

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual
collections.

Collection: President, Office of the: Presidential
Briefing Papers: Records, 1981-1989
Folder Title: 05/09/1982 (Case File: 082789)
(3)
Box: 17

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>
To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
inventories visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at:
reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF THE: PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING PAPERS

Withdrawer

RBW 12/19/2007

File Folder 05/09/1982 (CASEFILE 082789)

FOIA

S07-0077/01

Box Number

86

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	PAPER	RE SENATOR CHARLES PERCY	1	ND	B6

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

B

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ED ROLLINS *P.R. for E.R.*

SUBJECT: ILLINOIS - POLITICAL BRIEFING

I. SUMMARY

Illinois conducted the first primary in the nation this year on March 16, 1982.

Republican Governor Jim Thompson, who faced only token primary opposition in his quest for a third term, will face the toughest race of his career against former Democrat U.S. Senator Adlai E. Stevenson, III.

The Republican primary race for Lieutenant Governor, which included 1980 Reagan Regional Political Director Don Totten as a candidate, was won by Illinois House Speaker George Ryan. Ryan was Governor Thompson's hand-picked choice for the nomination.

Reapportionment forced Illinois to give up two U.S. House seats. The subsequent redistricting process forced two incumbent Republican House members to run for re-election in the same district. In the 4th District primary, George O'Brien defeated Ed Derwinski by a narrow margin. Additionally, eight term incumbent Republican Congressman Tom Railsback was defeated in his primary race by conservative State Senator Ken McMillan. Eleven term veteran U.S. Congressman Paul Findley is currently considered the most vulnerable Republican U.S. House member in Illinois this year.

II. ELECTED OFFICIALS

GOVERNOR - James R. Thompson - Republican - Elected in 1976

SENATOR - Charles H. Percy - Republican - Elected in 1966

SENATOR - Alan J. Dixon - Democrat - Elected in 1980

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - 14 Republicans 10 Democrats

III. THE STATE LEGISLATURE

UPPER HOUSE - 29 Republicans 30 Democrats

LOWER HOUSE - 91 Republicans 86 Democrats

IV. REPUBLICAN STATE PARTY OFFICIALS

REPUBLICAN STATE CHAIRMAN - Donald W. Adams

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN - Harold B. Smith

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN - Crete B. Harvey

V. DISCUSSION

A. THE GUBERNATORIAL RACE - 1982

Republican Governor Jim Thompson was elected to a two-year term in 1976 by a staggering 1.4 million vote margin. In 1978 he was re-elected to a four-year term with a safe 59% of the vote. Thompson's bid for a third term this year, however, is likely to be far more difficult than his preceding two Gubernatorial races.

Thompson's Democrat challenger is former Democrat U.S. Senator Adlai E. Stevenson, III. Stevenson is the son of the former Illinois Governor who ran twice as the Democrat nominee for President against Dwight D. Eisenhower. Additionally, his great-grandfather was Grover Cleveland's

second Vice President. It is difficult to find a person in Illinois who does not recognize the name Adlai Stevenson.

In addition to the fact that Thompson is pitted against the most notable Democrat in Illinois politics, the Governor is faced with other stumbling blocks. Like all governors of large northern industrial states, Thompson has had to face some difficult problems during his past five years in office. The State's declining income base has prompted Thompson to rule out any immediate relief in state income taxes. Also, the Governor has had to veto various revenue bills earmarked for Chicago, especially in the area of mass transportation.

Besides issue-oriented problems, Thompson has had to face recent press criticism on two fronts. First of all, Thompson was decried for suggesting that his wife be appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court. She has since withdrawn her name from consideration. Secondly, the press has been questioning the validity of certain expenditures made by Thompson with campaign funds. These expenditures included the payment of baby-sitters for the Governor's children, as well as various Christmas presents which Thompson bought for some of his political friends. These charges have had little impact on the campaign, and have been basically forgotten.

On the Democrat side, Stevenson has encountered problems of his own. The former Senator has remained aloof from the State Democrat organization throughout his political career. As a result, personal enthusiasm for Stevenson's candidacy

among Democrat Party leaders has been rather lukewarm. Stevenson has had trouble raising substantial amounts of money for his campaign war chest. In fact, a portion of the \$100,000 earmarked for Stevenson's fall campaign, by the Democrat National Committee, has already been spent because Stevenson's campaign funds were so low.

Thompson, on the other hand, has raised over \$1.5 million. A large portion of his funds were raised last July when the President attended a fundraising dinner on the Governor's behalf in Chicago.

A recent poll conducted by the Chicago Tribune showed Thompson trailing Stevenson by 2 points. Thompson's own polls, however, show the Governor ahead by 4 points. Both polls indicate that a large portion of the electorate is still undecided.

B. DON TOTTEN AND THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S RACE

Republican State Senator Don Totten, former Illinois Reagan State Chairman, and Regional Political Director for the Upper Midwest during the 1980 campaign, was defeated in his bid for the Republican nomination for Lieutenant Governor. State House Speaker George Ryan, Governor Thompson's hand-picked choice for the nomination, won the three-way race. The third candidate was liberal State Representative Susan Cantina of Chicago. Totten came in third, with just under 25% of the vote.

C. THE U.S. HOUSE RACES - 1982

Reapportionment has forced Illinois to forfeit two of

its 24 U.S. House seats. The subsequent re-districting plan, and the primary election on March 16 have already made lame ducks of three Republican Congressmen: Ed Derwinski, elected in 1958; Bob McClory, elected in 1962; and Tom Railsback, elected in 1966.

Republican incumbents John Porter and Bob McClory were both thrown into the new 10th Congressional District. McClory opted to retire from Congress rather than face a primary battle against Porter. A more painful situation developed in the new 4th Congressional District, where two stalwart Republican House veterans were forced into a primary race, with neither incumbent choosing to step aside in deference to the other. Ed Derwinski and George O'Brien, close personal friends during their service in the House together, found themselves in the same political race for survival. O'Brien's narrow victory is generally accredited to his superb campaign organization, and to the fact that 60% of the new district's voters were drawn from O'Brien's old district.

Eight term moderate Republican Congressman Tom Railsback was defeated in his primary bid by conservative Republican State Senator Ken McMillan. McMillan was helped in his campaign by a number of conservative organizations who thought that Railsback was too much of a moderate to represent the people of the 17th District. Re-districting, which added a number of rural counties to Railsback's old district, also contributed to the incumbent's defeat.

The only Republican House member running in the general election who is considered to be in any re-election trouble.

is 22-year veteran Congressman Paul Findley. Findley has been targeted for defeat by various Jewish groups who believe that Findley is anti-Semitic. Additionally, redistricting has added a significant number of Democrats to Findley's district. Findley, however, seems to have established a good campaign organization, and in the words of a Illinois Republican observer, "he is doing all the right things for his district."

