

Federal budget would curb NTID growth, LaFalce says

By Jolie N. Griffin

Democrat and Chronicle

Seven hundred future students of the National Technical Institute of the Deaf could be turned away from the school in the next few years if Congress approves the federal budget, Rep. John LaFalce said in Rochester yesterday.

LaFalce's message came at the fourth annual academic awards ceremony at the institute. In his 30-minute address, the congressman called on 500 graduating NTID students, their parents and friends, along with NTID and RIT faculty members to "deliver a message to Congress and the American people" about the budget Congress started debating this week.

The ceremony was held outside the NTID academic building at One Lomb Memorial Drive.

As LaFalce, D-Tonawanda, spoke, a translator stood next to him to transform his spoken words into sign language.

Pink, blue, green, red and purple colored balloons waved in bunches from nearby trees while multicolored standards flapped in the sun during the ceremonies. Nearby, food workers set up refreshment tables under yellow and white-striped canvas awnings in preparation for the reception that followed the ceremony.

LaFalce said many Republicans in Congress back cuts in social spending and low tax increases to balance the federal budget. Many Democrats in Congress, on the other hand, favor a tax increase and cuts in defense spending to do the same thing.

"Increasing need and declining financial support stare us in the face today," La-

Falce said.

Some Americans may be blind, deaf or handicapped, LaFalce said. "We cannot be blind or deaf to the realities of the budget and its preferences, priorities and values," he said.

If Congress approves the budget, the institute will get the same number of federal dollars in the 1983 budget as it did this year, LaFalce said. But that really means a decrease in federal spending for the institute because of inflation.

"NTID itself has estimated that as a result of budget restraints, plans to accommodate a two-year doubling of admissions, and a 60 percent increase in enrollment due to the rubella epidemic of 1963-65 may be drastically curtailed. Depending on the budget levels actually appropriated for fiscal years 1984 and 1985, as many as 700

qualified deaf citizens may be turned away from NTID," LaFalce said.

"The funding needed to fulfill this nation's commitment to those children is being withheld," he said.

"I am not suggesting armed revolt or a massive uprising to protest the failure of our government to fully meet an important obligation," LaFalce said. "What I am suggesting is that as graduates today you now have a special obligation to help deliver a message to Congress and the American people.

"The time to deliver such a message is upon us," LaFalce said.

The 225 students at yesterday's ceremonies will join 3,675 other students in Rochester Institute of Technology's regular graduation ceremonies today.

State Journal, Lansing, Mich.
5/10/82

Teachers of deaf must 'cooperate'

By JAMES A. MALLORY
Staff Writer

If educational options and opportunities available to deaf children are to continue supporters of various teaching methods must start working together, the director of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf said Saturday.

William Castle, who is also vice president of the Rochester Institute of Technology, told a group of parents and educators attending a workshop at Michigan State University that because of federal and state legislation, deaf children have better access to educational opportunities. The opportunities have enabled the deaf to communi-

cate better with each other and with those who can hear.

But to continue the trend, he said in his speech titled "Communications and the Deaf Child," proponents of various teaching methods must put aside their ideological differences and cooperate.

"ALL AGENCIES should work together to make sure the options and opportunities will be there," he said.

There are several different teaching methods used by various groups to teach the deaf to communicate, including speech reading, optimal use of residual hearing, sign and finger language.

The goal of the various

groups should be to increase understandable language skills, oral and auditory skills, good speech reading skills and optimal use of residual hearing, Castle said.

Parents should be aware of these goals and be selective when deciding on an educational program for their child, Castle said.

"Do not be satisfied with the program if it does not teach you as a parent to be an extension of the program," he said.

The workshop was sponsored by the Michigan Department of Labor's Division of Deaf and Deafened and the Michigan Chapter of American Deafness and Rehabilitation Assoc.