

"Foot In The Door" Tactic Seen

By THOMAS SWEENEY, M.D.
Staff Physician,
Rochester General Hospital

The indication for abortion that is most likely to produce a strong reaction emotionally and otherwise, regardless of religious affiliation, is that of rape and incest.

This is the indication which those who use an appeal to emotion rather than to reason prefer to concentrate upon when an abortion bill is up for consideration in a state legislature. If they can pass a bill using this indication, they feel that the others can then either "ride along" or be added later. As a "foot in the door," this indication is invaluable.

(It is ironic that in states which now have laws allowing fetus to be killed (aborted) for very loose indications, rape and

incest make up a very small percentage of the total abortions performed. A case in point is Colorado. The bill there was passed in April, 1967. Seventy "legal" abortions had been reported there as of mid-October, a period of approximately six months. There was just one case involving rape.

In contrast, the still controversial psychiatric indications, discussed at length in our last two articles, accounted for 44 or 60 per cent of the total. Bear in mind that most of these latter fetuses would have been delivered as entirely normal babies had they been allowed to live.

In England, it was felt that rape is so easy to allege, so difficult to prove, and so outside the competence of the average doctor to determine, that a provision concerning it

would be practically unworkable. Therefore, a rape clause was not included in the final English bill.

A source of information concerning rape is Dr. Andre E. Heilgers, former associate professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He quotes the FBI report for 1966 as listing 25,000 alleged cases of rape in the United States in that year. Convictions totaled 19 per cent. He projects accepted medical statistics to reach his conclusion that in the country as a whole in 1966 a maximum of 150 pregnancies resulted from cases of rape where conviction was obtained.

The proponents of the abortion bill may ask, "But what of the girls who do become pregnant as a result of rape or incest?"

In the course of medical practice, doctors, particularly obstetricians, come into contact with such girls. Questioning of such patients might reveal, as it did in the case of a patient seen recently in my office, that emotional trauma occurs mainly at the time of the actual attack. This patient stated that very little stress seemed to be associated with actually carrying the baby. Others have reported this same finding.

Pregnancy following rape might be compared to the finding of a stowaway on board a ship at sea. In both cases the "passenger" is unwanted and unwanted. To do an abortion is comparable to stopping the ship in the middle of the ocean and dropping the stowaway into the water without either a life preserver or food. Uncivilized as this sounds, it is still more humane than abortion.

New Dallas Bishop Has Relatives Here

A priest with ties to the Rochester area has been appointed by Pope Paul VI as auxiliary to Bishop Thomas Gorman of the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, Diocese.

The bishop-elect still has nine first cousins living in this area. They are:

Frank John, Joseph and Mrs. John Cassatta; Mrs. Dominic Cataldo, Mrs. Peter Cataldo, Mrs. Michael Culotta, Mrs. Frank DiNoto and Mrs. Carl Treviso.

Born in Galveston, Msgr. Cassatta was graduated from St. Mary's College, Texas, the North American College in Rome and did post-graduate work at the Gregorian University in Rome.

Msgr. Cassatta's sister, Mrs. Vincent (Katherine) Culotta and his brother, Baldwin Cassatta, lived in Rochester for

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Religion Sustained Behind Iron Curtain By Radio Free Europe

Munich (RNS)—In the continuing and often turbulent ideological struggle for the minds and souls of Eastern Europe, religious broadcasts play a leading role.

To keep religion alive during periods of repression in some Communist countries, Radio Free Europe, a privately financed American organization, broadcasts 14 hours of religious programs every week. It has been working to close the information gap and sustain the hopes of the faithful behind the Iron Curtain since its inception in 1951. Headquarters are in Munich.

In addition to regular programs discussing church-state relations in the target countries, as well as religious news from abroad, RFE's Polish, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Romanian and Bulgarian language departments prepare special programs for such occasions as Christmas, Easter, Hanukkah, Yom Kippur and All Saints' Day.

Visits of prominent churchmen, clerical appointments and other events relevant to religious ideas and activities are also given full coverage. Most papal pronouncements, and communiqués of the World Council of Churches are broadcast live and complete to Eastern Europe.

The Polish broadcasting department for example, broadcasts a Mass every Sunday either from St. Barbara's church in Munich or St. Andrew's church in London. Other broadcasts beamed at Poland include "Faith and Life," a discussion of philosophical and religious topics, and "Catholic News Review."

Hungary, a predominantly Catholic country with far less religious freedom than Poland, hears Mass once a month from Burg Kastl, a high school in West Germany, that was founded to aid Hungarian refugee children after the abortive 1956 revolution.

On the remaining three Sundays of each month, RFE presents a studio program of talks, reports and interviews on church problems and activities



N.D. Teacher Receives Grant

Mercy Sister Mary Coronata has been appointed to a graduate research assistantship in the Department of Theological Studies at the University of Dayton, August, 1968 to May, 1969. This is an appointment to permit during a nine month period research projects in connection with the Marian Library.

Sister Coronata received her B.A. from Nazareth College and has been engaged in summer studies at Emmanuel College in Boston, St. Bonaventure's and Xavier University.

Miss Marie Weber, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Weber, Dorchester Rd. and a student at St. Joseph's School of Nursing, Syracuse has been awarded a nursing student fellowship in the field of cardiology, according to The Heart Association of Upstate New York.

Wins Graduate Grant Frank A. Salamone, who received his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. John Fisher College in 1961, has been named winner of a Herbert Lehman Fellowship at the University of Buffalo, where he is doing doctoral work in history.

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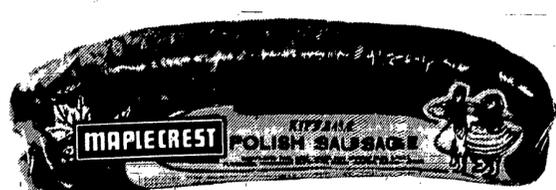
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