D. CARDINAL JOHN CODY, ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO

Cardinal John Cody, Archbishop of Chicago since 1967, who was the subject of a federal investigation for allegedly embezzling over \$1 million of Church funds, died on April 24, 1982.

E. THE PRESIDENT'S PAST VISITS TO CHICAGO

The President was last in Chicago on April 15, 1982 to address the National Catholic Education Association. Additionally, during the summer of 1981, the President attended a fundraiser for Governor Thompson, and one for the Illinois Republican Party. Both events were in Chicago.

VII. ILLINOIS - MISCELLANEOUS

POPULATION - 11,229,000
NICKNAME - The Prairie State
STATE MOTTO - State Sovereignty-National Union

C

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ED ROLLINS *P.R. for E.R.*

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST FOR DON TOTTON
MONDAY, MAY 10, 1982
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

I. PURPOSE

To raise money to help retire Don Totten's campaign debt from his unsuccessful race for Lieutenant Governor in Illinois' March 16, 1982 primary.

II. BACKGROUND

Republican State Senator Don Totten, former Reagan chairman in Illinois and Regional Political Director for the upper mid-western states in the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign, lost his bid this year for the Republican nomination for Lieutenant Governor. Totten, a conservative foe of Governor Thompson's policies in the state senate, was pitted against Illinois House Speaker George Ryan, who was Governor Thompson's hand-picked choice for the nomination. Also in the race was liberal State Representative Susan Cantina of Chicago. Ryan won the three-way race with about 50% of the vote. Totten won just under 25% of the vote, placing third, behind Cantina. Ryan's victory was attributable to two major factors: 1) he had the strong support of Governor Thompson; and, 2) many conservatives supported Ryan for fear that a split vote between Ryan and Totten might have allowed Cantina, an anathema among conservatives, to capture the nomination.

III. PARTICIPANTS

A. GUESTS

75-100 people at \$500 per person

B. STAFF CONTACT

Paul Russo

IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed Press

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

11:10a.m. The President arrives at fundraising breakfast
(in progress) for Don Totten

The Astoria Room
Conrad Hilton Hotel

Don Totten introduces the President

The President makes brief remarks

The President concludes remarks, shakes hands
along rope, and departs

TALKING POINTS

- Praise Don Totten's dedication to Republican causes; including both his service in the Reagan campaign, and as a state senator.
- Point out the great contribution Don Totten made to the Reagan-Bush ticket's 1980 election victory. With his help, the President carried Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana, all four of the states for which Totten was Regional Political Director.

TALKING POINTS CONT.-

- Give assurance that the Administration will continue to strive towards those goals embodied in the Reagan-Bush campaign, which Don Totten, and many others in attendance worked so hard for in 1980.

D

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1982

DROP-BY AT REGIONAL BRIEFING IN CHICAGO

DATE: Monday, May 10, 1982
LOCATION: Astoria Room, Conrad Hilton Hotel,
Chicago
TIME: 11:30 a.m. (15 minutes)
FROM: Karna Small *KS*

I. PURPOSE:

To fulfill a pledge made (several weeks ago) to meet with regional editors and broadcasters while traveling. These local press people have been invited to a major briefing on current domestic and foreign policy issues given by top White House staff plus one Cabinet member, but this is an opportunity for you to make brief remarks and answer a few questions of local concern.

II. BACKGROUND:

Several weeks ago at a luncheon with out-of-town press, you were asked if you would start meeting with local press people on the road. You said you'd like to do that. When asked if we could exclude the White House press corps, you said you didn't see how we could exclude them, but we could arrange it so that only the regional press are able to ask the questions. This is the way it will be set up in Chicago. They will first be briefed by David Gergen, Sec. Block, Jim Baker and Bud McFarlane.

III. PARTICIPANTS:

The President
Selected staff
Editors and broadcasters from Illinois and nearby states
White House Press Corps

IV. PRESS PLAN:

Local press will be set up
10 minutes before your arrival, White House press pool
will be escorted to the back of the room to record your remarks.
(NOTE: Some local media indicate they may go LIVE locally
with your remarks)

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

After being announced, you will proceed to the podium, deliver brief remarks, take a few questions and leave.

VI. REMARKS:

See Talking Points (Attached Tab A)

See specific questions on Chicago issues (Attached Tab B)

See background on Illinois political races (Attached Tab C)

TALKING POINTS FOR REGIONAL BRIEFING IN CHICAGO

- Welcome to what I hope to be the first of many such briefings for the regional press. A couple of weeks ago I was having lunch in the State Dining Room at the White HOuse with a group of editors from out-of-town and they asked if I would begin meeting with the local press when I travel about the country. I said I would like to do that -- so, here we are.
- I know you've been well briefed by Jack Block, Jim Baker and others but there are a few points I would like to emphasize to you here today.
- We have announced a number of initiatives in the last few weeks: ideas that I heartily endorsed during the campaign, and for many years before that. The other day I announced that we will be submitting to the Congress a proposal to amend the Constitution to allow our children to pray in school again, if they want to.
- The Founding Fathers didn't intend that the First Amendment be used to protect people FROM religion, but that it protect religious values from GOVERNMENT interference.
- Another initiative: tuition tax credits which are designed to help middle and lower income working families so they may exercise the same choice as wealthy families. Remember: 54% of families with children in private schools have incomes of less than \$25,000 (according to the latest available figures).
- Yet another idea that I strongly endorse is a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. And this leads me to our budget compromise announced just a few days ago.
- As you know, I have endorsed the compromise worked out by the Senate Budget Committee because it maintains our priorities of:
 - o Cutting the deficit - by \$416 billion over the next 3 years
 - o Reducing the growth of federal spending
 - o Preserving the goals of our defense program
 - o And maintaining our incentive tax cuts.

- It will freeze federal pay, discretionary spending and cost of living adjustments for all programs EXCEPT SOCIAL SECURITY.
- And I must say a special word about Social Security -- because I think there's been some misunderstanding here. I am committed to maintaining Social Security benefits for people now dependent on them...and I want to assure them that the 7.4% cost of living increase will be paid, on time, in July!
- We know we must find ways to insure the solvency of the Social Security System and we have pledged to do that through our Commission that is studying the issue. But there are many options available WITHOUT A REDUCTION OF CURRENT BENEFIT LEVELS. And, of course, all of these options, when presented by the Commission, would have to be thoroughly reviewed by the Congress.
- Finally, let me say a word about getting this budget passed. A reporter asked me the other day about getting the support of the Democrats in the HOUSe. Well, I am hoping for bipartisan support of this budget package because as I said then, it will be rather difficult for them to explain how they did not want to be a party to a plan that will reduce the three-year deficit by \$416 billion - and would continue downward to give us a balanced budget in the next several years. I have faith in the Congress because I know they want what we all want: and that is a return to the prosperity that I KNOW this country can produce. ✓

Now, in the few minutes we have here, I'll be glad to take a few questions.

