATE	IN-KIND SERVICES
American Baptist Church	\$12,700.00	
Catholic Charities-Diocese of Buffalo	1,000.00	\$7,666.00
Campaign for Human Development-Diocese of Buffalo	2,500.00	
Christian Church (Disciples)	3,100.00	
Church of the Brethren	1,000.00	
Church World Service	3,000.00	
East Aurora Ministerium	150.06	
Episcopal Diocese of WNY	150.00	
Individuals	505.11	(Tops Markets) 425.00
Mennonite Disaster Services	350.00	
National Conference of Catholic Charities	2,500.00	
New York Public Interest Research Group	250.00	
Presbytery of WNY	100.00	(Rent & Personnel) \$5,150.00
Presiding Bishops Fund (Episcopal)	5,000.00	
Roman Catholic Churches	1,519.00	(\$-1/2 mo. rent) 1,207.50
Unitarian Universalist	121.33	
United Church of Christ	1,200.00	
United Methodist Church	9,080.14	(Rent & Utilities) 2,012.50
United Presbyterian Church USA	15,000.00	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$54,225.64</b>	<b>\$16,461.00</b>

ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.  
6431 Girard Ave.  
Niagara Falls New York 14304  
Telephone: (716) 283-0793/0794

ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.

APPROVED BUDGET APRIL 1, 1980 - MARCH 31, 1981

RECEIPTS

<u>National church organizations</u>	<u>\$80,000.00</u>
<u>Local Denominational contributions</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>
<u>Local churches &amp; organizations</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>
<u>Individuals &amp; service organizations</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director

<u>Salary</u>	<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>
<u>Auto Allowance</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>

TOTAL DIRECTOR \$ 21,000.00

Executive Assistant

<u>Salary (Part-time)</u>	<u>\$ 6,471.60</u>
<u>Payroll Taxes</u>	<u>1,028.40</u>

TOTAL EXEC. ASSISTANT \$ 7,500.00

Family & Neighborhood Services Coordinator

<u>Salary</u>	<u>\$ 8,626.00</u>
<u>Payroll Taxes</u>	<u>1,373.40</u>

Technical Advisory Group (Consultants, 3)

Total cost 260 hours @ \$25.00 per hour \$ 6,500.00

Administrative Assistant (Part-time)

<u>Salary</u>	<u>\$ 3,079.60</u>
<u>Payroll Taxes</u>	<u>170.40</u>

TOTAL ADM. ASSISTANT 3,250.00

Executive Staff Secretary

<u>Salary (full time)</u>	<u>\$ 6,060.90</u>
<u>Payroll Taxes</u>	<u>939.10</u>

TOTAL EXEC. SECRETARY \$ 7,000.00

TOTAL STAFF \$ 55,250.00



## APPENDICES

# First Presbyterian Church



Founded 1817

FIFTH and CAYUGA STREETS  
LEWISTON, NEW YORK 14092  
TEL. 716-754-4945

Dr. Paul L. Moore  
Pastor

February 22, 1979

## A LETTER OF CONCERN TO THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

Our Dear Friends,

The now-infamous Love Canal in the City of Niagara Falls, New York, a former burial ground for hazardous chemical wastes from a local chemical corporation has become an ecological disaster reducing a once neat, middle-class neighborhood to an uninhabitable wasteland, and rendering the residents of that poisoned place helpless victims of an environmental catastrophe. The victimization is many faceted:

- The health problems of the unfortunate dwellers of that contaminated community are frighteningly enormous. Residents suffer from a high incidence of serious illness; the number of children born defective is abnormally high, and the number of miscarriages is exceptionally high.
- In addition, Love Canal home owners suffer severe economic loss. Their chemical-saturated houses are unmarketable and are fast becoming uninsurable.
- Furthermore, these persons trapped as they are in a hazardous environment also suffer profound psychological anguish. Domestic tension painfully compounds the already desperate situation.

There is only one solution for the victimized residents of the Love Canal community--immediate evacuation.

Some families in the area immediately adjacent to the canal have already been evacuated and relocated. The State of New York has purchased their homes--thus permitting threatened families to move to presumably safer locations.

It is those people living outside the area designated "polluted" who have been deserted. It is these rejected ones for whom we are concerned and for whom we speak.

These people have been dismissed, are frustrated and feel forgotten.

The corporation responsible for the chemical wasteland refuses to accept any moral responsibility for the ecological horror of Love Canal, and will make no further reparations to the residents who remain.

The City of Niagara Falls has refused any assistance to these victimized citizens.

The State of New York has submitted to these victims a relocation plan, but the plan is limited, temporary, unjust and wholly unacceptable to those homeowners living in the immediate area.

Finally, the federal government has declined to provide any financial aid to these disaster casualties.

The remaining residents of Love Canal are outcasts--with no place to go.

Who will come to their rescue? Who will befriend these unwanted citizens?

Surely, we in the church who proclaim God's love for the outcast cannot sit idly by while innocent people suffer.

Surely we must heed the warning of Amos:

Woe to those who are at ease in Zion...Woe to those who lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music; who drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, and are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph.

Concerned Christians in the Presbyterian Church of Lawiston, New York in response to the call of the gospel to care for the outcast are calling upon the churches in Niagara County, the denominational leaders of Western New York, and the local and state Councils of Churches:

- to educate their constituents about the situation at Love Canal, and particularly about the federal government's (callous non-involvement) in this chemical disaster;
- to provide immediate financial assistance to Love Canal residents suffering from extraordinary health problems enabling them to sell their houses and relocate at once;

- to challenge the federal government to assume its full responsibility in meeting human need caused by this present ecological disaster which potentially threatens the health of the nation;
- to call upon local, state and federal governments to compel corporations to accept, henceforth, full responsibility for the neutralization of their hazardous wastes, thereby assuring that the cost is borne by all, and not solely by the local community.

As an initial step in this process, we are calling a meeting between church leaders and residents of Love Canal for Tuesday, March 13, 1979 at 7:00 p.m. at Wesley Methodist Church, Colvin Blvd., Niagara Falls, New York.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Moore  
Staff, Presbyterian Church  
Lewiston, New York

Donna Ogg

PLM:hs

A STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE LOVE CANAL,  
NIAGARA COUNTY, AND THE ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA  
FRONTIER, INC., NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

\*\*\*\*\*

We, the delegates of a consultation meeting of the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development of the World Council of Churches, Geneva, on this 10th day of May, 1980 in Gallneukirchen, Austria, affirm our solidarity with you in your cause for justice, participation in decisions which affect your physical and mental health, and your right to quality life.

- WHEREAS A 1978 declaration of a national emergency was issued by President Carter because there existed a great and immediate peril to the health to the general public residing at or near the Love Canal site as a result of exposure to toxic substances emanating from such site,
- WHEREAS A U.S. congressional report cites that "Hooker Chemical Company was aware at least as early as 1958 that children were experiencing chemical burns from substances percolating up from the Love Canal dump site, yet took no action to inform local residents of the potential hazards",
- WHEREAS There is great Human Suffering, both physical and mental, taking place among those who reside in the Love Canal area of Niagara Falls, New York,
- WHEREAS The New York State Health Department, the County of Niagara, the city of Niagara Falls, and all elected officials in the State of New York are legally obligated to protect the public health,
- WHEREAS The New York State Department of Health Laboratories were aware of the toxic and deadly nature of Love Canal soil samples as of December, 1977 but its director and state health commissioner were not willing to acknowledge the problem until six months later, and eighteen months later officially admitted a health problem existed;
- WHEREAS The State Health Department has failed to initiate studies of the long-range impact of Love Canal upon air quality, drinking water and foliage,
- WHEREAS There has been a lack of responsibility and sense of urgency for the physical and mental health of the residents on the part of elected and appointed officials to implement the Murphy-Daly bill of November, 1979 to purchase the homes of those homeowners desiring to relocate from Love Canal,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the following persons from 17 different countries on all five continents - through our commitment and involvement in church groups, peoples' movements and social organizations which have a responsibility to confront injustice, and to serve as advocate for those caught in conflict - request the Honorable Hugh L. Carey, Governor, State of New York to immediately establish policies and procedures for buying homes of those families who wish to move from the Love Canal area, and to safeguard other persons from present and future environmental contamination and public hazards in Niagara County and the State of New York.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Governor of New York State request a declaration of major disaster status for Love Canal from President Jimmy Carter,

That the New York State Legislature endorse and pass "Right To Know" legislation to protect workers' health from toxic substances,

That the President of the United States declare the Love Canal neighborhood of Niagara Falls, New York a major disaster area and provide for the permanent relocation of all who wish to leave the disaster area.

Mark W. Harrison, U.S.A.

JAAP VAN DER SAR . THE NETHERLANDS

Maule Karl, USA

Charles-Henri Foubert, IDOC International  
Rome, Italy

Monica Junga, India

G. Henk Koetsier, Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

Tong Hwan Moon, Korea

Sileshi Teshem, Ethiopia

Konta Damanik, Indonesia

Grace Eneke, Cameroon

dorami Foyrie, Australia.

Dill Foyrie : AUSTRALIA

Maria Reichl, Austria

May Marshall Clark, U.S.A.

Ambio de Leon, Philippines

Ursula Trantler / Austria

Bernadette Michel, Switzerland

Sister Margareta Hoffmann, U.S.A.

# LOVE CANAL RESOLUTION

## NIAGARA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Adopted September 28, 1979

The NIAGARA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES is sensitive to the needs of people on the Niagara Frontier. One cause of distress in our community is the problem of the man-made disaster in the LOVE CANAL area.

Therefore, because we call ourselves people of God, and have a responsibility to confront injustice, and to serve in the role of helper, care-giver and advocate for the relief of suffering of those caught in the conflict, WE, the DELEGATES of the NIAGARA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, would NOW RESOLVE to join the ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS THE LOVE CANAL DISASTER:

1. To call upon our government officials and agencies
  - A. to recognize that the Love Canal neighborhood is chemically contaminated, and therefore constitutes a danger to the health and welfare of its residents;
  - B. to declare it a "Federal Disaster Area";
  - C. to provide for the voluntary evacuation of all affected residents in the Love Canal area and to provide compensation for Love Canal related losses to all affected residents;
  - D. to provide a program of emergency assistance to the victims of the Love Canal neighborhood;
  - E. to authorize legislation which insists upon complete neutralization of toxic wastes and to take the lead in establishing regional incineration facilities for toxic wastes.
2. To ask all churches and individuals
  - A. to join the Ecumenical Task Force in advocating for the proper handling of toxic wastes;
  - B. to contribute financial resources for the direct aid of the disaster victims and for the administration of the program;
  - C. to encourage volunteers to serve on the Ecumenical Task Force;
  - D. to write state and federal legislators.



# RESOLUTION REGARDING THE LOVE CANAL DISASTER

## AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW YORK STATE

Adopted October 10, 1979  
At Rochester, N.Y.

WHEREAS, there is great human suffering taking place among those who reside in the Love Canal area of Niagara Falls, New York,

WHEREAS, we call ourselves people of God, and have a responsibility to confront injustice, and to serve in the role of helper and advocate for the relief of suffering of those caught in conflict,

THEREFORE, we the Delegates of the American Baptist Churches of New York State, would now resolve to join with the Niagara Council of Churches and the Ecumenical Task Force To Address The Love Canal Disaster:

1. To call upon our government officials and agencies
  - A. to recognize that the Love Canal neighborhood is chemically contaminated, and therefore constitutes a danger to the health and welfare of its residents;
  - B. to request a federal disaster declaration for the area;
  - C. to provide for the voluntary evacuation of all affected residents in the Love Canal area and to provide compensation for Love Canal related losses to all affected residents;
  - D. to provide a program of emergency assistance to the victims of the Love Canal neighborhood;
  - E. to authorize legislation which insists upon complete neutralization of toxic wastes and to take the lead in establishing regional incineration facilities for toxic wastes.
2. To ask all churches and individuals to write to their State and Federal Congressmen and officials regarding these concerns for the welfare of Love Canal area residents.

Approved unanimously  
10/10/79  
Rochester, N.Y.

