

Catholic Hospital Association Plans Medical Moral Code

Cleveland—(RNS)—A medical moral code which forbids abortion, birth control, euthanasia and artificial insemination was tentatively adopted here by the Catholic Hospital Association of the U. S. and Canada.

Final action on the code was deferred until next year to permit study of additional clauses, including one on the practice of psychiatry in hospitals. The code was published with the permission of Bishop Karl J. Alter of Toledo, who authorized its use in the Toledo diocese.

THE FOLLOWING practices were specifically banned by the code:

Removal of undiseased reproductive organs; destruction of the function of undiseased ovaries and other organs; hysterectomy where the diseased condition of the uterus is not so serious as to require removal; and sterilization for the purpose of eliminating future pregnancies.

Also forbidden were: advising, counseling or performing artificial insemination; euthanasia in all forms; sterilization tests involving immoral procurement of the specimen; and advising, counseling or giving information on the use of contraceptives.

A section on baptism declared that "every dying infant or fetus must be baptized" and "in case of necessity, anyone having the use of reason can and should baptize."

Regarding a patient in serious condition, the code specified that "the doctor is bound in conscience to inform, or have some responsible person inform the patient in danger of death of his critical condition."

"It is wrong," the code added, "to delay this duty until the patient is about to die and unable to set his spiritual and temporal affairs in order."

"FOR THE PURPOSE of alleviating pain, and not with a view to the termination of life," another section said, "it is permitted to deprive patients in a critical or dying condition, of the use of their senses and reason after they have settled their spiritual and temporal affairs."

Several principles and examples were presented to illustrate "the logical manner by which the standards of morality are applied to medical situations in determining their moral value."

The first was described as the principle of double effect. "This principle," the code explained, "states it is morally permissible to perform an action which has both a good and an evil effect provided that these four necessary conditions are observed:

"1. The main action which produces the effects must be in itself a morally good or indifferent act. Obviously you cannot begin by doing evil.

"2. The good effect must be caused directly by the main action and precede the evil effect, or at least, be simultaneous with it. The good effect must never result from the evil effect or be produced by it. Otherwise, you would be doing evil to produce good.

"3. The intention must be to secure the good effect and not the evil. Although the evil may be foreseen, it must never be the motive prompting the main action. The good must be desired.



Pointing out the danger of "secularist taint creeping into the care of the sick" and calling for a reeducation of Catholic hospitals to the fundamental reason for their existence, Christian Charity, Bishop Edward F. Hoban of Cleveland delivered the keynote address at the 33rd annual convention of the Catholic Hospital Association in Cleveland. He is shown with Oscar R. Ewing, Federal Security Administrator, who discussed the recent National Health Assembly. About 3500 Sisters, and priests attended the convention meetings. (NC Photos.)

"4. The good effect must outweigh or be the equivalent in importance to the evil effect. You could not allow a grave evil in order to produce a slight good. There must be a proportionally grave reason for permitting the evil."

AS A CONSEQUENCE of this principle, the code said, "it is allowable to perform an operation or administer a treatment or give a medication when a serious disease threatens the life of a pregnant woman, even though as a second and unwanted result, fetal life may be terminated."

"A sample case would be the removal of a cancerous uterus which is endangering the mother's life. In such cases, the surgical procedure is in itself a morally good or indifferent act (first condition). The good effect of saving the mother's life is caused by the removal of the diseased condition, not by killing the fetus (second condition). The intention and purpose of the action is directed against the disease and not against the fetus (third condition). The proportionate grave reason is the serious threat to the mother's life as against the loss of the fetus (fourth condition)."

Two other principles enunciated in the code were: "It is never allowed to do evil no matter how great the good that would result," and, "It is always wrong to deliberately and directly kill an innocent human being."

The code declared that therapeutic abortion violated both these principles since "an evil action (destroying the fetus) must be committed before the beneficial result (saving the mother) can be obtained."

Sterilization performed for the purpose of preventing future pregnancy was termed "morally wrong" because it is "the unwarranted mutilation of the human body."

Psychiatry Aid For Catholic Hospitals Urged

Cleveland—(RNS)—More psychiatric service in Catholic hospitals was urged in a resolution approved by the 33rd annual convention of the Catholic Hospital Association here.

Stressing the "urgent need" for more psychiatry, the resolution said that such therapy would solve two serious problems: that of providing service to patients and that of "partially supplying much needed facilities for the affiliation of student nurses in our Catholic schools of nursing."

THE RESOLUTION was seen here as especially significant, since it was the first time the Association had formally considered psychiatric service in its deliberations.

Passage of the resolution followed an appeal by Dr. Pierre C. Simonart of Philadelphia.

Dr. Simonart urged every Catholic hospital to provide a psychiatric unit for the care of active mental patients and said more neurosurgeons should be encouraged to operate on mental patients.

Pointing up the need in the field, Dr. Simonart said that although there are 361 Catholic hospitals providing affiliations for the study of mental and nervous diseases.

In another adopted resolution, the delegates urged that means be found to combat "the grave danger that the spirit of secularism may attack the high Christian ideals which have always characterized care of the sick in the United States."