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT BE ASKED BY CHICAGO MEDIA

Q: Do you support designation of Chicago as a World's Fair site?

A: "I have written to the Chairman of Chicago's committee stating that 'the United States is interested in hosting a universal class exposition in 1992 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the Americas.'"

(Note: Outright support of Chicago's bid would be inappropriate because of a contending bid from Miami, Florida.)

Q: How do you feel about the controversy surrounding the Chicago Housing Authority?

A: "This issue is being handled by Sam Pierce at HUD. We appreciate that Mayor Byrne has worked with HUD to resolve this problem."

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1982

MEMORANDUM REGARDING THE CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR

A committee of Chicagoans has been formed to bring a major World's Fair to their city in 1992. This fair would mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the Americas. Governor Jim Thompson (R-Illinois) and Mayor Jayne Byrne (D-Chicago) have been actively involved in this effort.

A comprehensive study of the project has been examined and approved by the Department of Commerce, and approval is presently being sought from the Bureau of International Expositions.

In addition to Chicago, Paris, France is also making a bid for a fair during approximately the same time period. President Mitterand of France has endorsed the French bid.

The President recently signed a letter dated May 4, 1982 to Mr. E.R.I. Allan, Chairman of the Chicago Pre-Inquiry Committee. In this letter, the President noted that "the United States is intensely interested in hosting a universal class exposition in 1992 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the Americas." Other language, supporting Chicago's bid, was included in the letter. Outright support, however, would be inappropriate because of the contending bid by Miami, Florida.

The President's letter was to be conveyed to the Bureau of International Expositions Inquiry Delegation which is meeting in the United States during the week of May 2 through 9 to inspect the Chicago fair site.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1982

MEMORANDUM REGARDING THE CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Background

Last spring, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) suffered from a revenue shortfall and requested an advance on their 1982 operating subsidy from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This request was granted for a six-month period. Last fall, when the advance was to be re-paid by the CHA, they not only were unable to repay the advance, but asked for an additional \$17 million. HUD agreed to extend the repayment date on the condition that an outside consulting group be allowed to study the problems of the CHA and that both parties, the CHA as well as HUD, would abide by those findings.

After the study was completed and published, there was a tremendous amount of negotiating between the CHA and HUD to resolve issues concerning the recommendations of the study. After discussion at the White House, it was determined that the entire matter should be handled by HUD.

On April 12, 1982, Mayor Jane Byrne agreed to the major findings in the study:

1. She will request the Illinois General Assembly to enact legislation as quickly as possible to expand the size of the Chicago Housing Authority Board of Directors from five to seven members.
2. The Mayor will request that the Illinois General Assembly enact legislation to allow the Chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority to be compensated at an annual rate set by the Board sufficient to attract a qualified person to oversee the operation.
3. The personnel changes that were recommended in the study have been agreed to and will take place within 90 days.
4. On April 13th, HUD released funding to the CHA to facilitate its operation.

HUD is pleased with the work that Chicago is doing in implementing the above-mentioned items. Should you be asked to comment on this matter, state that you appreciate that Mayor Byrne worked with HUD to resolve this problem.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ILLINOIS POLITICAL RACES

Illinois conducted the first primary in the nation this year on March 16, so their general election campaign is underway.

Republican Governor Jim Thompson, who faced only minor primary opposition in his quest for a third term, will face a tough race against former Democrat U.S. Senator Adlai E. Stevenson, III. The AFL-CIO is now likely to support Thompson, and Thompson now seems to be pulling out in front in what once looked like a neck and neck race. (Right now it's still too close to call though)

The Republican primary race for Lieutenant Governor, which included 1980 Reagan Regional Political Director Don Totten as a candidate, was won by Illinois House Speaker George Ryan. Ryan was Thompson's hand-picked choice for the nomination.

Reapportionment forced Illinois to give up two U.S. House seats. The subsequent redistricting process forced two incumbent Republican House members to run for re-election in the same district. In the 4th District primary, George O'Brien defeated Ed Derwinski by a narrow margin. Additionally, eight term incumbent Republican Congressman Tom Railsback was defeated in his primary race by conservative State Senator Ken McMillan.

E

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

YMCA OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO
PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES ADDRESS

DATE: May 10, 1982
LOCATION: Chicago, Illinois
TIME: 12:00 Noon
FROM: Jay Moorhead *J. Moorhead*
Special Assistant to the President
Private Sector Initiatives

I. PURPOSE

To highlight the voluntary efforts of the Chicago YMCA and to give a major address on the Private Sector Initiatives Program.

II. BACKGROUND

The YMCA is the largest private sector human service agency in the country. It is undertaking a major fundraising campaign to rehabilitate and redesign the Chicago YMCA facilities, and this lunch will kick off the fundraising drive. It is a \$1,000 per person event.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached list.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open press coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- To Conrad Hilton Hotel
- Astoria Room for head table reception
- To holding room
- Lunch
- Remarks
- Depart for hotel

III. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Governor Thompson, Mayor Jane Byrne, various Congressmen and possibly Senator Percy.

Edward S. Donnell, Chairman, Board of Managers, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. Also Chairman of Chicago United Way.

Robert P. Mayo, past Chairman of the Board of Managers, current Chairman of Annual Financial Development Campaign. Recently retired as President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Howard Arvey, past Chairman of the Board of Managers and Co-Chairman of \$38.2 million Capital Campaign with Stan Enlund.

John O. Roat, President of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago for over 20 years.

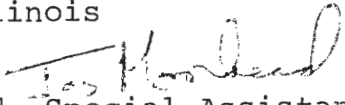
Donald Rumsfeld was instrumental in setting up the luncheon. May be attending.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1982

SITE VISIT TO PROVIDENCE - ST. MEL HIGH SCHOOL

DATE: May 10, 1982
LOCATION: Chicago, Illinois
TIME: 2:15 P.M. 
FROM: Jay Moorhead, Special Assistant to the
President
Private Sector Initiatives

I. PURPOSE

To spotlight an inner-city high school in the highest crime area of Chicago where 95% of the graduating class attends college. The school receives no public funds to operate.

II. BACKGROUND

Providence - St. Mel High School was featured on the TODAY Show in February. The students, predominately black, enter the school two to three grades below the national academic average. They are taught to learn by incentives and rewards.