# RESOLUTION ON THE LOVE CANAL CRISIS

## THE W.N.Y. CONFERENCE, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Adopted June 5, 1980

WHEREAS, the residents of the Love Canal continue to suffer unprecedented and unresolved physical and mental anguish due to chemical contamination, and,

WHEREAS, it is the task of the Church to participate in relieving the suffering of persons;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the W.N.Y. Conference of the United Methodist Church immediately petition the President of the United States, our U.S. Senators and Representatives and the Governor of the State of New York for a permanent and voluntary relocation of the affected residents of the Love Canal area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the W.N.Y. Conference urge the Clergy and members of its Churches to also petition said officials regarding this issue, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the W.N.Y. Conference seek the assistance of the National Board of Church and Society in effecting federal participation in resolving the Love Canal crisis.

## RESOLUTION ON THE LOVE CANAL CRISIS

### PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Adopted June, 1980

- WHEREAS, the residents of the Love Canal continue to suffer unprecedented and unresolved physical and mental anguish due to chemical contamination; and,
- WHEREAS, it is the task of the Church to participate in relieving the suffering of persons and to insure that the victims of man-made disasters receive just recompense; and
- WHEREAS, Governor Hugh Carey, Senators Jacob Javits and Daniel Moynihan, and Congressman John LaFalce have implored President Carter and Federal Agencies to immediately and permanently relocate families of the Love Canal neighborhood;
- BE IT RESOLVED, that the Public Policy Committee of the New York State Catholic Conference petition the President of the United States and Federal Agencies for a permanent and voluntary relocation of the affected residents of the Love Canal area;
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Policy Committee of the New York State Catholic Conference urge the clergy and members of the churches to also petition said officials regarding this issue; and,
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New York State Catholic Conference seek the assistance of the United States Catholic Conference, Social Development and World Peace Committee in effecting federal participation in resolving the Love Canal crisis.

# RESOLUTION

## UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A. SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST Adopted June, 1980

### BACKGROUND

The dangers of disposal of nuclear and chemical wastes have become evident in places such as the Love Canal near Niagara Falls, N.Y., Elizabeth, N.J. and West Valley, N.Y. In the late '40's and '50's, an abandoned canal at Niagara Falls, N.Y. was used to dump by-products of toxic materials and residues of powerful pesticides. Because of the clear danger, 239 families were relocated in 1978. The remaining 710 families were offered temporary relocation in the spring of 1980.

WHEREAS, the pollution of our environment has been discovered to be destructive to the welfare of human habitation;

WHEREAS, the disposal of nuclear and chemical wastes has been found to cause pollution of the environment, and

WHEREAS, at Love Canal near Niagara Falls, studies suggest that inhabitants at Love Canal have sustained miscarriages, chromosome damage, higher rates of birth defects of nerve, respiratory, liver and kidney disorders, and some cancer rates higher than inhabitants not living in Love Canal....

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Synod of the Northeast express its Christian concern for the families that have been affected by nuclear and chemical wastes, and
2. We commend the Ministries Agency of the Synod and the G.A. Office of World Relief and Emergency Resettlement for their financial support of the Ecumenical Task Force To Address The Love Canal Disaster, and
3. We urge the Program Agency of General Assembly to complete its study paper on Chemical and Nuclear Waste Disposal and consider an ongoing national study to include representatives from the Synod and the Presbyteries of the affected area, and
4. We direct the Synod's Ministries Agency to consult with those Presbyteries of the affected areas to determine appropriate action that might be taken to encourage responsible government and corporate action.

ECUMENICAL TASK FORCE OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.

GOD GIVE ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE  
THE COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS I CAN CHANGE  
AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE ONE FROM THE OTHER

St. Teresa of Avila

\*\*\*\*\*

Name of Advocate \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Request:   /  /    
Date of Payment:   /  /  

Referral (Agency, Church, Etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Need for Funding: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Approved: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Agencies Contacted \_\_\_\_\_

Love Canal Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_ Advocate \_\_\_\_\_ Executive Director

\*\*\*\*\*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Not Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reasons \_\_\_\_\_

Date:   /  /  

If approved check area to be charged below:

Medical \_\_\_ Food \_\_\_ Rental/Housing \_\_\_ Transportation \_\_\_

Utilities \_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_ Printing & Copying \_\_\_ Material Assistance \_\_\_

This payment is a: Grant \_\_\_ Loan \_\_\_

If loan, name of person signing promissory note and date

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date:   /  /

PROMISSORY NOTE

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise to repay to

The Ecumenical Task Force Of The Niagara Frontier

the sum of \_\_\_\_\_

payable in \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive \_\_\_\_\_ payments

of \_\_\_\_\_, commencing \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sister Margeen Hoffmann  
Executive Director  
Ecumenical Task Force  
Of The Niagara Frontier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

# Love Canal

The president has acted and ordered a temporary relocation for the inhabitants of the Love Canal. Further testing is to be done before a decision will be made about permanent relocation.

This was a significant step and as these families are being relocated, there are some temptations we should avoid. As the families are being moved it is important that we not forget them. They have been through so much worry, pressure and fear, nor do they know what problems they will encounter in the future. We must continue to support them with our interest, concern and prayers. They continue to need our support.

There is also the temptation to think that the problem has been solved or that it will go away. The problem is still with us and will be for a long time. Through our state and federal governments we need to plan on how we are going to confront and deal with the problem of toxic wastes. One of the problems that Love Canal families had to deal with was that no agency, social or governmental, was prepared or equipped to handle the disaster. We need a plan, a method to deal with future Love Canals.

This is a human problem, a moral problem. And as Christians we must carry out our Christian responsibility to do what we can to help those affected.

# *What's in Wasteland? Danger by Any Name*

What is in the Love Canal?

The inventory of what was dumped there 30 to 40 years ago is rather sparse. Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corp. provided the state with a list of "estimated" wastes dumped in the canal from 1942 to 1953.

Other materials in the canal have been alluded to, but little firm evidence has surfaced — there may be non-hazardous wastes from Hooker, Niagara Falls' garbage: maybe even wastes from the manufacture of nuclear and toxic World War II weapons.

The following is a list of hazardous chemicals that Hooker estimates was dumped in the Love Canal:

<b>Type of Waste</b>	<b>Estimated amount</b>
Miscellaneous acid chlorides . . . . .	400 tons
Thionylchloride . . . . .	500 tons
Miscellaneous chlorinations . . . . .	1,000 tons
Dedecyl mercaptans . . . . .	2,400 tons
Trichlorophenol . . . . .	200 tons
Benzoyl chloride . . . . .	800 tons
Metal chlorides . . . . .	400 tons
Liquid disulfides/mono-chlorotoluene . . . . .	700 tons
Benzene hexachloride . . . . .	6,900 tons
Chlorobenzenes . . . . .	2,000 tons
Benzyl chlorides . . . . .	2,400 tons
Sulfides . . . . .	2,100 tons
Miscellaneous of the above . . . . .	2,200 tons
	<b>21,800 tons</b>





Sister Margeen Hoffman

Mrs. Louella Kenny

COURIER-EXPRESS/BOB BUKATY

9/12/79

Nun offers comfort to Love Canal home owner now relocated in a Niagara Falls hotel

# Hundreds of Canal Residents Face Eviction From Hotels

By BOB DEARING

Courier-Express Niagara Falls Bureau

NIAGARA FALLS — Hundreds of Love Canal residents face eviction from four area hotels today after state officials turned thumbs-down Tuesday on their latest effort to extend their state-funded evacuation.

A last-minute effort by the Ecumenical Task Force to get medical confirmation of the residents' canal-related illnesses was labeled a "set-up" by state officials who announced only 7 of 119 medical statements would be accepted as proof that further evacuation was necessary.

## Study Medical Forms

State task force officials huddled behind closed doors Tuesday afternoon after receiving the medical forms from Ecumenical Task Force officials.

The Ecumenical Task Force, a group formed to work on behalf of the residents, arranged to have an unidentified Western New York physician examine residents and sign the state-sanctioned form which links illness to the remedial work now under way at the site. The unnamed doctor said the residents suffered from "acute depression."

Residents began leaving their homes three weeks ago after complaining that fumes from the project were causing them to become violently ill. Many com-

plained of severe headaches, respiratory problems and vomiting.

## 'Challenges Credulity'

In a prepared statement, Michael Cuddy, on-site relocation director, said the "simultaneous certification" by a single physician "challenges our credulity."

Cuddy said the physician's diagnosis of the depression cases would be rejected until qualified physicians of the State Office of Mental Health could come in to make individual clinical evaluations.

State officials said that process would begin today and that a special meeting would be held to arrange the details.

Meanwhile, Cuddy said he has informed the management of the four hotels housing the residents that the state will bear no further expense in providing their shelter.

Because the hotels were not notified until after the noon checkout time on Tuesday, however, the hotels' management had already charged the state with Tuesday night's lodgings. Residents, therefore, were able to spend one more night away.

## Four Hotels

The residents are staying at the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, Interstate 90 and Pine Avenue; Rodeway Inn, Buffalo Avenue; Castle Court Motel, Pine Avenue and John's Hotel Niagara, Rainbow Boulevard.

The seven families who will be able to stay evacuated had their illnesses confirmed by family physicians.

Meanwhile, members of the Ecumenical Task Force labeled the state's rejection statement "incorrect and libelous."

Sister Margeen Hoffmann, director of the Ecumenical Task Force, said the examinations were not simultaneous as the state had claimed and had been done in accordance with all previous state requirements.

## Services Free of Charge

She would not reveal the physician's identity, but said he had performed the service free of charge and "out of a strong sense of social conscience."

Meanwhile, an attorney for the Love Canal Homeowners' Association was seeking a last-minute order from State Supreme Court which would extend by 48 more hours the evacuation period.

Lois Gibbs, president of the Love Canal Homeowners' Association, said she has lined up several Erie County physicians willing to examine the residents but said the 48 hours would be required to have that done.

Mrs. Gibbs predicted a confrontation at the hotels today if nothing more is forthcoming from the state. She said she and most of the residents had no intentions of returning to their homes.

# Nun Is Tough in Love Canal Crisis <sup>9/12/80</sup>

By BOB DEARING

Courier-Express Niagara Falls Bureau

**NIAGARA FALLS** — The state wasn't budging on its unpopular evacuation policy last Wednesday and the 280 Love Canal residents were furious, distraught and many said ready for violence.

Many observers wondered if the tranquil stillness of the Stella Niagara Education Park in Lewiston might not be disturbed by an ugly confrontation in which someone could get hurt.

The ugliness was avoided, though, when a tall, well-dressed and forceful woman urged the residents to peacefully leave the campus and promised she would continue fighting for what they wanted.

## Nun's Role

The woman was Sister Margeen Hoffmann, a Rochester, Minn., nun who has been hired by the Ecumenical Task Force to deal with the Love Canal disaster as its executive director.

The Task Force, organized by Donna and Al Ogg of Lewiston, has played an increasingly significant role in the Love Canal saga and the addition of Sister Margeen last month may have marked a

turning point in the ultimate fate of the residents.

## Tough Negotiator

State officials have discovered in Sister Margeen a tough negotiator whose background makes her unusually adept at getting what she wants.

She belongs to the Order of St. Francis of Assisi and works on projects based on a contractual arrangement between her order and the sponsoring community agency.

She holds two advanced degrees (Master of Social Work and Master of Planning) from Boston College and spent the entire past year working with Minnesota residents facing another kind of natural disaster — the 1978 Zambro River flood in Rochester.

During that disaster, 5,000 persons had to evacuate their homes and 759 of those had to find new permanent housing.

## Worked in Boston

Sister Margeen had spent years as a consultant for social planning agencies in the Boston area and during her time there worked in specialized programs for women alcoholics, women in industry and prisoners, to name just a few,

Getting help for the residents is what she was hired for and it's what she says she plans to do.

"I know the jargon, the red tape, the bureaucratism and the governmentese," she said. "I know how to put it into the common man's language."

Sister Margeen and Mrs. Ogg spent a hectic week with state officials trying to get an extension on the residents' temporary evacuation.

## Left Homes

The residents have left their homes complaining of sickness from canafumes and many have vowed never to return.

The state's original position was that residents were to have 48 hours beginning Wednesday to get a doctor's statement or else face the prospect of moving back home.

After marathon meetings, some going into the early morning, the state relented a bit and extended the deadline to Tuesday. It wasn't the two weeks Sister Margeen had wanted, but she's now determined to round up the doctors with

NUN

Continued on Page B-3



Sister Margeen Hoffmann heads Love Canal Ecumenical Task Force

... "we're being gassed here"

## Nun Tough In Crisis

Continued from Page B-1

will be willing to sign the statement before the deadline.

