

Pictured here is Concurrent Discussion Session B during the early afternoon of Monday, June 12, 1972, at the first Catholic Health Assembly.



The banquet speaker at the first assembly on the evening of Wednesday, June 14, was the columnist Art Buchwald, pictured here with what must have been in real life a more colorful shirt.



90 Years War

Responding to health care needs and str

1968-1975: IDENTITY RESTORED

By the time Fr. Thomas J. Casey, SJ, succeeded Fr. John J. Flanagan, SJ,—who suffered a cerebral hemorrhage that forced him to resign in 1968—as CHA executive director, some ministry leaders were already concerned about a disconnect emerging between sponsors and hospitals. By the time Sr. Mary Maurita Sengelaub, RSM—formerly general councilor and hospital coordinator, Sisters of Mercy of the Union, Bethesda, MD, and assistant to the director of health affairs, U.S. Catholic Conference, Washington, DC—was appointed the first woman chief executive officer of CHA in June 1970, these con-

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cerns had the ministry thinking about diagnosis and treatment of the identity crisis, as Sr. Maurita described it.

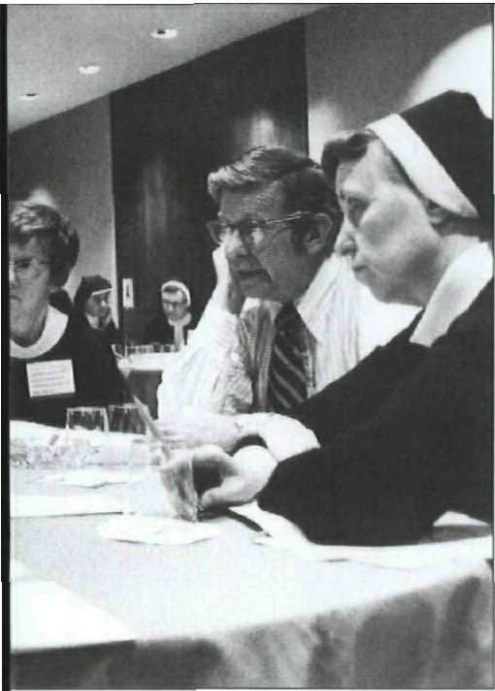
In November 1970, CHA created the Catholic Health Services Program (CHSLP), which conducted a needs assessment with leadership teams from Catholic health facilities and their sponsors. The assessment showed dwindling numbers of women religious, fewer congregational administrators in leadership roles, miscommunication between sponsoring groups and facility leaders, some conflicts between congregational leaders and individual sisters, misunderstandings between the ministry and the U.S. bishops, and an industry-wide orientation toward illness rather than health.

Asked to identify the principles to address these challenges, ministry leaders noted the primacy of community service; the unifying teaching of the Catholic Church; and the importance of the principles of subsidiarity and collegiality, to be reflected in corporate policy setting and decentralized decision making. CHSLP helped congregations and facilities to implement participative decision making; develop good management; create models of sponsorship with a sound theological and ecclesial basis; and articulate a theology of the health ministry. CHA began to focus more on congregations, now that their members held fewer executive and staff positions in hospitals.

In 1971, CHA collaborated with the American Hospital Association, the American Nursing Home Association, and the Health Industries Manufacturing Association to create the American Health Congress, which featured educational sessions and a significant exhibit hall, and

While Sr. Maurita served as CHA chief executive, the title of her position changed not once but twice—to executive vice president in 1972 and to president in 1974, when the head of the board of trustees became known as the chairperson.





Fr. Casey, here at that first assembly retired, sits with CHA staff members, starting on Casey's right, Mary Ann Kinkel, administrative assistant and personal secretary to Sr. Maurita; Lorraine Orr, administrative assistant; and Paul Donnelly, chairman and professor, Department of Hospital Administration, Saint Louis University and, CHA director of Hospital Administration Services, and CHA's public face for the CHSLP.

Bringing Together

Strengthening our ministry for the future



This picture shows Sr. Helen Kelley, DC, at her first assembly as CHA president. Msgr. Raymond J. Pollard, coordinator of health affairs, Archdiocese of Newark, East Orange, NJ, also in the foreground, seems more cooperative with the photographer than Sr. Helen.

enabled a variety of health care constituencies to gather to discuss pressing issues. The first American Health Congress in August 1972 included an address from Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-NY) on "The Search for a Quality Life."

With the American Health Congress filling the need for a convention-size meeting, CHA began planning the first Catholic Health Assembly, to be held June 1972 in Boston. A new kind of Catholic health ministry meeting, the assembly limited attendance in order to facilitate small discussion groups focused on CHSLP.

In 1975, CHA introduced the Achievement Citation award for recognition of original, bold, values-based programs. The Achievement Citation honors innovation in meeting community health needs. Achievement Citation winners also serve as models for oth-

ers who work to serve their communities and to further the mission of Catholic health care.

1976-1987: AN APOSTOLATE CONFIRMED

In 1976, CHA opened an office in Washington, DC. In January 1977, Sr. Helen Kelley, DC, administrator, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Binghamton, NY, succeeded Sr. Maurita as CHA president.

In May 1979, John E. Curley, Jr., became the first lay president of CHA. The next month at the assembly, CHA changed its name to the Catholic Health Association of the United States.

On September 14, 1987, during his nine-city pastoral visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II addressed Catholic health care leaders in Phoenix at a special CHA membership assembly. The message of the pontiff was a resounding affirmation of the health ministry: "I have come here today to encourage you in your splendid work and to confirm you in your vital apostolate." ■

JOURNAL OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

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