The students who excel in the classroom are treated like heroes. The school has no drug or gang problem and most students are the first in their family to graduate from high school. Some come from third generation welfare families. The Principal, John Adams, raises money to support the school from local businesses and from small fund-raising events.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Paul Adams, Principal
Mrs. Reagan
The students of Providence - St. Mel

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open press coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 2:15 P.M. arrive at Providence - St. Mel
- Greeted by Principal Paul Adams
- Mrs. Reagan and you have 10-minute private meeting
- 2:25 P.M. You (without Mrs. Reagan) go back stage
in the Auditorium
- Introduction by Paul Adams
- Brief remarks
- 2:35 P.M. Question and answer session with students
- 3:00 P.M. Depart

Talking points attached

PROVIDENCE-ST. MEL:

THE SCHOOL THAT REFUSED TO DIE

Students, staff and parents save an institution

PROVIDENCE-ST. MEL:

THE SCHOOL THAT REFUSED TO DIE

Students, staff and parents save an institution

BY RON HARRIS

PROVIDENCE St. Mel High School stands amid the squalor of Chicago's West Side as an educational oasis in the midst of a learning desert. Surrounding the five-story, Gothic structure are crumbling buildings, many being held together by little more than the dreams of those yearning to escape the neighborhood's despair. Every type of drug and 126 bars can be found nearby, unemployment runs to 40 percent, and half the family incomes are below the federal poverty level.

But inside Providence St. Mel, a learning experience takes place that is equaled by few schools in America and probably by none functioning in a similar environment. In the last six years, 85 percent of the school's graduates have gone to college, and that impressive figure jumped to 95 percent for the past three years. Though violence and terror are part of the daily routine in the surrounding neighborhood, none exists in the confines of the predominantly Black school. There are no drugs in the hall, no spray can graffiti on the walls,

no locks on school equipment or classroom doors.

Providence St. Mel may well be the most remarkable high school in the country. But despite its record of academic excellence and good student deportment, the 49-year-old institution's existence was seriously threatened this year. On Holy Thursday, three days before Easter, the Chicago Archdiocese, the largest Catholic diocese in the U.S. and possibly the richest in the world, told principal Paul Adams it would no longer fund the once all-White school. A number of reasons were listed, including one that the school had failed to raise enough money besides that provided by the archdiocese (although the school had increased outside funding from \$10,000 to \$100,000 since 1973 when the archdiocese first threatened to close the institution unless outside funding was increased). Adams literally begged church officials to reconsider, but they refused. So, last June, the doors of the school were closed, supposedly forever. But they

The fierce determination of staff, students and parents that enabled Providence St. Mel to buck the mighty Chicago Archdiocese and stay alive is reflected in the faces of school principal Paul Adams and his students (left) standing in front of the 49-year-old institution. Students (right) joined with parents and staff to raise money to save the school.





No nonsense rules, instituted by Adams, have not only eliminated the discipline problem at the school and won the principal respect of the students, "Students often tell him in the hall that he's the best principal they've ever had," Adams says.



- If any school property is stolen, all of the students at the school are held responsible and a collection is taken up to cover the cost of the article unless the real culprit is pointed out.

- If a student leaves the building during school hours without permission that student is dropped. "What do they need to go out for?" Adams asks. "All the learning is taking place in here."

- If a student walks on the school grass, the student is fined \$10. That may sound hard, but it was Adams and students who sodded the lawn.

- If a student is late for class three times, the student is fined \$5.

"Those rules may sound harsh, but they're not," Adams explains. "The students who are here to learn don't mind them at all. Those rules are actually to keep out the students who are not here to learn. This school is a place of business. You come in, take care of your business and leave. Of course, a lot of people disagree with me." However, they certainly couldn't disagree with the results. "You see, we don't have time for a lot of foolishness," Adams continues. "We're in a financial pinch and we're understaffed. It is important that the students understand that and understand what we expect them to do. I don't have time to lock my office each time I go out or to worry about locking this office on that machine. I don't have time to deal with four or five students every day about tardiness. The staff at this school has too many other things we need to be doing to keep this school alive to be worried about such things. This is a place of learning. We're not high priced baby sitters."

"What we have done here is change the value system. When I first got here, just getting by with as little work as possible was considered cool. We changed all that. Now it's cool to be on the honor roll." One

reason being on the honor roll is "cool" is because any student who makes all A's during a quarter is refunded his or her tuition. The check is made out to the student, not the parent. "The parent didn't earn the grades, the student did," Adams explains quickly.

Ironically, Adams, who puts in 10 to 15 hours a day as the school's janitor, gardener and security guard (he lives in the school), never wanted to be principal of Providence-St. Mel. In fact, he still doesn't want the job. While operating a fast food franchise, he came to the school as an interim guidance counselor as a favor for a friend, but the pressure of handling two jobs proved too much for him and he resigned at the end of the school year. But in August the principal of the school called and offered him the top position.

"I said 'No, not enough money,'" Adams recalls, "but I decided to take it on the basis of helping kids. And, besides, I had gotten all the things I needed for my little Black middle-class lifestyle. I've been here seven years now, seven years too long. I hadn't expected to be here but two years when I started, but every time I got ready to leave a crisis came up. First there was the talk about closing the school in 1973, and now this. Looks like I'll end up being caught here for another two or three years."

The staff and students at Providence-St. Mel have won one battle, but they have yet to win the war. They still need money. Because of the financial pinch, staff members often handle jobs outside their regular duties. It is not uncommon to see an instructor lecturing a student in the lunchroom about the correct answers on yesterday's assignment and then walk into the kitchen to join other teachers preparing the day's lunch.

One instructor quipped while dishing out hot roast beef sandwiches,



Lack of funds has forced Adams, Adams and the staff to double as cooks. At top center, repair instructor Diane Swasse and Judith Speare, an English instructor, prepare roast beef sandwiches for lunch while teaching instructor Mary Taylor (bottom right) serves hot dogs to hungry students. Teachers volunteer the double duty.



Honor student Robert Davis, a senior who aspires to a medical career, discusses his plans for college with Adams during a break in classes. All students are required to take a battery of college entrance exams in junior-senior years and to apply to three colleges. In past three years, 94 percent have gone to college.

Leaping high, a student (right) practices the scissor-kick in the high jump while classmates (below) do calisthenics. Athletics, including track and field, tennis, basketball and bowling, are vital to curriculum.

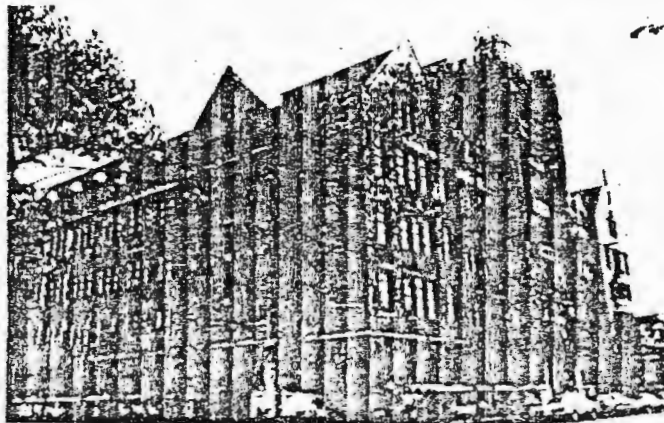


"If I ever lost this job, I can always get one as a cook," Adams says of his staff. "The teachers have learned that this is not just a job, it's a way of life."