Not one to mince words, Sister Margeen said the residents still living near the contaminated landfill are being "oppressed" by a cruel and heartless state. "We're Being Gassed"

"We're being gassed here," she said. "The only difference is that 40 years ago nobody had to sign any forms."

She doesn't like violence but said the residents would not be the ones to start it.

"Never in history has violence been initiated by the oppressed," she said. "Violence is always initiated by those who exploit others and don't treat them like persons."

## Disaster Expert

Her flood experience last year where she was a liaison between victims and government agencies has made her an expert in disasters.

The Love Canal, though, is unique because the effects are slow, often hidden, but just as lethal.

The worst part, she said is what it is doing to the canal children.

"The children look at their parents as a role model and they see fear and confusion," she said. "They also have a title on them as 'Love Canal kids' and now they have to endure this constant shifting motel living."

## Permanent Relocation

Permanent relocation is what she's after and she's got an open-ended contract to stay until that goal is reached.

She makes no apologies for her activism or her aggressiveness.

"Where the needs of people aren't being met, it is unchristian not to be political," she said simply.



Sam Torcasio Mrs. Janet Ecker Ralph Hillis  
Mrs. Eleanor Torcasio Lauren Torcasio Lisa Ecker Mrs. Ann Hillis  
Ralph Hillis Jr.

COURTESY EXPRESS/MIKEY OSTERREICHER

Love Canal refugees find friendship at temporary quarters for holidays

### 3 Love Canal Families

## Evacuees Share Living, Giving

By BOB DEARING

Courier-Express Niagara Falls Bureau

**NIAGARA FALLS** — When they lived in their own home near the Love Canal, the Torcasio family would exchange presents under the tree on Christmas Eve.

This year, though, it is different.

This year, the Torcasios are sharing their Christmas tree and their lives with two other families in a Stella Niagara dormitory. To accommodate the holiday traditions of the others, Sam Torcasio said he'll gladly wait until morning to open gifts.

A small sacrifice, perhaps, but it's just the sort of giving that has transformed what otherwise could have been a disastrous holiday into a season of hope, sharing and triumph.

**THE SECOND FLOOR** of "The Pottery" at Stella Niagara Education Park in Lewiston is now serving as a temporary home for Sam and Eleanor

Torcasio, Gordon and Janet Ecker, Ann and Ralph Hillis and their six children, ranging in age from 9 to 19.

Two of the couples have their own rooms but everyone else shares a giant dormitory room "furnished" with cots, closets and a 9-foot-high Christmas tree which another neighbor bought for them.

Living under such cramped conditions, starving at times for privacy and having to share the common burden of their toxic nightmare easily could have proved unbearable for many persons.

Surprisingly, however, it has all worked out rather well.

"WE'RE LIKE a commune here," said Sam Torcasio. "It's funny, but you get used to this kind of living. Everybody is going out of their way to help everyone else and it's unbelievable how well we've gotten along."

Eleanor Torcasio, admitted the pressures have proven too much sometimes and there have been instances when one person will get depressed.

"We all have our crying times," she said. "I just thank God we don't all cry at once, though. When one is down, the others get together to pick him up."

**ALL THREE FAMILIES** have suffered greatly during the Love Canal ordeal. They say they will never return to homes where, they are convinced, they contracted the numerous ailments afflicting them. Ann Hillis is persistently bothered by dizzy spells, a son suffers from asthma and she has suffered a miscarriage. The others complain of liver ailments, irregular heartbeats and persistent headaches.

The families fled their homes during the second phase of remedial construction this fall and were put up at Stella Niagara when the state stopped paying for their hotel bills five weeks ago.

The Ecumenical Task Force to Address the Love Canal Disaster, a Western New York church group which has helped hundreds of area residents, arranged for them to stay at Stella Niagara.

**LIFE FOR THE THREE** families these past 16 months has not been easy. They and other residents living near the landfill fought state-funded compensation and evacuation from what they are convinced are poisoned homes.

The state has agreed to purchase the homes of those residents wishing to leave and now it's just a matter of time before the three families will have new homes of their own.

For them, this Christmas is a time of quiet gratitude and shared hope, a Christmas at least a bit brighter than last year's when Ann Hillis said she couldn't even get up enough enthusiasm to bake or send cards.

**CHRISTMAS EVE** will be spent at midnight Mass with the Sisters of St. Francis who operate the school in the Stella Chapel. All three families hold deep affection for the nuns who have shared their school, their meals and their hearts with the guests.

After Mass, Sam plans to cook Italian sausage and bread for his new extended family and all 12 will share Christmas Day together.

"This is really a good place to be at Christmas time," said Ann Hillis. "It's humanity at its very best."

# Decision Makers Speak Out on Canal Plan

New York State decided in 1978 to contain the chemicals in Love Canal with a \$9 million clay-and-gravel trap.

The Waterloo, Ont. engineering firm of Conestoga-Rovers and Associates recommended the plan, and the state departments of Health and Environmental Conservation approved it.

Even less was known in 1978 than is known now about what exactly is in the canal and what the surrounding soil and water conditions are like. Yet a plan was then formulated that engineers now say could not last forever.

Did the politicians and engineers know what they were doing? How could they make a decision about containment when they didn't know what they were containing? Doesn't the public need to know?

Politicians, engineers and environmental activists answered these questions:

—Peter Berle, commissioner of the

state Department of Environmental Conservation, at the time the decision was made:

"We were anxious to do as much as we could right away, and it wasn't clear to us whether we had the capability to (otherwise) treat that amount of dirt. It wasn't considered to be just a quick fix.

"It was a real policy judgment. We had a certain amount of money and had to decide how much to put into hardware and a hole in the ground, and how much to put into human services and relocation.

"I don't believe we would have changed the engineering design . . . if we had had a different laundry list of chemicals.

"The question of Hooker's liability (referring to a pending state lawsuit against the chemical company) did not affect the decision we made."

—State Sen. John B. Daley, R-Lewiston:

"It was the lesser of two evils (whether to contain the chemicals or

dig up the area for further tests). Experts tell us it's much safer to contain than it is to go in and find out what's in there.

"But if the National Academy of Sciences (a quasi-governmental agency that Daly wants to oversee all Love Canal studies) says we should compile an inventory of chemicals, then we should do it."

—Steve Lester, scientific consultant with the Love Canal Homeowners Association:

"No, I don't think it's necessary to identify all the chemicals there. We have already identified so many bad chemicals that we have a basis on which to act. We already know enough to know what the risk is.

"Will we need to know for the long-range treatment? No. If there is an adequate monitoring system, the containment strategy would be OK."

—Raffin Harris, community organizer with the Washington-based Environmental Defense Fund:

"It wouldn't be productive to go in

and find out what's there. We already know there's dioxin there, and nothing could be worse than that. If we go inside, because of the mix of barrels and chemicals, we may find that one block has 80 percent benzene and 10 percent toluene, while another block has another chemical formula.

"It may be cynical to say, but the cleanup does seem to be awfully politically-motivated. In 1978, when Gov. Carey had a hot election-year campaign, he went to Love Canal and evacuated 239 families, but then they didn't see him again for another two years. Now President Carter is offering temporary relocation in an election year. If he loses New York State, he'll probably lose the election.

"We need to permanently evacuate the area and test to see if the chemicals have gone beyond the area. The reason we don't have the monitoring wells yet is they might show you the chemicals are moving into a new neighborhood. The answer to the question may be too terrible."

# Illegal transport of toxics cited

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — With the aid and precision of organized crime, authorities say, gypsy truckers are hauling toxic chemicals from factories in the mid-Atlantic and Western states and illegally dumping the hazardous waste in the woods and farmland of northern New England.

Law enforcement officials, citing lack of laws, shortage of trained investigators and bureaucratic apathy, say there is little they can do to stop the clandestine influx which has risen as states tighten their restrictions on the legal dumping of hazardous wastes.

Their trucks loaded with rusting, often leaky drums of solvents, cyanide solutions, pesticides and acids, the truckers operate with apparent impunity.

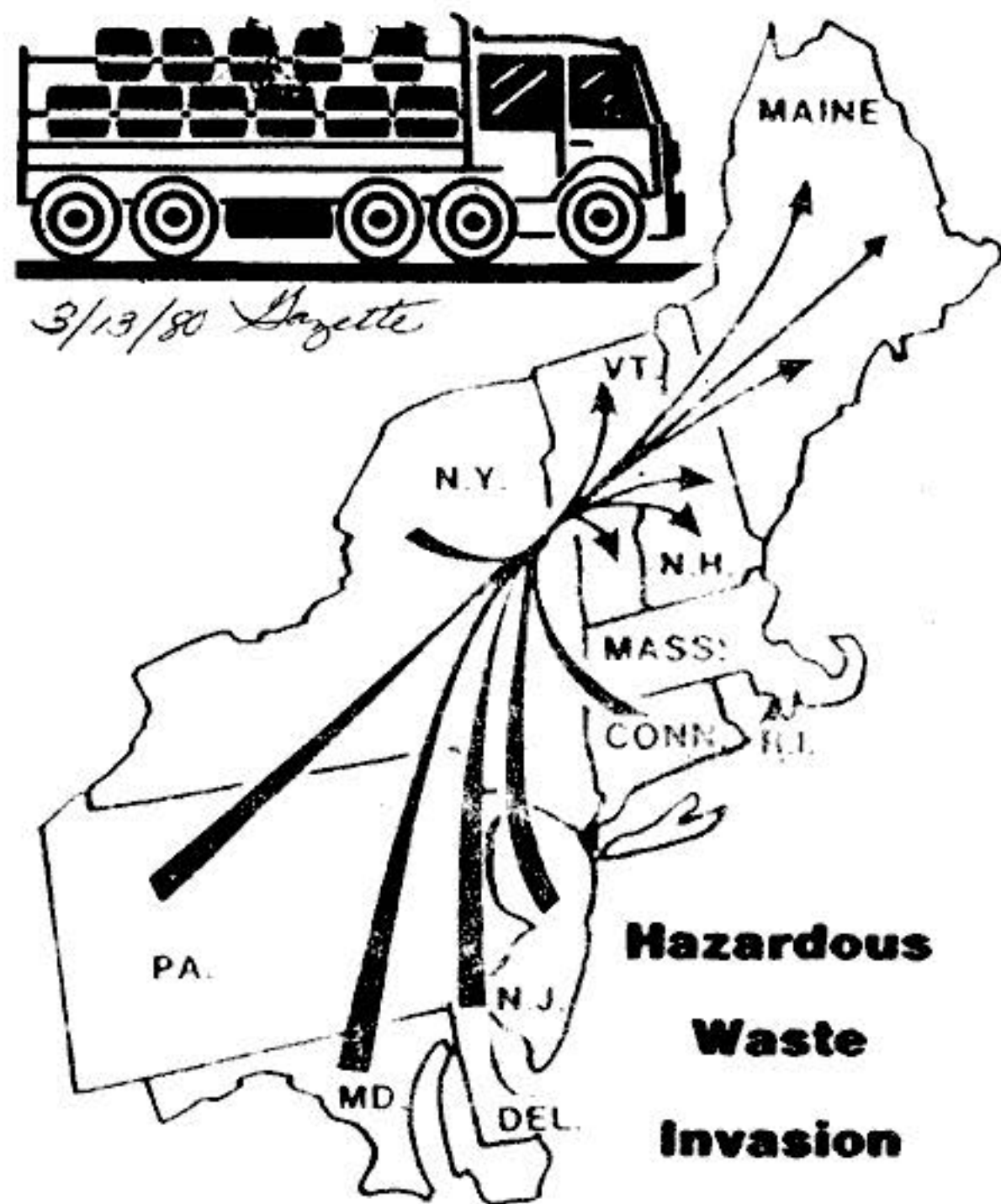
Phony company names, false shipping manifests, midnight rendezvous with guides and large cash payments describe an operation that state and federal officials in New England say they are painfully aware of.

"At times, the interstates turn into raceways with trucks

from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and other Southern states hauling hazardous waste into northern New England," says Dennis Roberts, Rhode Island's attorney general. "The word is obviously out that there are a lot of trees they can dump behind in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire."

The central figure in the operation appears to be the gypsy or independent trucker who hauls cargo on a one-time or freelance basis.

"It's clear to us that the shipping is being arranged by people with organized crime involvement," Roberts says. "Everything runs too smoothly for it to be anyone else and our intelligence confirms it."



# U.S. Hazardous Waste Overflowing

By KATHY KOCH  
Congressional Quarterly

WASHINGTON — American Industry will produce 126 billion pounds of toxic waste this year — enough to fill the mammoth New Orleans Superdome from floor to ceiling once every day.