OTHER RESOLUTIONS approved recommended the following:

That greater consideration be given the general practitioner in hospital service.

That support be given the United States Public Health Service in "its insistence on adequate provisions for the administration and maintenance of new hospital projects to solve the pressing problems of rural communities."

That the Association's executive board be encouraged to develop a medical code to "embrace all important medical considerations, not only those occurring in the practices of medicine but those too involved in the practice of nursing and in the administration of the hospital."

That wholehearted cooperation be given the program of the American Cancer Society.

That present hospital facilities be extended as soon as possible to include a service for the chronically ill.

The delegates also voted approval to the program of nursing education being carried out by the Catholic Hospital Council of Canada in cooperation with the University of Montreal and Laval University in Quebec.

Court Upholds State Grant to Jesuit College

Albany, N. Y.—(RNS)—The Court of Appeals, New York State's highest tribunal, unanimously upheld a decision by lower courts dismissing a suit which challenged the constitutionality of a \$125,000 state grant to Canisius College (Catholic) of Buffalo.

The court failed to hand down an opinion, but state leaders assumed it took a position similar to lower court which ruled that the plaintiff, Henry A. Bull, a Buffalo attorney, had not sufficient stature as an unaffected party, to challenge the action of a public office.

BULL CHARGED that the cash grant by the State Emergency Housing Board violated sections of the State and Federal Constitutions prohibiting public aid to institutions with religious background.

The money was granted to renovate an abandoned hospital into classrooms for students. Bull contended "the work would be of permanent value to the college and thus violated the basic laws of State-Church separation."

Though he could not be reached for comment, it was recalled that Bull previously stated he would appeal the case to the U. S. Supreme Court if the verdict upheld the lower courts.

Attorneys who defended the state's action argued the grant was not unconstitutional "if viewed properly." State officials feared a verdict in Bull's favor would cripple Governor Dewey's postwar educational program, since many schools of sectarian background have received cash grants.

Backing Bull in his suit were the American Jewish Congress, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Nassau Taxpayers League, and the Citizens Union of New York City.

Cop's Religion Quiz Breaks Bogus Priest

Washington—(NC)—The suspect was accused of masquerading in priest's clothing on the campus of the Catholic University of America. At the police station, the man insisted he was the Rev. John B. Zachary, a university chemistry professor, and the real Father Zachary was called in.

The priest couldn't stump the suspect by asking him questions in chemistry.

But a Catholic policeman took over and broke him down by asking questions about religion.

An identification card which the police found with the man's clothing was for a Dr. Kenneth Seeley, a University of Minnesota English professor. A Municipal Court Judge sent the suspect to a local hospital for observation and continued hearing of the charges against him pending the outcome of the medical examination.

The President Visits Boystown



On his western trip President Harry S. Truman stops off at famed Boystown, N.Y., where a wreath on the tomb of Father Flanagan and meets Eddie Dunn, Mayor of Boystown (upper photo) and shakes hands with soloists of the Boystown Choir. Rev. Edmund C. Walsh, acting director of Boystown, is shown, right center. (NC Photos.)



Famed Canadian Journalist Will Edit New Catholic Paper

Montreal—CIP—Robert W. Keyserlingk, Managing Director of the British United Press in Canada, has announced that he will leave BUP July 1 to become President and Managing Director of Campion Press Limited, a new Catholic publishing company.

which is planning a Canadian national weekly, to be called "The Ensign."

Mr. Keyserlingk is also President of Palm Publishers Press Service Limited, which represents a number of British, Irish and American Book Publishers in Canada.

Mr. Keyserlingk, who is the head of a prominent family of the Baltic nobility, was received into the Catholic Church with his wife and five children on Easter Sunday, 1945.

He joined the United Press in 1930, serving as foreign correspondent, bureau manager and the Continental Department's general manager in London, Berlin, Zurich, Paris, Rome, Madrid, and on other European assignments.

He is a graduate of the University of British Columbia and formerly attended school in Japan and China.

Campion Press Limited, of which Mr. Keyserlingk will be the chief executive after July 1, has completed negotiations for the purchase of The Beacon Publishing Company, which owns the Province of Quebec Edition of the "Canadian Register" at Montreal. The "Register" will be merged with "The Ensign."

UN 'Divorce Right' Proposal Approved

Lake Success—(NC)—An amendment offered by the delegate of Byelo-Russia that the right to divorce be inserted in the Declaration on Human Rights brought quick protests from the delegates of two Christian organizations during the UN discussion here of Article 13 in the Declaration on Human Rights.

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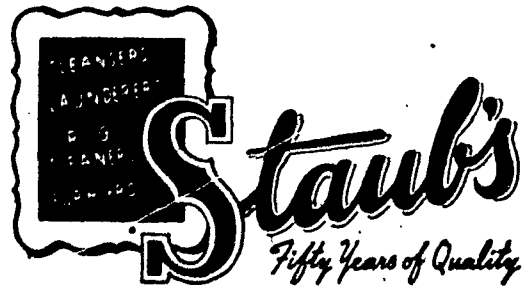
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