The students understand the plight of their school. They manned the front line to save the school when it was slated for extinction and continue to run many of its present fund-raising events. Indicative of this attitude, the senior prom theme was "Stayin' Alive." "Students know what they are expected to do, and they just do it," says Derrick Powell, 16, a junior. "It's hard here. I could go to an easier school, but I believe that when you take the easy way you suffer in the long run."

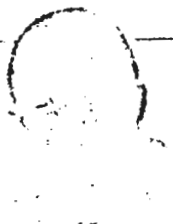
Adams remains as adamant as ever about the survival of the school. "We didn't go through all this work just for one year," he says. To keep the money coming in, he conducts bingo games three days a week and disco dances twice a month to supplement mail-in contributions. Whether Providence-St. Mel will survive remains to be seen. Even Adams admits he is seriously worried. But if the progress of the last six years can be used as an indicator of what the future holds, the school should make it.

Providence-St. Mel stands tall amid the dilapidated housing on Chicago's West Side. An estimated \$250,000 is needed to repair the 49-year old building, presently being bought by the school from the order, The Sisters of Providence.



In the Wake of the News

By David Condon



St. Mel vs. Latin —prestige, pride

FIRST LADY Nancy Davis Reagan, former U.S. Sen. Adlai Stevenson, Carol Fox of Lyric Opera fame, and all around sports star Johnny Groth attended what now is Latin School, where the current tuition starts at \$2,215 for kindergarten and runs to \$4,495 in the upper grades.

The prestigious Near North Side institution resulted from a merger of the Latin School for Boys and the Latin School for Girls. Latin's enrollment, from kindergarten up, is 908.

Latin means money, pride, excellence, discipline, and tradition.

Baseball's Johnny Rigney and Frank Quilici, basketball's Johnny Dee, legendary Paddy Driscoll of Northwestern, the Chicago Cardinals, and the Bears, plus some who reached the state's higher political echelons — including Michael Howlett and Arthur J. Bidwill — are names still revered at the West Side's Providence-St. Mel High School. Like Latin, Providence-St. Mel was born of a merger: Providence Catholic girl's school, and St. Mel, which educated young men for 50 years prior to the marriage forced by changing neighborhood conditions. Including a new junior high program, the Providence-St. Mel enrollment is 360. Tuition costs \$900.

Providence-St. Mel, a beacon in the ghetto, does not mean money.

PROVIDENCE-ST. MEL, operated as a private school, "the miracle school" since support was withdrawn by the Catholic archdiocese, has a gnawing need for money. Of course, things were different when Providence's rolls included young ladies with such surnames as McGuire, Tobin, Sullivan, Sheehan, Ryan, and Moran. That was the age when St. Mel's student roster highlighted the Rigneys, Quilicis, Purcells, Naughtons, Aschenbrenners, Rybskis, McGuffs, Johnsons, and O'Kerfes.

But excellence, pride, discipline, and tradition remain as highly prized at struggling Providence-St. Mel as at affluent Latin.

Latin and Providence-St. Mel, schools that seem so contrasting and yet are so similar academically and athletically, unite in a party Wednesday night in St. Gregory's gymnasium, on Ashland Avenue just a block south of Bryn Mawr. But it's not going to be a fete to reminisce about Nancy Reagan and Adlai Stevenson, about Paddy Driscoll and Mike Howlett. It's a basketball party, a Class A state tournament shootout. Wednesday night, East does meet West, or, rather, Near North meets West Side, and though Rudyard Kipling can't be there to detail the saga, the city's sports writers will.

Latin, storied in private school competition since Groth (later a major league baseball star) sparked its teams on the gridiron, polished maples, and diamond, goes into this regional playoff with an 18-12 record.

PROVIDENCE-ST. MEL, with a 23-3 record, and 101-62 conqueror of Central YMCA in Monday's regional opener, will be the favorite. The short-but-fast Knights are rated the No. 3 Class A team in Illinois and scent a state championship that would inspire old St. Mel grads to reminisce about the great basketball conquests of days gone by.

Because, while Latin now has the money, Providence-St. Mel has the basketball tradition.

St. Mel's Knights were the national Catholic champions in 1925. Four seasons later, with Driscoll coaching basketball as well as football, undefeated St. Mel was the All-Chicago champion (beating Crane Tech, public school titlist) and favorite to win another national Catholic crown. Unfortunately, two St. Mel players were declared ineligible, and the squad voted to forego the national meet at Loyola rather than compete without its disfranchised players.

The greatest moment in St. Mel's basketball history, though, came in Chicago Stadium in late March, 1954. That evening the Knights were solid underdogs to Coach Jim Brown's Du Sable Public League champions, led by Paxton Lumpkin, Sweet Charlie Brown, Shellie McMillon, and McKinley Cowsen.

Du Sable had beaten St. Mel early in the season, 69-54, and subsequently excited Chicagoans by advancing through the state tournament before losing to Mt. Vernon in the finals, 76-70. It was the first time that a Chicago team had gone so far in state competition, and began an era where Chicago entries would come close to dominating the meet.

BUT DU SABLE was in for a surprise. St. Mel, coached by Jim Weaver and paced by such as Eddie Gleason (who missed the first game with Du Sable), Andy Sloan, and Pat Boyle, romped to victory, 83-74, in the Chicago championship duel. That night wine flowed freely at Eddie O'Leary's, Fred White's, Mother McKenna's, and similar mineral springs on the West Side.

Wednesday night, against Latin, Providence-St. Mel — coached by Tom Shields and featuring Tom Brown, Reggie Johnson, Ron Virgil, Vernal Turner, Mike Parker, and Leroy Tolliver — seeks to further its claim to being another Cinderella team. But that's of little import. Providence-St. Mel, when the real score is totaled, already has proven to be the town's Cinderella school. That's the big story, and the man behind it is the principal, Paul J. Adams. Paul has rallied a school that almost closed its doors in 1978, when archdiocese support was canceled. He is St. Mel's star of this age.

"It hasn't been easy," says the native Alabaman. "Funds for support aren't coming in like they did a couple of years ago. If this was a business, we would have been bankrupt months ago. But we're in education."

ADAMS IS PRINCIPAL, fund-raiser, and general maintenance man. He insists on high academics. "I want an A at Providence-St. Mel to mean the same as an A at Northwestern University," he says. And he is a bear on discipline. "Discipline is everything," says Adams. "If my students can't bounce the books, they can't bounce the ball."