Traditionally only 10 per cent of the nation's hazardous waste has been disposed of safely, the Environmental Protection Agency says. The rest has been dumped into unsafe municipal landfills, open pits and lagoons or left in vacant lots by disreputable "midnight dumpers."

In recent years, these residues of the chemical revolution have begun oozing from under the nation's carpet. But so far Congress has not provided EPA with a mop to clean them up.

Sources of hazardous waste, according to the EPA are chemicals and allied products 60 per cent, machinery (except electrical) 10 per cent, primary metals 8 per cent, paper and allied products 6 per cent, fabricated

metal products 4 per cent, stone, clay and glass products 3 per cent, and all others 9 per cent.

(The EPA has been criticized by some residents in Memphis during its investigations of the old Hollywood dump and the Steele Street area in Frayser.

(The agency's test results on the Hollywood dump showed "relatively high" levels of chemicals suspected as cancer-causing agents, and measures have been taken to fence about two acres of the old dump and to add fill dirt to reduce chemical runoff into the Wolf River. However, critics have called the government plans "inadequate" and branded the EPA investigation as "a band-aid operation."

(In Frayser, the EPA has ordered a chemical analysis made of deep soil samples from the Steele Street area, where residents have complained of numerous illnesses. So far, soil tests have not showed any evidence of chemical contamination, but several area residents believe their health problems are

related to chemicals buried beneath their yards and have declared their distrust of the EPA and the soil tests.)

EPA estimates there are 500 to 800 abandoned toxic chemical dumps around the country that could suddenly start leaking deadly poisons. They could threaten lives, health, property and about half the nation's drinking water.

But EPA, which is responsible for cleaning up the mess when dump site owners won't do it or can't be found, has no authority to proceed with cleanup, which could cost a staggering \$22 billion to \$44 billion.

Here are some of the worst examples of the problem:

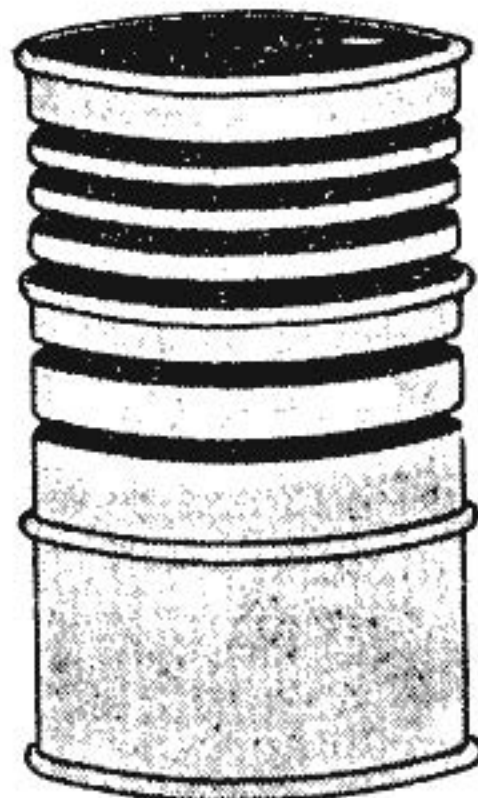
- The law doesn't allow EPA to clean out chemicals that were illegally dumped into an abandoned coal mine in Pittston, Pa., even though the chemicals have formed hydrogen cyanide gas — the material used in gas chambers.

- EPA cannot prevent 100,000 rusted barrels

(Continued on Page A8)

## Assignment: Memphis—

### U.S. Sources Of Hazardous Waste



- 9% All Others
- 3% Stone, Clay and Glass Products
- 4% Fabricated Metal Products
- 6% Paper and Allied Products
- 8% Primary Metals
- 10% Machinery (Except Electrical)
- 60% Chemicals and Allied Products

SOURCE: Environmental Protection Agency

# Toxic Waste Oozing Out From Under U.S. Carpet

(Continued from Page A1)

rets of highly toxic chemicals in the "Valley of the Drums" in Bullitt County, Ky., from leaking into the air or the ground.

• The agency's hands were tied in dealing with Love Canal near Niagara Falls, N.Y. In 1978, more than 200 families were evacuated after 82 chemicals seeped from an underground abandoned dump into basements and yards. President Carter declared the area an environmental disaster after residents complained of illnesses, miscarriages and birth defects.

Children were born with extra ears, fingers and toes and one child was born with two sets of teeth. One resident, Jim Clark, told a Senate subcommittee, "It got so bad that when someone had a kid, no one asked 'Is it a boy or a girl?' but rather 'Is it normal?'"

Deficiencies in existing laws prevented EPA from responding immediately. And now, 18 months later, EPA still does not have the authority, even though dozens of chemical emergencies have occurred since then in almost every state.

— Until Congress acts, EPA cannot move to control toxic chemicals that threaten to pollute the air or ground water. The agency can only respond to toxic chemical spills in navigable waterways.

The only way EPA can deal with hazardous waste dumps is to sue dump site owners to force cleanup. If the dump is abandoned or the owner can't afford cleanup, EPA can't act.

To solve those problems, President Carter last June proposed creation of a "superfund" that would provide \$1.6 billion for EPA to start cleaning up 400 to 500 of the most dangerous dump sites. But Congress has yet to act on the measure.

Meanwhile, the House and the Senate each

has its own bill to set up a multimillion-dollar emergency cleanup fund. The bills say that once a site has been cleaned up, the government can locate the responsible companies and make them reimburse the fund. If the company can't be found, the fund would absorb the entire cost.

In the House, a bill introduced by Rep. James J. Florio (D-N.J.) would provide \$1.3 billion for cleanup, 75 per cent of which would come from industry.

It is stalled in subcommittee, although Florio predicts he'll get a bill out this spring.

The Senate has been working on a precedent-setting superfund bill introduced by Sens. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) and John C. Culver (D-Iowa) which would be a landmark environmental law similar to the air and water pollution laws passed in the 1970s.

In addition to requiring chemical companies to provide \$500 million to clean up dump sites, it also would compensate victims of the chemical disasters. It would prohibit the release of any toxic substance into the environment and make it easier for a victim to sue a chemical company for personal and property damages caused by improper dumping of the company's wastes.

Critics say the Senate bill is so far-reaching that it is doomed this year because Congress is not in a mood to pass major environmental legislation.

Nonetheless, the chemical industry, which stands to lose billions of dollars in cleanup fees and damage suits if a measure passes, has been lobbying hard to keep the bills from going anywhere. But the public has been relatively silent.

"There's no real public momentum behind this bill," said one Senate staffer. "People always think that Love Canal is something that happens to somebody else."

## Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites

The House commerce oversight subcommittee's list of waste disposal sites was prepared from the results of a survey of the nation's 53 largest chemical companies. The subcommittee asked the companies where they had disposed of the hazardous wastes during the past 30 years. The subcommittee said the companies had disposed of 762 million tons of waste during that period, 94 per cent of it on company property.

The 53 companies surveyed were:

Air Products, Allied Chemical, American Cyanamid, Ashland Oil, Atlantic Richland, Borden, Borg-Warner, Celan-

ese, CF Industries, Chevron, Cities Services, Diamond Shamrock, Dow Chemical, Dow Corning, Du Pont, Eastman Kodak, Esmark, Ethyl, Exxon, Farmland Industries, FMC Corp., General Electric, B. F. Goodrich, Goodyear, W. R. Grace, Gulf, Hercules, IMC Corp., Kerr-McGee, Koppers, Lubrizol, Mobil, Monsanto, Nalco, National Distillers, NL Industries, Occidental Petroleum, Olin Corp., Pennwalt, Pfizer, Phillips Petroleum, PPG Industries, Reichhold Chemical, Rohn and Haas, Shell Oil, Standard Oil of Indiana, Stauffer, Tenneco, Texaco, Union Carbide, Union Oil of California, U.S. Steel, Williams Companies.

State	Status			Total	State	Status			Total
	Uncertain	No Longer In Use	Still In Use			Uncertain	No Longer In Use	Still In Use	
Alabama	5	28	57	90	New Hampshire	0	1	4	5
Alaska	0	1	2	3	New Jersey	33	77	113	223
Arizona	0	0	3	3	New Mexico	0	0	5	5
Arkansas	2	8	28	38	New York	22	72	66	160
California	12	51	114	177	North Carolina	7	41	77	125
Colorado	0	7	13	20	Ohio	25	78	150	253
Connecticut	1	5	16	22	Oklahoma	7	9	20	36
Delaware	0	18	19	37	Oregon	0	8	13	21
Florida	6	43	57	106	Pennsylvania	23	54	86	163
Georgia	17	35	72	124	Puerto Rico	1	6	15	22
Hawaii	0	0	4	4	Rhode Island	0	0	3	3
Idaho	0	0	5	5	South Carolina	8	27	58	93
Illinois	20	50	106	176	South Dakota	1	0	1	2
Indiana	7	22	41	70	Tennessee	10	45	49	104
Iowa	2	13	18	33	Texas	21	91	207	319
Kansas	3	10	12	25	Utah	1	2	14	17
Kentucky	6	31	39	76	Virginia	6	23	45	74
Louisiana	7	31	106	144	Washington	5	18	28	51
Maine	2	3	3	8	West Virginia	4	33	34	71
Maryland	2	23	25	50	Wisconsin	2	15	17	34
Massachusetts	7	12	33	47	Wyoming	1	3	9	13
Michigan	18	37	62	117	Canada	1	0	6	7
Minnesota	0	4	3	7	Japan	0	0	1	1
Mississippi	2	14	16	32	Mexico	1	0	1	2
Missouri	6	17	29	52	Ocean Areas	1	3	2	6
Montana	0	2	6	8	Unknown Location	19	22	33	74
Nebraska	0	4	10	14					
Nevada	0	2	9	11					
					<b>Total:</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>1,965</b>	<b>3,383</b>
					<b>Percentage:</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>32.5%</b>	<b>58.1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

SOURCE: House Commerce Oversight Subcommittee based on data compiled in April and May, 1979


# Task force petitions county to aid canal

## Canal

LOCKPORT — The Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier urged the Niagara County Legislature on Tuesday to join other units of government in the rehabilitation of the Love Canal area "for this generation of children and the children yet to be born."

The task force request was made in response to the county's reluctance to join an agency which has been proposed to oversee the revitalization of the Love Canal neighborhood and the sale of 550 homes there.

Proposed by the Love Canal Revitalization and Stabilization Task Force,



**"But where the needs of people victimized by circumstances beyond their control are involved, the risk is minimal. It is for this generation of children and the children yet to be born that we ask you to take a risk."**

Sister Margeen

the agency or corporation would be governed by a 12-member board with representatives from the county, Niagara Falls, Wheat-

field and Love Canal residents. County officials, most notably County Attorney John V. Simon, have ar-

gued that the state should continue with the rehabilitation through the Urban Development Corp.-Love Canal Inc., a state agency

which already has purchased 237 homes in the area.

The county also is fearful of legal liability and the possibility of putting money into the agency once it exhausts \$5 million in state aid.

"We understand the ramifications and liabilities involved," said Sister Margeen Hoffman, Ecumenical Task Force executive director. "But where the needs of people victimized by circumstances beyond their control are involved, the risk is minimal. It is for this generation of children and the children yet to be born that we ask you to take a risk."

\*See CANAL, 8A

\*Continued from 3A

Sister Hoffmann also recounted reports of suicides, physical and mental illnesses and marital difficulties stemming from the Love Canal situation.

"People there have lost control and command over the ordinary decisions made by people in a 'normal' neighborhood," she said. "They are the victims of a disaster."

The legislature did not respond to Sister Hoffmann's remarks.

"Our group wants the county to participate in something, whether it is the corporation as now designed or something else," Sister Hoffmann said later.

"If they can't participate in the corporation, they should come up with another solution."

County officials said they will not make a decision on the matter until they have had a meeting with State Sen. John B. Daly, Assemblyman Matthew J. Murphy, and Rep. John J. LaFalce.

Legislature Chairman Russell C. Parker, D-Cambria, said he has attempted to set up a meeting with Daly and Murphy, but has been unsuccessful.

Sister Hoffmann said she is going to try to hold a public meeting with Daly and Murphy after Easter.

"Let's get them here. We can't go through another spring and summer," she said. "It's like the (Iranian) hostage thing. We're repeating ourselves," she said in reference to the Love Canal residents who abandoned their homes last summer during remedial work.



# Love Canal Families Balk at Further Tests

By JOSH BARBANEL

Special to The New York Times

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y., May 27 — Hundreds of families in the polluted Love Canal neighborhood said today that they would "not allow" the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct large-scale medical tests in the area, unless the Government agreed to purchase their homes.

Spokesmen for six groups representing homeowners and renters, as well as a coalition of local synagogues and churches, spoke out at a news conference in a classroom at Niagara Catholic High School. Although residents have said before that they would demand the purchase of their homes, this was the first time the groups have worked together since the crisis began.

They said that the "human dimensions of this tragedy must be addressed" first and demanded that residents of a housing project be relocated and that the houses of 550 homeowners be purchased.

"No matter what the medical tests show, they have triggered an alarm, and the damage has been done," said Sister Margeen Hoffman, executive director of the Ecumenical Task Force, an interfaith group set up in March 1979 to provide counseling to Love Canal residents.

"There is a mental health disaster here," she declared.

## U.S. Still Hopes for Participation

In Washington, a spokesman for the environmental agency said that the large-scale study, including tests for chromosome abnormalities, liver and kidney damages and an epidemiological survey, would proceed as scheduled.

"It is discouraging, but we are hopeful they will participate," said the spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater. "We believe that most Love Canal residents want to participate in the studies."

The testing program was ordered after

a pilot study found that 11 persons living near a trench filled with 21,800 tons of toxic chemicals and pesticides had suffered significant chromosome abnormalities. That test was criticized because residents were not selected scientifically, and a control group was absent. Environmental officials have said they will base a decision on whether the residents should be relocated permanently on the results of the more comprehensive testing program.

But the residents of the neighborhood want the Government to buy their homes — valued for the most part at \$30,000 to \$40,000 — so they can make down payments on homes in other neighborhoods. Governor Carey has urged the Federal Government to join in a plan to buy the homes at a total cost of \$25 million.

## Stress of Moving Cited

In the meantime, Sister Margeen said, the stress of moving into hotels would have a "devastating effect on family life." She said that when residents were moved into hotels under state emergency programs in the past, hundreds of problems surfaced, including separations, divorces, drug and alcohol abuse and two suicides she attributed to the disaster.

Sister Margeen said the groups would send leaflets throughout the Love Canal neighborhood, urging residents not to participate in the Government programs. She also said they might set up nonviolent picket lines at two portable medical vans

that the E.P.A. planned to use for physical examinations.

"How many times can they cry wolf and expect us to fall for it," said Melanie Bailey, who heads the neighborhood group known as People for Permanent Relocation. "Buy our homes first and then they can do all the tests they want."

Mrs. Hillis described her feelings of fear and depression after she left her home and moved into a hotel last year. One day, she recalled, she threw some coffee cups against a wall and then cut her wrist with a razor, "not to kill myself, just to see if I could bleed."

"I was a zombie," she said.

After the news conference, environmental officials in Washington, headed by Dr. Stephen Gage, an associate environmental administrator for research and development, met with the residents. Sister Margeen said later that Dr. Gage said the testing program would probably last at least six months and, she said, he conceded that even when the tests were completed, the agency would not be in a position to order or recommend a permanent evacuation of the area. He said that authority rested with the President and Congress.

In a letter to David Costle, the E.P.A. administrator, Lois Gibbs, the president of the Love Canal Homeowners Association said that the residents would not "be guinea pigs who will be tested for four to six months until the E.P.A. decides if their health is sufficiently affected."



The New York Times / Joe Tri

**Ann Hillis, left, and Sister Margeen Hoffman discuss relocation for residents of Love Canal area of Niagara Falls, N.Y.**

# The Dumps Around Us: Who Will Pay to Clean Up All the Other Love Canals?

Continued from Page 1

munitions operations, and even municipalities, with sewage sludge. They thus contend that society at large, not their customers alone, should pay the piper.

The cost is the subject of considerable dispute. A study by the Chemical Manufacturers Association suggests that the average cost of correcting each failing dump site found will be \$1 million. Yet the same study also concluded that correcting the conditions at Love Canal and relocating the residents would cost \$23 million. The state and city have already spent close to \$36 million, mainly to test and contain the wastes and to buy out a fraction of the residents who think they should be permanently relocated. Nothing has been done to redress the victims, and many consider the corrective actions only a stopgap. Some say the total cost will eventually surpass \$300 million.

The Administration has asked for a \$1.6 billion "superfund," provided mainly by the chemical companies, to deal with the situation. The E.P.A. would draw from the fund to correct problems as soon as they come up and seek retribution from the guilty parties later — assuming they can be identified. Congress is about to consider the legislation, and its fate is unclear.

What does seem clear, however, is that the nation is rapidly, if belatedly, discovering that it has on its hands a problem of ominous proportions.

"It's a mess," said Alan McGowan, president of the Scientists' Institute for Public Information, which provides technical input on public issues. "I really don't know what proper public policy is on this question."

According to the E.P.A., a total of 750,000 industrial plants generate some 57 million tons of hazardous wastes annually. By "hazardous," the agency means the wastes are either explosive or ignitable under normal handling conditions, can corrode standard materials or are so toxic that they pose

substantial danger to human life and the environment. Not included in the E.P.A.'s figure is the relatively small amount of radioactive material that is produced mainly by the military, but also by the nation's nuclear power plants. Those wastes are the province of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has not yet approved a permanent disposal technique.

The list of dangerous discarded substances includes such familiar chemicals as lead, arsenic, asbestos, benzene, beryllium, and mercury, all of which can be poisonous, and possibly carcinogenic, if ingested. But it also includes a growing number of polysyllabic compounds whose nicknames are gradually creeping into the language: PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls), which are fire-resistant fluids used to insulate heavy-duty electrical equipment, are regarded as potent carcinogens. TCE (trichloroethylene), which is used in dry cleaning, can attack the central nervous system, causing headaches, tremors and convulsions. TCDD, or dioxin (tetrachlorodibenzo-paradioxin), is a byproduct in the production of fungicides and herbicides, notably Agent Orange, and can cause ulcers, liver damage and birth defects.

In all, at least 20 different industries generate some kind of hazardous waste, the E.P.A. says, including agricultural suppliers, battery manufacturers, electroplaters, smelters, pharmaceutical makers and leather tanners. The agency contends that 90 percent of the nation's hazardous wastes are now disposed of by environmentally unsound methods. Still, most of the wastes that have already been discarded have caused no problems, and probably never will. They have been buried in drums that were deposited in pits lined with enough clay or plastic to contain the chemicals even if the containers are somehow ruptured.

One showcase facility is a 900-acre site outside Livingston, Ala. It is owned

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*The E.P.A. says  
57 million tons of  
hazardous wastes  
are produced yearly.*

---

by Waste Management Inc., one of the most prosperous companies in the booming business of waste disposal. The E.P.A. says the site is among the 10 best spots in the country for burying hazardous wastes because it has a bed of clay some 500 feet thick — a hundred times what the agency requires.

Waste Management analyzes any waste it contracts to bury there, checks each truckload of liquid as it arrives, turns the contents into a paste before packing them into drums and segregates compounds that could react with one another. In some cases, it lays gravel under the drums and, beneath that, a network of pipes to retrieve any leakage. The company also steadily monitors the site.

But that is an ideal example. Sometimes, drums of liquid wastes have been buried in porous soil and forgotten. Leaks caused by time, or perhaps unknowing bulldozers, have allowed toxins to escape. Other times, wastes were pumped into leaky man-made ponds or spread across open stretches of soil, often to meet water-pollution regulations. While they posed no danger to surface water there, the poisons readily soaked into the ground, only to percolate into the aquifers that supply half the nation's drinking water.

Today, failing dumpsites are known to exist from one end of the country to the other. "Every time we pick up the carpet now, we find another one," said Eckhardt Beck, assistant E.P.A. ad-

ministrators for hazardous wastes. "Society is just waking up to this."

In the past, when dangerous wastes were disposed of haphazardly, ignorance was often to blame. Critics maintain, however, that too frequently it was a convenient brand of ignorance, the kind that is inexcusable before the law. And sometimes it was downright callous. "Midnight dumpers," the people who remove wastes cheaply, no questions asked, have even been caught allowing toxic liquids to spill from open petcocks while driving along dark and lonely roads.

"We all sort of looked at the earth as a big sponge; whatever you put there somehow went away," said Jackson B. Browning, director of health, safety and environmental affairs for the Union Carbide Corporation. "But things didn't go away. The waste doesn't go away just because you take it out of the air and water. You wind up with some kind of gunk or goo, and if you think you can take that stuff and throw it in a river someplace, you're living in a fool's paradise."

To Mr. Browning, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, the landmark legislation upon which today's environmental regulations were built, amounted to a two-legged stool: Also needed was a "clean land act."

So, like others in industry, Union Carbide supported the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, which authorized the E.P.A. to identify hazardous wastes and regulate their disposal. The companies knew that Federal regulations covering all manufacturers would make it easier to absorb the cost of proper disposal. A company could do what had to be done and pass the cost onto its customers without worrying that a less responsible competitor would try to win over customers by skimping on disposal and offering lower prices as a result.

The E.P.A. issued the first of these regulations last month, though they

will not take effect until November. They require anyone who handles hazardous wastes to register with the agency, and they set up an elaborate reporting system designed to track the movement of these wastes from the plants where they originate to the places where they are discarded.

If a producer of chemicals or a plastics manufacturer turns over one of the nearly 500 materials specified in the regulations to a hauling company, the producer will have to fill out a form describing the material and stating its destination. When the hauler delivers the waste to the designated processing facility or dumpsite — each of which will have to meet new E.P.A. standards — he must hand over a copy of the form. After verifying that it received all the waste that was sent, the facility will send a copy back to the producer, who must notify the E.P.A. if the verification does not arrive within 45 days.

The agency has estimated that it will cost industry about a billion dollars a year to comply with all this, though it has actually analyzed the impact on

less than half of all the major generators of hazardous wastes. The cost came out to about \$500 million, which is only about two-tenths of 1 percent of the companies' total sales and less than \$2.50 for every person in the country.

However, the impact will vary enormously from product to product. The agency concluded that, for most of the industries covered in its analysis, the cost of compliance will amount to less than 3 percent of the value those industries add to final products as they move through the production chain. But the figure will exceed 10 percent for a few industries, including chlorine producers, manufacturers of chrome pigments and some producers of inorganic compounds. Producers of sodium dichromate, an inorganic substance used in the paint industry, in leather tanning and in electroplating, will have to absorb costs amounting to 40 percent of the value they add to the materials they buy, the E.P.A. figured.

"We don't want to put people out of business capriciously," said Lawrence G. Buc, a policy analyst with the

E.P.A. "But you want the price of the product to reflect its full social cost, and one measure of what it's worth to people is how much more they're willing to pay for it."

Whatever the impact, both the regulators and the regulated seem to agree that the alternative is far worse. "The cost of cleanup is going to far, far exceed the cost of doing it correctly," said Joseph H. Highland, head of the toxic chemicals program at the Environmental Defense Fund, a citizens group that considers the new regulations nothing more than a starting point. "Economically, the best thing is to prevent it in the first place."

The E.P.A. reckons that, if the wastes at Love Canal were disposed of properly, the cost would have come to \$40 a ton. By contrast, the \$36 million that has already been spent there amounts to \$1,800 a ton, and any major corrective action that may still be required apparently must await the outcome of the debate over who will pay.

"That's why we need a superfund," the agency's Mr. Beck said. And as far

as he is concerned, the most equitable way to distribute the cost is to place fees on the companies who made money from the chemicals from which those wastes ultimately evolved.

But the chemical industry argues that, whenever possible, the individuals who were directly responsible for the problems should pay for the solutions, and it objects to proposals that would lump such specific problems as oil spills and similar accidents with the more amorphous problem of waste disposal. The industry also fears that, in replenishing the superfund, the Government will, in effect, make today's standards retroactive, escalating its liability. "It's like saying it's illegal to do something yesterday," said William M. Stover, director of government relations for the Chemical Manufacturers Association. "That's just not the way we do things in this country."

As the companies see it, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act will address most of the problem, because it covers the dumpsites still in operation, where most of the nation's

legacy of lethal wastes can be found. The crux of the issue are the orphan sites, they say, where the responsible parties are either unknown, out of business or operating on a shoestring.