"We eliminated our junior high and freshman basketball teams this year because the players weren't making the scholastic average. I would have eliminated the varsity, too, if the players were not making the grades. Academic discipline makes good athletes; athletic discipline does not make academic stars. I'm tired of seeing black athletes exploited. I want them disciplined and educated."

Providence-St. Mel needs funds. Industry can help. You can support the \$10 benefit fashion show at the school March 23. Or send a donation to Providence-St. Mel, 119 S. Central Park Blvd., Chicago. Help some winners.

PROGRESS

Volume 2 Number 1

November 1979



PROVIDENCE-ST. MEL HIGH SCHOOL
118 S. Central Park
Chicago, Illinois 60624

722-4600

Chicago's amazing black high school

Providence-St. Mel enjoys a national reputation for academic achievement, discipline and the raising of funds

We believe in the creation of inspired lives produced by the miracle of hard work . . . We believe that one must earn the right to dream . . . We believe that we can take this place, this time, this people, and make a better place, a better time, and a better people . . . With God's help we will either find a way or make one.

From the Mission Statement of Providence-St. Mel High School.

By CHARLES BURGESS

Globe-Democrat Education Writer

CHICAGO — An old song mentions some things that couldn't be shut down in this toddlin' town and the supporters of Providence-St. Mel High School think it should be included if the tune ever is revised.

In a two-year struggle for survival, the school in a deteriorating west side neighborhood has acquired something of a legendary national reputation for academic achievement, discipline and self-reliant fund raising.

There are many instances in history where the influences of an individual, an idea or an institution have ranged outward in inspiring aspiration. In a brief time, Providence-St. Mel seems to have made a good start toward that status.

Reporters from the New York Times, Time Magazine, Ebony and other publications have helped chronicle both the sometimes-disputed facts and the growing legend about the five-story, castle-like school at 119 South Central Park. The account has implications for the efforts of respected but financially hard pressed private and parochial schools seeking to stay alive in many cities.

Failure or movement to the suburbs has been the fate of many similar schools. In St. Louis, for example, the Catholic parochial system has cloned or merged some half dozen high schools in the inner city since World War II. A new high school, Cardinal Ritter College Prep, is the sole survivor.

A comprehensive study by the St. Louis Archdiocese found that college preparatory programs were what the people of the predominantly poor, black North St. Louis neighborhoods wanted to give their children opportunity.

There's a parallel situation in the virtually all-black area from which Chicago's Providence-St. Mel draws its students, who average sixth grade level achievement when admitted as freshmen, says Principal Paul Adams.

But of those who find the tuition (many by working or internal scholarship grants), conquer the exacting academic program and meet the rigid behavior standards, at least 80 percent enter college, he claims.

Despite an almost constant crisis situation since links with the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago were severed in June, 1978, Adams is optimistic that a continued emphasis on academic excellence will keep Providence-St. Mel alive.

"Besides, it's cheaper to run college prep than a vocational program," he said. "I find the youngsters here much more serious

about what they are doing than a lot of high school students," said ninth teacher Sister Mary Magdalen, S.P.

She's a 1940 graduate of the school when it was operated by the Sisters of Providence for about 1,200 girls in the then predominantly Irish-American neighborhood. Merger came in 1969 with all male St. Mel, operated until then by the Christian Brothers and named for an Irish contemporary of St. Patrick. The all-black enrollment is about 250 now, down from 300 last fall.

The building is leased from the sisters, but Sister Mary is the only member of a religious order on the school's regular faculty now. She taught there before going in the mid-1980's to St. Louis area schools, including the principal post at Kennedy High School, Manchester. Her return was her own choice.

"I think I can be more humanized by the children here who are showing that they will not be dehumanized by the conditions around them," she said.

The faculty of 20 is evenly divided between blacks and whites. Many do administrative work as well as teach. Salaries average \$10,750 yearly, well below averages in Chicago's public and parochial systems. So why do they stay?

"There's more education going on in this school than in any high school in Chicago. Kids are learning, and you can see it happen," said Harvey M. Gross, business teacher and admissions director. The Yale graduate came to Providence St. Mel after eight years in Chicago Public Schools.

Anthony Williams, senior class president, transferred to Providence St. Mel in his junior year, and it is on its basketball team. He does clerical and maintenance work in lieu of a portion of the \$750 annual tuition.

The chief academic impact he has felt in maintaining a B average is "the homework. If we're in sports, we're required to study in the library here an hour and a half before practicing. And then it's books at home every night."

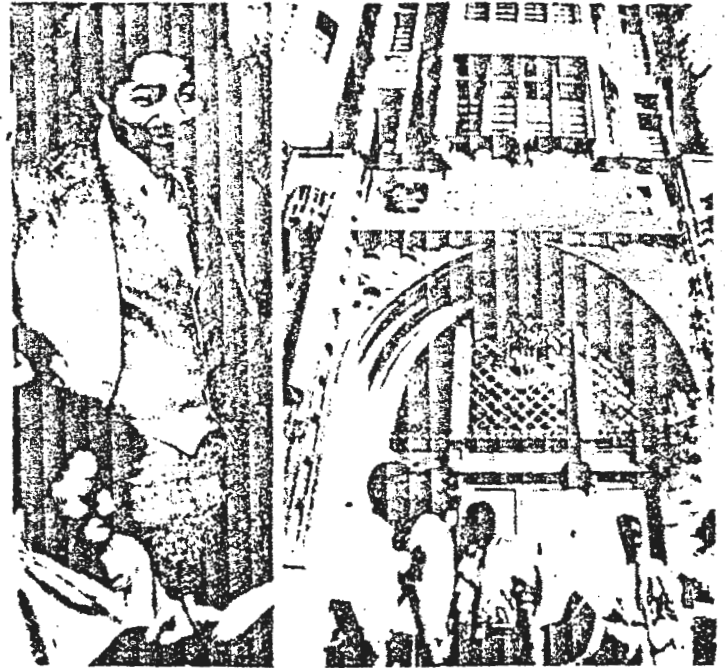
Behavior codes are strict, but fair, Anthony said. Among them: Possession of drugs, alcoholic beverages or weapons means automatic expulsion. Students can't smoke in or near the school. Dress must be neat and modest. Fighting or cutting a class without permission means suspension. Tardiness brings a fine or physical work assignment.

But the codes are not burdensome, Anthony said. "We're treated like young adults. It makes you feel like you're in college already."

"We don't want kids who are going to mess us up and make trouble here so we can't concentrate on what we're doing," said senior Adrienne Curtis.

THE STAFF ENTHUSIASM for preserving the school goes beyond the teachers. Cook Eleanor Ford didn't finish grade school in her native Mississippi. Three of her eight children attend Providence St. Mel. Another graduated there, and another quit "even though Mr. Adams tried everything he could to keep him."