One example is the waste incineration facility in Elizabeth, N.J., that caught fire in April. The owner was in receivership, and that was slowing a state-ordered cleanup. But in a sense, Love Canal can be included in this category, too. Although it is clear who has owned it, it is not so clear where the responsibilities of the Hooker Chemicals and Plastic Corporation, ended and those of the school board that took over the property began.

The industry maintains that the troublesome orphan sites are few enough and manageable enough that the cost of dealing with them can easily be covered by general tax revenues. It contends that the responsibility for the rest can readily be fixed within the legal framework provided by the courts.

The Environmental Law Institute, a Washington research group, is assessing that contention for the Senate Com-

mittee on Environment and Public Works. Due this week, its report is expected to conclude that, while tort law does theoretically cover such complex environmental law suits, in practice it too often falls short of society's needs.

Ultimately, in the view of many, the solution to the problem of hazardous wastes will require not only new regulations and new legal wrinkles, but also new methods of disposal. With people beginning to balk at having any kind of dumpsite around, they reason, incineration will increasingly have to displace land disposal, despite its considerably higher cost. And both products and processes will have to be designed to reduce the nation's waste stream.

"When you could pay somebody \$5 a ton to remove your wastes, you didn't think about it very much," Mr. Highland, of the Environmental Defense Fund, said. "But once industry must bear the full cost — which they haven't in the past — I think there is enough ingenuity around that they will find solutions."



The New York Times / Joe Traver

Ralph and Ann Hillis, above, at their new home in Sanborn, N.Y., where they moved from the Love Canal area of Niagara Falls with their son, Ralphie, below, after he began experiencing health problems.



## Love Canal: A Boyhood Is Poisoned

By DUDLEY CLENDINEN

Special to The New York Times

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — Ann Hillis's moments of hysteria, rage and confusion may be understandable, given the collapse of her life on 102d Street, three blocks from the Love Canal.

The last three years have been a strain on Mrs. Hillis, a tall woman who speaks rapidly and is a heavy cigarette smoker.

The other day, in the office of the Ecumenical Task Force, an interdenominational disaster-aid group here, she was speaking of a neighbor, and the health problems she had experienced. "She had cancer," Mrs. Hillis began, and then corrected herself. "No — I had cancer. She had bladder infections."

If it seems strange that someone could forget her own cancer, it may also be an indication of the state of mental siege that Mrs. Hillis has come to feel in living at the Love Canal, where the Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corporation dumped tons of toxic wastes in the late 1940's and early 1950's, before the site became a housing development.

### Family Stress

She is one of the neighborhood's more politically active women and one who bears particularly deep emotional scars. Her only child, Ralph, who is 12 years old and usually called Ralphie, also bears these scars, a result of family stress and its effect on the 800 to 1,000 children of Love Canal. This stress nearly caused Ralphie to be committed to a state institution for the retarded and emotionally ill.

Many children, like Dawn Baird, 8, and her brother Bill, 10, who live one street away from the Hillises, seem to be normal and well-adjusted. Their mother, Karen Baird, says she and her husband, William, "have never really sat down and explained things to them — they seem to handle it very well, to take it all in stride."

The Bairds report no health problems more severe than strong recurrent headaches and stomachaches, skin disorders and nosebleeds and what Mrs. Baird called her husband's "asthma-type problem — he can't breathe very well." They are keenly aware of the toxic contamination of the neighborhood in which they have lived for seven years — and from which many of the remaining 710 families are choosing to leave, under an emergency Federal program. But the Bairds have not been central figures in the protest marches and community meetings. They have not acquired the doomsday perspective that haunts and frightens many of their neighbors and ties their personal lives into knots.

### House Was Built in 1966

"This is very much a part of our life," Mrs. Baird said, "but you can't live for Love Canal alone."

For a time, though, Mrs. Hillis came close to doing that, and it almost cost her her child, and him his sanity. But she did not feel a creature of free choice: She felt trapped, driven.

Her distress began not long after she and her husband, Ralph, built their house, the third one on the block, atop a filled-in pond in 1966. "I lost one child while I was living there," she said. "I was

Continued on Page B2

# The New York Times

## News Summary

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1980

# Stress Poisons Childhood For Those at Love Canal

Continued From Page B1

4½-months pregnant and the child died in my womb." The doctors kept thinking that she would miscarry it, but she did not. Finally, she said, "after three months, they took it. It was so deteriorated they could not even tell its sex."

Ralphie was born in 1968. He was hyperactive from the first and, until he was 18 months old, was prescribed sedatives to help him sleep. "After my son was born," she said, "I developed tumors. There were cancer cells. I had a subhysterectomy, and then a total hysterectomy."

## A Chronic Bladder Infection

She developed bladder infections, which became chronic. She had surgery in 1973. "It was good for a year," she said, "and then I developed chronic bladder infection again."

Ralphie, the center of his parents' lives, was obviously a bright child but still hyperactive. He also suffered from asthma and various other respiratory ailments, and recurring skin rashes.

In 1976, one of the cellar walls in their house cracked at the bottom and began to move inward from its foundation. Ground-water seepage became a problem. The Hillises had the wall repaired and added a second sump pump to try to keep the cellar dry. Liquid continued to rise from the cellar floor in the rainy season, leaving a residue that "looks like soapsuds," Mrs. Hillis recalled. "But it sparkles."

In the spring of 1977, before she knew that the ground water was flushing chemicals from 20,000 tons of toxic wastes dumped into the unfinished trough of the Love Canal, she got down on her knees and scrubbed the cellar floor.

## Rheumatoid Arthritis

A direct connection between the buried toxic wastes and the illnesses and health complaints that abound in the neighborhood has yet to be proved incontrovertibly, but about two weeks after she had scrubbed the floor, as Mrs. Hillis remembers it, "I got very sick. It was like my hands and feet and spine were being crushed. I couldn't even sleep in bed, it hurt so much — and my son saw me like that." A doctor diagnosed neuritis. She now has a new doctor and a new diagnosis: rheumatoid arthritis.

In the spring and summer of 1978, the New York State Health Commissioner declared a public-health hazard and then a state of emergency at the Love Canal, and 239 families were evacuated from the area. State inspectors found levels of toluene, chloroform, and benzene in the basement air of the Hillis home. Mrs. Hillis was very upset, and Ralphie began to beg to leave.

"He's a bright child," she said. "He started to think about it." His baby sitter at the time was often an older woman named Connie Gabriele, a neighborhood friend of the Hillises. For 20 years, the Gabrieles had lived on 99th Street, in the first ring of houses around the Love Canal. Mrs. Gabriele's husband and one of her sons died of stomach cancer, and that was part of what Ralphie thought about.

His asthma worsened. The 99th Street School, which he had attended, had been built atop the canal. It did not reopen for the 1978-79 school year. Ralphie started out at the Cleveland Street School, did badly and was switched to the 95th Street School. By April, he had become obsessed with the chemical threat, with the family illnesses, with the feeling that his parents' attention had shifted away from him and now focused on the threat of the Love Canal.

## 'Used to Bother Me All the Time'

He is a handsome boy, with thick brown hair and large wide-set eyes. He speaks about himself with the relative ease of someone who has spent time in therapy. But he is not at ease with the subject of Love Canal. He put an interview off for a day because it was his birthday. "I don't want to talk about Love Canal on my birthday," he said.

"It just used to bother me all the time," he said the next day, after school. "It got so monotonous, I couldn't do anything else. It's hard to explain — it was just getting so we couldn't live like we used to. We couldn't do any of the fun things we used to do, and I just wondered when we were going to be able to, again."

His mind was half on the Saturn rocket model he had ordered himself as a birthday present. Ralphie has always been fascinated by flying. He wanted to be an engineer or an astronaut. "My father and I used to go off to the reservoir, flying my rockets and stuff," he said. "We — Mom and Dad and I — we used to go to the movies and stuff. And it just ceased. See, like she was always going to the meetings, and my father — I don't know — they were always going to the meetings. And it just ceased. And I just couldn't take it."

Early last summer, the Hillises sent their son to relatives on a farm in Pennsylvania. His respiratory problems eased. But when he returned, so did his asthma, and hysterics. At 2 o'clock one August morning, Mrs. Hillis found her son curled up under the living-room couch in a fetal position, crying. "I want to die," he said. "I don't want to live here anymore."

## Leaving for a Motel

"It was just so sad," she said. "We couldn't promise the kid anything." There were no buyers for Love Canal houses by then, and they could not afford to move. The Hillises stayed up and wept through the night, and some days later, at a chaotic meeting between state officials and residents who wanted answers about health questions and temporary housing, Mrs. Hillis threw a book at the official coordinating the meeting.

The next day, she returned and threatened to throw more books at him if he did not authorize her to move her family into a motel at state expense. The man relented, and she went home and told Ralphie, as he remembers it: "Get your stuff packed. We're going to a motel. I'm getting you out of here."

"I hadn't even told my husband," she said. Ralph Hillis was at work, doing what he has done for 23 years as an air-conditioning and furnace repairman. They have not been back since.

The tension between the three of them thickened by the day in their one room at the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge in Niagara Falls, Ralphie hyperventilated, threw tantrums that went on and on. One night, Mrs. Hillis cut her wrists with a razor blade, "just to see if I were still alive." The cuts were superficial. Her husband wrapped her wrists in cold towels and held her until she fell asleep.

In late September, by which time the family had moved to a dormitory at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church and were taking their supper with the nuns, Ralphie's doctor recommended a psychiatrist for him.

By November, the psychiatrist had advised that Ralphie be committed to the West Seneca Developmental Center in Buffalo, a state institution for the treatment of retardation and mental illness. One day, after the commitment papers had been signed, a social worker who had counseled Ralphie happened to be in the psychiatrist's office. Her first name is Carolyn, and she asked that her last name not be used because what she did is considered "very unprofessional." She took Ralphie into her own home.

"You know we're packing Ralphie off to West Seneca?" she said the psychiatrist told her. "Over my dead body," she replied.

"All the psychiatrists in the world weren't going to give him the time and the attention and the love that he was used to, and wasn't getting any more," she said. She did not think Ralphie's problem was complicated. "They had treated him as an adult for a long, long time," she said, "involved him in all the meetings and the screaming, and he just got to the point that he couldn't handle it."

## Learning to Be a Child

Given the choice of going to West Seneca or home with Carolyn and her husband and three children in a neighborhood eight miles from Love Canal, Ralphie and his parents chose the family. He was there for four months, one of four children in a stable home in a normal neighborhood. He was not indulged. "There were times when I had to get him down on the floor and hold him, when he was screaming and crying," Carolyn said. "But he learned to be a child again."

In February, the Hillises rented an apartment in an old farmhouse on Upper Mountain Road, 10 miles from Niagara Falls, away from chemicals and Love Canal. Ralphie — the boy who loves rockets, who fears chemicals — is back with them, being reared on a farm. His grades in school are good and his asthma, his rashes and his many allergies have subsided.

"At the farm they don't bother me at all," he said. "And I play up in the hayloft with the kids."

Others with far fewer problems have moved, too — the Bairds, for instance, whose children seem so well adjusted, have rented a house in nearby Lewiston. "We just think it's better to get out," Mrs. Baird said, "just for fear of something happening to the children."

His parents have not discussed it with him, but from listening to his friends, the Baird's son, Bill, has some understanding of the reason why.

He said his friends, both boys and girls, tell him "they don't want to live here and grow up weird."

## A Federal Loan Asked by Carey For Love Canal

### \$20 Million Would Assist Permanent Relocations

By RICHARD J. MEISLIN

Special to The New York Times

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y., June 18 — Governor Carey asked the Federal Government today to lend New York State \$20 million to relocate residents near the chemically polluted Love Canal who want to move permanently from the area.

The loan request is intended to get around the assertions of Federal officials that the Government has no authority to buy the homes.

A loan would be administered by a new Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency, which — by signing a bill passed by the Legislature — Mr. Carey established here with an initial state grant of \$5 million. It was one of several pieces of legislation approved by the Governor today as he shuttled from place to place dispensing money, jobs and comforting words to officials and residents of the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area.

#### A Picture of the Place

With the Mayor Michael C. O'Laughlin of Niagara Falls, Transportation Commissioner William Hennessy, aides, reporters, children and dogs in tow, Governor Carey walked around the neighborhood near Love Canal that was included in President Carter's recent evacuation order after studies indicated that some of the residents might have suffered chromosome damage.

Some of the houses are boarded up, but others remained intact, their owners insisting they did not want to leave the neighborhood they have lived in for so long. Where the plywood boards over the windows did not make it obvious, the dif-



The New York Times

In the Love Canal section of Niagara Falls, N.Y., Harold Schmitt greeted Governor Carey and Mayor Michael O'Laughlin. "I have no intention of moving," said Mr. Schmitt. "This is a beautiful place." He has lived there 28 years.

ference between hope and despair could be gleaned from the cut of the lawns and the height of the weeds around the modest, middle-class homes.

A few houses had "For Sale" signs on them, but the seriousness with which the offers were being taken was indicated by one that said: "Buy one, get one free."

"I have no intention of moving, this is a beautiful place," said Harold Schmitt. He has lived for 28 years in his well-kept house a few blocks from the so-called "first ring" of the canal — the most contaminated area. Mr. Schmitt told the Governor his only complaint was that the years were creeping up on him and his arthritis was acting up at times.

But a few blocks away Alice Kline told Mr. Carey: "I can't taste anything, I can't smell anything. All I know is a burn-

ing feeling in my lungs, my nose and my mouth."

A neighbor on 101st Street, Eva DiAngelo, said "I want out." And Mr. Carey promised that those who lived over so-called wet spots, areas where the pollution was worst, would be moved. "Fast, Governor Carey, fast," one woman put in.

The revitalization agency that Mr. Carey established today would handle the arrangements for and try to give financial assistance to residents who wanted to leave the area and to those who wanted to stay.

Under the state's plan, if the Federal Government granted the \$20 million loan the money would be used to create a revolving loan fund. This would be used to

buy the homes of Love Canal residents who wanted to move, and give them low-interest, 3 percent mortgages to help pay for new houses.

The money would be repaid, Mr. Carey said, if the area was eventually restored and the houses were resold, or if the state recovered damages in its suit against the Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corporation, which used the Love Canal site as a dumping ground for tons of toxic wastes in the 1940's and 1950's.

The Governor said he had received no indication whether Washington would grant the state's request.

# Niagara

Courier-Express

July 20, 1970

## A Bogeyman Still Lurks In Love Canal Prison

By KRISTINE MOE

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*THE BOGEYMAN started to sneak out of his room, so we slammed the door in his face.*

*We locked him up in a \$9 million prison and installed guards to watch the door. We called the prison a national model for other bogeyman jails.*

*We've trapped the scary, unknown creature. We don't have to breathe his foul stench anymore.*

*BUT THERE ARE a few problems: We don't know what the bogeyman is. Is it a malevolent phantom that hisses through the door cracks? Or an irritable, rock-throwing giant?*

*You see, in our haste to get the bogeyman out of sight, we didn't take a good look at the creature. We didn't even check to see if his cell has a trapdoor in the floor.*

*And now we're hoping that the bogeyman — whatever it is — won't find a crack we don't know about and escape.*

**RESIDENTS OF THE** Love Canal area look at the nearby dungeon for chemicals and wonder if the prisoner is escaping.

It's a big prisoner, locked in a big prison: Some 2,000 tons of hazardous chemical waste from Hooker Electrochemical Co.; an unknown amount of

Diagram of Love Canal. Page B-5

Hooker's non-hazardous refuse and probably even garbage from the City of Niagara Falls. The prison wall stretches almost 1½ miles to surround the dump.

Imagine 880 trucks filled with heavy, wet garbage. Each truck backs up to the edge of the empty Love Canal, dumps its load into the hole, then topples over on top of the heap. That's how much hazardous

waste was buried in Love Canal between 1942 and 1953.

The prison enclosing Love Canal is mostly completed now. A gravel trench surrounds the dump site to collect any leaking chemicals and water; a treatment plant cleans up the liquid and discharges it into Niagara Falls' sewer lines, and a clay cap seals off the top of the canal from infiltrating rainwater. Early signs show that the containment is working well.

**NOT ALL THE** guards are on duty yet. The containment system at Love Canal requires maintenance and monitoring but the monitoring system hasn't been completely installed. It is already over a month behind the schedule and the state says it doesn't expect completion until early fall.

Without monitoring, how can we know if the toxic chemicals are staying in the canal? asks Steve Lester, scientific consultant for the Love Canal Homeowners Association.

There are other questions:

—How long will it be before the prison crumbles or the prisoner finds a trapdoor.

—Did politicians choose a quick-fix solution over a long-term treatment?

—Exactly what IS in the canal — and do we even need to know?

★ ★ ★

**WE HAVE ONLY** a sketchy idea of what was dumped in Love Canal, the hole left behind from entrepreneur William T. Love's abandoned dream of a Niagara River-Lake Ontario shipping canal.

Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp., parent of the company that owned and dumped in Love Canal, supplied a list of probable chemicals to the State Interagency Task Force on Hazardous Wastes. About 21,800 tons of chemicals were dumped into the canal. At least 2,000 tons (the equivalent of 80 filled garbage trucks) were "miscellaneous" wastes.

Why didn't Hooker describe its discarded trash in more detail?

**THE COMPANY** admitted in a 1978 letter to the task force that the list was "tentative and arbitrary" ... (and) the degree of accuracy cannot

**MUCH**

Continued on Page B-2



# Much Can Still Be Learned About 'Prison' at Love Canal

Continued from Page B-1

be expected to be very high." Many records were not kept or could not be found, Hooker explained. It compiled the list by estimating how much waste was created from an estimated amount of chemicals produced by Hooker during the Love Canal years, the letter.

Even if better records had been kept, Hooker might not have been able to supply the state with a more thorough list.

"I worked for a chemical company and I don't see how Hooker can know even as much as it does about what chemicals were dumped," said Sloan O'Donnell, public information officer with the State Department of Environmental Conservation.

"You get this gunk left over at the bottom of the still-pot that's a combination of who-knows-what-all, and you just want to get rid of it."

**THE WASTES** on Hooker's list were mostly residues from the manufacture of fire retardants, pesticides and other organic chemicals.

The company used a hodgepodge of methods to get rid of the solid and liquid chemicals, according to a description Hooker gave the task force. Some wastes were dumped in metal or fiber drums; other chemicals were poured loose into the canal with the empty drums tossed in afterward.

About 400 organic chemicals have been identified to date in and around the Love Canal, of which 150 to 160 are said to be toxic. This list, an increase of about 200 organic chemicals in the Love Canal inventory, is the result of air-sampling tests the EPA conducted in Love Canal homes last November. The chemicals were found in the air, water, soil, sump tanks and sewers of the area.

EPA officials plan to release the list early this week. They refused to release it earlier on the grounds that the list was "still under review," according to Marlin Fitzwater, Environmental Protection Agency public information director.

**THE CANAL MAY** hold other Hooker-generated wastes that aren't on the company's list. Hooker would neither include nor exclude "wastes which are considered to be nonhazardous," such as fly ash, slag and general plant refuse, according to a letter to the task force. Fly ash, chunks of concrete and "muck" were uncovered in 1978 during test drilling in the canal.

**SIMPLE GARBAGE** from Niagara Falls also was dumped in the central section of the canal, said several sources, including the state Depart-

ment of Health. Niagara Falls' corporation counsel, Carl E. Mooradian, replied "No comment" to queries about city dumping.

Another possible inmate of the canal prison is radioactivity from the Niagara Frontier's involvement in World War II defense projects. Several reports have indicated — without firm evidence — that some of the radioactive wastes may have ended up in the canal.

**MOST RECENT OF** these reports was released in May by the State Assembly Special Majority Task Force on Toxic Substances. It accused the U.S. government of "improperly" disposing of chemicals and nuclear wastes in the Love Canal region. The report was branded "irresponsible" by State Sen. John B. Daly, R-Lewiston.

"We've tried to find if there's any possible association (between radioactivity and Love Canal) and we haven't come up with anything," stated Dr. William E. Mott of the federal Department of Energy. He has coordinated radiation surveys and investigations in much of Western New York.

However, some "startling" radioactive contamination was detected on the parking lot of the 99th Street School in 1978 by the State Health Department's radiological sciences lab. Cesium-137, a man-made radioactive chemical, was found in "abnormal" elevated levels at that site. Lab Director John M. Matuszek couldn't say whether it was due to fallout, weapons waste or some other source.

**THE SURVEYS COULD** not detect radiation buried more than six to eight feet below the surface, Dr. Matuszek said. However Geiger counters monitoring the deep digging of later remedial work did not show unusual levels of radiation.

Radiation elsewhere on the Love Canal site appears to be no higher than in the rest of the state, Dr. Matuszek said. At Love Canal, air above the ground ranges from 7 to 60 microRads per hour (a unit of radiation). The state averages 4 to 150 microRads.

State radiation levels are about average, or a little below, the rest of the nation, he said. Most of the radiation seems to come from natural sources such as the radium in the phosphorous slag that was spread throughout Niagara County like crushed rock.

Further tests to detect radiation around the canal have been scheduled

by the EPA for later this summer.

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**WE MAY NOT KNOW** who the prisoner is in Love Canal but at least we are acquainted with the prison. In fact, the canal remedial engineering was called "a national model for cleaning up abandoned chemical dump sites" by Chemical Engineering a trade magazine.

The state chose a three-part plan to clean up and contain the chemical leachate that was spilling over the top of the canal's clay lid in 1978:

1. Contain, collect and treat the leachate by surrounding the canal with a sand-and-gravel drain and pipes to carry the liquid to a treatment plant.
2. Remove the water from the upper soil layers to reduce the amount of leachate.
3. Cover the site with an impermeable clay cap and install a monitoring system.

**THE WALLS OF** the canal are thought to be, for the most part, impermeable to liquids.

Below the first five feet of silt and sand, the upper, dried layers of clay may have some cracks. But below 12 feet, the canal walls are dense, moist clay or impermeable glacial till (a compacted mix of soil particles).

It's difficult to say how deep the canal is along its three-block stretch. William Love carved out a 12-foot channel but later digging created varying depths. Hooker, for example, gouged 30-foot holes in part of the south end of the canal, according to Michael Reichgut, Hooker manager of external relations.

As a result, we don't know what the canal floor is made of.

We don't know if the bathtub's plug has been pulled.

**THREE DEEP** wells were dug by the state in 1978 to check if leachate was going down the drain. It wasn't, the state said, but canal homeowners consultant Steve Lester criticizes that conclusion because it's based on so little data.

Wells seven to 10 feet deep were scheduled to be dug in June as part of the state's monitoring program. They have been inexplicably delayed until early fall.

The same 1978 wells indicated that ground water may be acting like an artesian well, with deep water surging upwards into the dump. This prevents chemicals from leaking out of

**THE REAL ISSUE**

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# The Real Issue: Better Handling of Toxic Wastes

Continued from Page B-2

the bottom because of water pressure. Gravel ditches connecting the canal with a drainage system would then theoretically collect this water that would be washing out the canal chemicals.

Federal tests, to begin in August, are designed to find out if this is happening.

**MEANWHILE, EARLY** signs indicate that the containment system is working well. The volume of leachate and its chemical contamination are down significantly from when the system first went into full operation last fall, according to O'Donnell of the State Department of Environmental Conservation.

"But everyone is anxious to see how it holds up under a good, old-fashioned snowy winter or a wet spring," he said.

If anything gives out in this system, what will it be?

"**IT'S LIKELY THE** drainage system would plug up in 10-15 years and need to be cleaned out," predicted Michael J. Cuddy, field coordinator with the Love Canal Task Force.

Homeowners consultant Lester says, "We don't know enough" about whether the lower layers of clay may someday dry up and crack. (Other engineers say the chances of getting a big enough crack to worry about are "pretty remote.")

Lester advocates an extensive monitoring system, which ideally would include using tracer chemicals to de-

tect groundwater movement, and digging monitoring wells two to three blocks beyond the canal.

"If this system is maintained, it could conceivably be the system here for perpetuity," claims Cuddy.

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**WHAT CAN WE DO** if, despite the state's optimism, the Love Canal containment system breaks down? Is there any other choice but to build another clay and gravel prison?

Different solutions, proposed by people interviewed for this article, include:

- A solid concrete wall surrounding the canal. (This is the plan recommended by the Justice Department in its \$117 million lawsuit against Hooker.)

- Mixing the waste with neutralizing chemicals.

- Adding sodium silicate to make a solid, gelatinous block.

- Drilling numerous wells in the area to continually pump out contaminated water.

- Digging wastes up and recycling the chemicals.

- Digging wastes up and burning it in an incinerator.