Her husband is on disability pension, and it's a struggle to raise the tuition money. "We will do it as long as God gives us strength. The public schools can have the



Principal Paul Adams of Providence-St. Mel High School in Chicago, left, talks to one of the students during their lunch break. Students talking things over, right, at the school entrance.

failures. My children are not going to have to take low-paying jobs."

Chief custodian Walter Ormolack, 70, has been at the school 35 years, and vouches for the 51-year-old structure despite roof leaks, obvious need of interior paint and city inspection qualms about lack of a sprinkler system.

"This is a good building. It's iron and concrete, and it's not going to fall down or burn down," he said.

Wings twice weekly at the school has helped the fund drives, and kept up community interest. The neighborhood block club also is donating for a much-needed snowplow, and its members watch for intruders or vandals.

"This is one of our best schools and we are optimistic that it will not have to close," said Mattie Simpson, who has lived across the street for 16 years.

The largest, most controversial force in both the legends and the facts about Providence-St. Mel certainly is Adams, 39, principal since 1972.

He administers, teaches and lives (in a room once occupied by nuns) in the building; personally sandblasted grime and graffiti from its classical facade; supervised students and staffers in the sodding that made its grounds an island of green; led drive that collected \$170,000 for the 1978-1979 school year, and has begun a new one for \$200,000. He chaired the Providence-St. Mel Corporation during its first independent year. In August control was turned over to a racially-mixed 12-member board of businessmen, clergymen and parents.

Struggle is nothing new to this tall, bearded Alabama-born man of fundamentalist Baptist background. In his teens he participated in the historic bus boycott led by the Rev. Martin Luther King in Montgomery. Adams was expelled from an Alabama college for subsequent activism. He eventually earned a master's degree at Northeastern State University in Chicago.

He's a proud and confident man. His reaction to the fall-off in enrollment from last year is typical:

"We could have had more students, but turned down 25 percent of the applicants because they weren't academically qualified. We will start our own junior high next fall. That will help our enrollment and income, and it also give us students better prepared than we get now."

Adams admits he had tenuous relationships with archdiocesan officials before the break in 1978, when an annual subsidy averaging more than \$150,000 was cut off. His reaction was to persuade an advertising firm to donate money for a full-page ad in the Wall Street Journal that was headlined "340 Kids (The 1977-1978 enrollment) Are About to Learn Hard Work Isn't Worth a Damn."

"It seems to me you're doing a job if you run a good school and get good results, but the archdiocese tried to close us for years. Adams told this reporter. In one crisis seven years ago, the school began its own fund raising, and cut the subsidy needed from the archdiocese in half, he said.

At the time of the 1978 cutoff, the archdiocese responded to statements Adams was making by placing a full-page ad in the Chicago Tribune.

It asserted that religion wasn't being given proper emphasis in the school, that enrollment had dropped steadily although the school draws from a large area, that its cost-per-pupil and attrition (dropout) rate exceeded other Catholic high schools and that the school's own reports showed 82 percent or less of graduates attending college, rather than 80.

The Rev. Walter M. Wilcheck, director of high schools for the archdiocese, says the archdiocese has received unfair blame in the continuing debate.

"We worked hard to keep the school there, but our resources are limited. The choice had to be made on the Catholic education presence (on the west side) and the choice was to have it in parish elementary schools," he said.

BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT

Providence-St. Mel High School has become a national model in providing quality education in an urban community. Despite its location in a community that borders on economic disaster, it is an educational institution that challenges its students to make successes of their lives.

HISTORY OF PROVIDENCE-ST. MEL HIGH SCHOOL

In 1886 a group of Sisters came from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, where six French Sisters had established the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence in 1840, to teach in the elementary schools now known as St. Mel's and Our Lady of Sorrows. The following year a room in Our Lady of Sorrows school was given over to the "high school department" of one teacher and nine pupils. By 1897 the growing Our Lady of Providence Academy moved into its own building on the southwest corner of Van Buren Street and Albany Avenue. Accreditation by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools came in 1913 with an A rating which Providence has maintained throughout its history.

In 1921 the late Cardinal Mundelein selected the academy as a regional high school and changed its name to Providence High School. By the mid 1920's a greatly expanded enrollment necessitated the erection of a new building which opened in March, 1929, at its present location. For many years Providence High School was one of Chicago's foremost Catholic girls' schools, with capacity enrollments of 1200 and notable participation in educational, civic and church-related activities.

By the late 1960's the locale of Providence High School and that of the neighboring St. Mel High School for boys, conducted by the Christian Brothers, had become "inner city" with decreasing enrollments and increasing student needs. Representatives of the Sisters, Brothers, and the Archdiocese of Chicago (now partially subsidizing both institutions) decided to house both schools at Providence. For the 1968-69 school year the two schools, now under one roof, continued their separate identity and operation, an arrangement which proved unsatisfactory. Inner city unrest and agitation added to the problem.

In September, 1969, a merging of the two schools solved some of the difficulties. Financial and personnel problems, however, were reaching proportions which neither religious congregation felt it could handle. The Archdiocese too was weighing whether it could--or should--increase the substantial subsidy it was now giving to Providence-St. Mel. By the Spring of 1971 the situation had reached a crisis, with temporary suspensions of both payroll and classes, and a resulting determined effort on the part of students, parents and others to save the school. By this time the Archdiocese had assumed the major portion of the responsibility for the school.

While the Sisters of Providence could no longer make a personnel commitment--the Brothers had already indicated their withdrawal at the end of the year--they did offer the continued use of their building as a corporate contribution to the inner city apostolate at Providence-St. Mel. This arrangement with the Archdiocese, at the token rental of one dollar annually continued until June, 1978.

During the summer of 1970 the faculty of Providence-St. Mel, now an Archdiocesan High School, began the task of assessing the needs of the new socio-economic community in which it found itself. Implementation of this assessment led to the development of community-based structures. Providence-St. Mel saw itself as accountable in its educational efforts to parents and students. The structures developed were: the Student-Parent-Faculty Council, Discipline Court, Hiring and Review Board, and Curriculum Committee. Each structure incorporated a tripartite membership" parents, students and faculty having decision-making power. In following this mode of action, Providence-St. Mel admirably fulfilled the collegial spirit of Vatican II in carrying on the tradition of response to the "signs of the times" exhibited by the original Providence High School.

In 1972 Mr. Paul J. Adams was hired as principal. He immediately began working toward a thrust for excellence in the school's academic program. Adam and his staff, together with the students and community, began the strict disciplinary and academic standards within which the school currently operates. Although great strides were made in establishing a "no nonsense" school, Providence-St. Mel continued to be plagued by financial difficulties. The Archdiocese again questioned whether it should continue to subsidize the school and, in fact, did announce a June, 1974, closing. With the generosity of the Sisters of Providence in offering the continued use of their building the school was able to continue its educational mission on the West side of Chicago.