**THE COST OF** such options is inestimable, most say, but could be "untold millions."

"I don't think an incinerator is the solution at Love Canal. The wastes there have all been mixed together and have gone through some level of degradation. I don't see that there are many alternatives to containment there," said Blake Early of Washing-

ton, D.C., a representative for the Sierra Club.

"I wish there were a nice solution, but there isn't, and that's part of the grimness of the situation," said Ruffin Harris, community organizer with

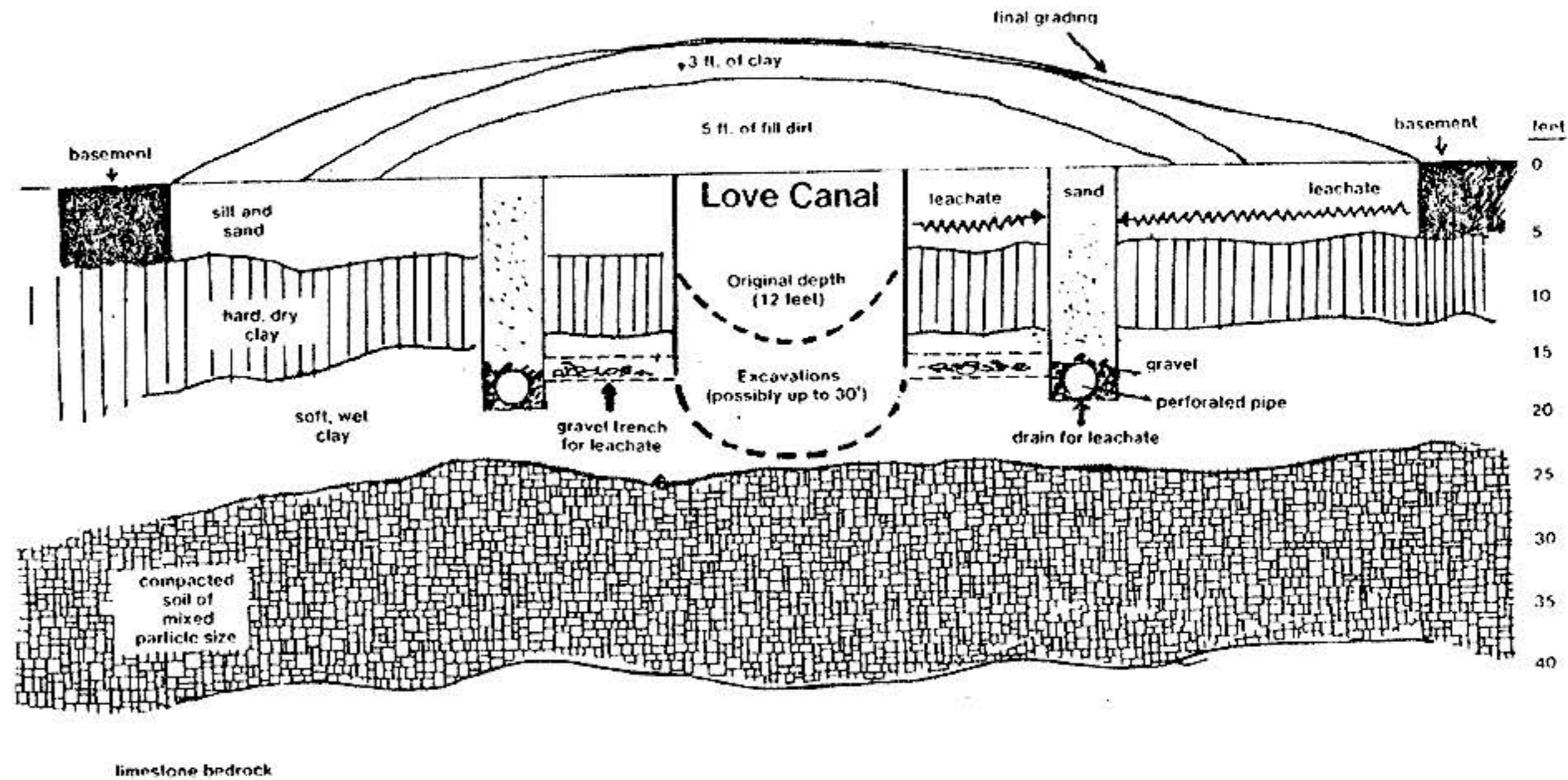
the Washington-based Environmental Defense Fund.

"**THE REAL ISSUE IS:** At what point will industry start looking at reducing the amount of waste it generates?" said Early.

"The innovation for which American industry is so well known has not been applied to the disposal problem. Disposal had traditionally been relegated to those performing custodial functions. It didn't pay for companies

to hire engineers for it.

"The only way I know of for this to change is with economic incentives for companies to deal with the waste in some way other than by putting it into a hole in the ground," said Early.



Drawing shows remedial work undertaken by state at Love Canal to contain chemicals

... officials optimistic about success

# *Love Canal*

## *Sunday: how to participate*

There are a number of ways your church can participate in Love Canal Sunday on Aug. 3.

The special Sunday observance was put in place by action of Annual Conference in June. However, the Love Canal Sunday is not limited to Western New York United Methodism; Catholic and Protestant congregations across the country are expected to participate.

How can your local church observe this day? One of the best ways can be to pray for all those involved in the Love Canal tragedy.

Your church may also wish to take up a special offering for Wesley United Methodist Church, located in the Love Canal area. Wesley UMC is both a conference and national advance special.

An offering may also be taken for the Ecumenical Task Force to Address the Love Canal Disaster, an interfaith organization formed to aid the residents of the chemically-contaminated community.

These contributions may be sent to the task force through the WNY Conference Center, 8499 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14221. Simply make the check out to WNY Conference, but specify that the money is to go to the task force. Do not send money directly to the task force, or your church will not receive credit for it.

### **Resources available**

Members of Wesley UMC and of the Ecumenical Task Force are available to speak at your church on Aug. 3, as long as your church is within a reasonable travel range. For speakers from Wesley UMC, call the Rev. Bruce Stearns, (716) 297-7292. For speakers from the task force, call (716) 283-0793.

A video-tape on the Love Canal problem is also available from Mr. Stearns. Your local church will have to make its own arrangements to borrow or rent the equipment necessary to show the 3/4-inch color cassette.

# Who Pays? Cleaning Up the Love Canals

By ANTHONY J. PARISI

<p><b>St. Louis Park, Minn.</b> Reilly Tar and Chemical Company produced creosote at 80-acre site, and neighboring Republic Creosoting Company used creosote to treat wood. Closed in 1971, but wastes contaminated drinking water. Clean-up estimates range from \$20 million to \$200 million.</p>	<p><b>Perham, Minn.</b> Eleven residents suffered arsenic poisoning eight years ago as workers drilled well. Arsenic traced to 50 pounds of grasshopper poison buried 50 years ago. Solution could mean removing 2,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and sealing it in vaults.</p>	<p><b>Muskegon, Mich.</b> Thirty chemical substances, including pesticides, dumped or buried at Hooker Chemical's Montague plant on 840-acre site on White Lake. Some have leached into lake and nearby wells. Hooker has signed consent decree to clean up at estimated cost of \$15 million.</p>	<p><b>Neville Island, Pa.</b> Hillman Company donated dumpsite to Allegheny County for park development. Workers subsequently complained of eye irritation and blood in urine. Investigators uncovered cyanide, benzene, phenols and coal tar residues. Removal put at \$7 million to \$24 million.</p>	<p><b>Niagara Falls, N.Y.</b> Hooker Chemical cited for toxic wastes not only at Love Canal but at three other dumps — the Hyde Park landfill, another landfill at 102d Street, which Olin also used, and one called the "S" area, in south-central section of city.</p>	<p><b>Woburn, Mass.</b> Chemical wastes suspected of contaminating air, soil and groundwater at 800-acre dump used by Merrimac Chemical, Monsanto, Stauffer and others. State found higher-than-normal death rate and incidence of childhood leukemia. Some containment established.</p>
<p><b>Rocky Mountain Arsenal</b> Wastes include some of most toxic pesticides and herbicides. Dump, operated by Army and Shell Chemical, is one of nation's biggest. Leaching during 1950's forced temporary closing of 64 nearby wells. Army has built containment system.</p>					<p><b>Dover Township, N.J.</b> Private hauler for Union Carbide dumped 6,000 drums of liquid chemical wastes at abandoned chicken farm in 1971. Chemicals leaked into groundwater, forcing permanent closing of 148 residential wells. Drums and contaminated soil removed.</p>
<p><b>Lathrop, Calif.</b> For 27 years, Hooker Chemical dumped wastes, including radiological materials and other carcinogens, at site. Some detected in groundwater, which supplies wells in Lathrop and 10 miles away in Stockton. Justice Department brought suit.</p>					<p><b>South Brunswick, N.J.</b> J.I.S. Industrial Service Company cited as source of seepage into wells from landfill. Toxic substances could be leaching toward nearby water company. Landfill now closed to hazardous wastes, and J.I.S. ordered to submit plans for waste removal.</p>
<p><b>Riverside County, Calif.</b> Various industries dumped some 32 million gallons of waste acids and caustics into Stringfellow landfill. Some leached into groundwater and Santa Ana River. State is closing site, at cost of at least \$13 million.</p>					<p><b>Elizabeth, N.J.</b> Fire broke out in April at dump that had been used by former Chemical Control Corporation for highly explosive wastes. Catastrophe averted when winds blew toxic clouds away from populated areas. Cost of clean-up estimated at \$10 million to \$15 million.</p>
<p><b>Byron, Ill.</b> High concentrations of cyanide, mostly from industrial plating, and toxic metals at Byron Salvage Yard, opened 10 years ago. Heavy soil contamination, but groundwater not yet considered threatened. No corrective action of consequence taken.</p>					<p><b>Jackson Township, N.J.</b> Investigation of state-licensed, town-owned landfill revealed evidence of chemical dumping and contamination of area wells. Residents reported high incidence of kidney problems, rashes and premature deaths. Dump closed recently, and new water system planned.</p>
<p><b>Gary, Ind.</b> Plating wastes, solvents, acids and cyanide stored at five-acre solvent-recovery facility. Caught fire three years ago. Potential for groundwater pollution and accidental escape of solvent fumes, posing threat to heavily industrialized environs.</p>					<p><b>Hardeman County, Tenn.</b> Velsicol Chemical Corporation dumped 300,000 drums of pesticide-production wastes in untined trenches dumped on 242-acre site near town of Toone from 1964 to 1972. Water table contaminated. Residents brought \$2.5 billion class action suit.</p>

**T**HEY call many of them orphans: abandoned repositories of hazardous wastes whose genealogy has long been lost. Some, like Love Canal in Niagara Falls, N.Y., whose lineage happens to be well documented, are deteriorating. Their poisons are slowly seeping into the ecosystem, posing the same sort of serious but little-understood threat to life that Love Canal has already inflicted on the hapless residents nearby. Nationwide, these troublesome sites run at least into the hundreds. There may be thousands; new ones seem to crop up weekly.

Last month, a school in Islip, L.I., built near a landfill site, was closed when authorities discovered traces of a cancer-causing gas in the basement cafeteria. A few days later, the residents of Aurora, Mo., learned that a herbicide waste had leaked from drums buried on a nearby farm and may have contaminated well water. Then a report from Youngstown, Pa., said industrial chemicals had leaked from barrels stored in a warehouse and were threatening the water supply. And late last week, the Environmental Protection Agency said conditions at more than 100 of the 645 sites it has surveyed so far pose a serious threat to some 600,000 people. The E.P.A. knows of a good many more that it has not yet been able to investigate.

Just about everyone, including the chemical industry, agrees that deterioration at the nation's dump sites and storage facilities must be halted and the bad habits that caused the problems corrected. Indeed, Federal regulations covering disposal of hazardous wastes are now taking shape, and, on the whole, the industries involved support them.

But who will put up the millions — or perhaps billions — of dollars needed to clean up the lethal litter that modern man has already left in his trail?

The Federal Government, in bills now before Congress, says the chemical industry should foot most of the bill, and environmental groups tend to agree. They argue that, with few exceptions, the companies thriving today are the same ones that, years ago, created the chemicals responsible for these wastes. If the leftovers of their enterprise have not been disposed of properly, supporters of these bills say, let the producers pay.

The companies concede that waste materials generated during the manufacture of chemicals are part of the problem, but they assert that other industries contributed, too, as did the Federal Government, through its

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