After this near-closing crisis in 1974, Providence-St. Mel increased its own

fund raising from a little over \$10,000 in 1973-74 to an amount in excess of \$100,000 in 1977-78. During this same period the subsidy from the Archdiocese decreased from \$239,000 to \$150,000.

On March 23, 1978, the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago abruptly issued notice that it would not continue its subsidy for the 1978-79 school year, thereby ordering the closing of the school in June, 1978. Unfortunately, no communication with school officials, parents or the westside parishes had preceded this announcement, nor had efforts been made to work out procedures to try to keep the school open.

THE COMMUNITY SURROUNDING PROVIDENCE-ST. MEL HIGH SCHOOL

Providence-St. Mel High School is located on Chicago's West side in a predominantly Black community. It is located in a community that is plagued with economic and social problems that have become the trademark of many poor urban communities. The community that surrounds Providence-St. Mel has an unemployment rate of over 40%. More than 50% of the households in this community have incomes below the national poverty level. The crime level is high on Chicago's West side, and drugs can be purchased by almost anyone. An article on Providence-St. Mel in the December, 1978, issue of "Ebony Magazine" stated that 126 taverns can be found in the local community that surrounds the high school. The West side of Chicago is a community that experienced some of the nation's worst riots in the late 1960's. As the 1980's emerge it has not yet realized recovery from that period.

A CASE FOR "STAYIN' ALIVE"

In spite of many obstacles, Providence-St. Mel has achieved phenomenal success in reaching its most important goal: preparing students academically for successful entrance into college or into the work force.

Students are encouraged to continue their education beyond high school.

All students must:

- 1) take college aptitude tests.
- 2) apply to at least three different colleges.
- 3) complete financial aid forms.
- 4) write papers describing their career goals.

Since 1975, more than 90% of the school's graduates have gone to college and have done well. Of the 82 graduates since June, 1978, 77 have been accepted for college entrance.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the decision of the Catholic Archdiocese to close the school met with total resistance. The school's administrators and teachers, parents and students were determined to raise the funds necessary to keep their school alive.

PUBLICITY

During the period from May to September, 1978, Providence-St. Mel received much national and local coverage in both the print and broadcast media.

All of Chicago's television stations covered the activities regarding the Archdiocese's withdrawal of financial support from the school. The newspapers covered it as a major news story of 1978. Nationally, "Ebony", "People", "Time", "Industry Week", "The Wall Street Journal", and the "New York Times" carried articles concerning Providence-St. Mel High School.

The Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Defender, WLS-TV (Channel 7) and WMAQ-TV (Channel 5) wrote editorials supporting Providence-St. Mel. The network news programs of ABC-TV, CBS-TV and NBC-TV in the months of June and September, 1978, featured stories on the school. On May 2, 1978, Michael Bilandic, then the mayor of Chicago, appealed to the graduates of Providence and St. Mel High Schools to help keep the school open.

FUND RAISING

During the five month period from May to September, 1978, a blistering campaign was launched in which \$160,000 was raised to operate Providence-St. Mel for the 1978-79 school year. Virtually every possible fund raising activity was considered. Major corporations as well as individuals were solicited for contributions. A full page advertisement, donated by the J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency, was run in the Wall Street Journal. The largest contributions came from Bankers Life and Casualty Company for \$25,000 and Thomas Distributors for \$20,000. Hundreds of small contributions were received from many parts of the country, including places as far away as Maine, California, Puerto Rico, and Belgium. Parents of the students of Providence-St. Mel raised over \$100,000 for the 1978-79 school year budget.

TUITION

In order to continue to recruit students from the local neighborhood, Providence-St. Mel has kept its tuition at \$750. This figure represents an increase of \$100 each year over the past two years. Although the tuition presents a major burden to many of our families, it covers only a fraction

of the school's total operating costs. Currently, over 60% of the students attending Providence-St. Mel High School work part-time jobs in order to pay the cost of their tuition. As an incentive to motivate students to strive for excellence, any student who earns all "A's" receives a tuition reimbursement check in his or her name.

THE FUTURE

Even though Providence-St. Mel has remained open continuously for over half a century, funds are needed to keep it in existence as a viable educational institution. Bankers Life and Casualty Company and several other major corporations have pledged continuing support to the school.

Recently the faculty and administration, with the aid of a consultant, worked out a five-year financial and academic plan. This plan details the financial needs of the high school for the school years 1979-80 through 1983-84. Under this plan provisions have been made for an annual review of the budget. Curriculum guides have been reviewed and improved so that teachers and students are aware of what is expected of them in terms of the academic standards of the school.

The building in which Providence-St. Mel is located is in need of repair and renovation. The building was examined by Archetectonics, Inc. in December, 1978. The cost for needed repairs and improvements was estimated at that time.

IMMEDIATE FUTURE

Last December, PSM's major benefactor, Bankers Life and Casualty Company, hired an experienced professional to guide the fund raising, public relations and recruiting activities of the high school.

Presently the Board of Trustees adopted an operating plan of objectives which, roughly, set sights on increasing the freshman class enrollment in September, 1980, from the present 82 to 255. This could have a dollar value of \$191,000. In addition, a goal of 250 scholarships at \$1000 each for deserving students would be solicited from local foundations and business firms. This, valued at \$250,000. This rather ambitious program is now in gear.

LYNN MARTIN
(R-Illinois)

Republican, 16th Congressional District of Illinois (northern part of state, including Dixon), 1st term. Serves on the House Budget Committee and the House Administration Committee. Has been a consistent supporter of Administration initiatives. Was helpful during OMB Director Stockman's appearance before the House Budget Committee on May 5 and 6.

Has met with the President and attended White House events on numerous occasions. Attended the President's meeting with House Budget Committee Republicans on May 4, 1982. Sat at the President's table during the April 5th breakfast for House Republican Freshmen.

Lynn was recently in Bermuda where she visited with your new Consul General, Max Friedersdorf.

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF THE: PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING PAPERS

Withdrawer

RB 12/19/2007
W

File Folder

05/09/1982 (CASEFILE 082789)

FOIA

S07-0077/01

Box Number

86

<i>DOC Document Type</i>	<i>No of</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i>
<i>NO Document Description</i>	<i>pages</i>		<i>tions</i>
1 PAPER	1	ND	B6
RE SENATOR CHARLES PERCY			

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

HENRY HYDE
(R-Illinois)

Republican, 6th Congressional District of Illinois (Cook County, including Cicero), 4th term. Serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. Strong supporter of Administration initiatives. Has been a vocal and persuasive advocate in the House to outlaw abortion and to effectuate various reforms aimed at family preservation.

Has met with the President and attended White House events on a number of occasions.