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Easy Abortion: Conclusion
Post Script on Abortion Bill

By **THOMAS R. SWEENEY, M.D.**, Obstetrician, Gynecologist, Staff Physician, General Hospital

The New York State Assembly has sent the proposed abortion bill of Assemblyman Albert H. Blumenthal back to the Code Committee. This action in effect, killed the bill for 1968 when it became apparent, after five hours of debate, that it had no chance of passage this year.

In the past several weeks this series on abortion has discussed the subject in general and several of the proposed indications in particular. Some of the reasons for not passing a bill allowing "easy abortion" for these indications have been considered.

It would not be fruitful to continue our discussion further at this time, since the bill, to quote Mr. Blumenthal is "dead for this year." Rather, we will heed his warning, "We'll abortiate try again next year," and will continue to collect material from the medical literature and elsewhere to present to you during the next session of the legislature.

It is interesting to speculate on the possible reasons for the defeat of the bill. It may be that the legislature was shocked by the comment in the minority report of the Governor's commission on abortion that the "majority's proposal to permit abortion where the female already has four living children amounts to abortion on demand for those who qualify."

It is well known that most legislators (and even some among those who consented to be sponsors of the Blumenthal Bill) were opposed to any form of abortion on demand. Gov. Rockefeller would not endorse the above indication either.

Again, the tendency of the Governor and certain party leaders to try to pass bills in haste and then amend them at leisure may now be meeting with resistance. Social legislation such as Medicaid and the divorce law change, both of which have been passed in recent years, are examples of what happens when far-reaching legislation is passed without taking the time to consider it fully.

In closing the current series of articles I would like to thank Father Atwell and Father Torrey for their willingness to publish these articles. The help of Father Kanka is particularly appreciated in advising the author and in initiating the publication of this current series of articles in the Courier Journal.

As mentioned before in this newspaper, Monroe County now has a Right-To-Life Committee, dedicated to the preservation of the right of the fetus to be born. If any of our readers would like to join this committee, either as an active or inactive member, please write to me at 3900 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14616 or to Mr. Eugene Cusker at 320 Reynolds Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Your help in the 1968-69 legislative session will be deeply appreciated.

Lent is for Being
We Can Rise to Life Together

By **WILLIAM J. JACOBS**

SO WE CAN RISE AS ONLY CHRIST CAN RISE. Easter is always starting now... if we want it that way.

The greatest thing about God, I think, is that he gives us choice. The choices that we have to make are often difficult. If we make the right, difficult choices, the promises towards us are great. Perhaps the most exciting thing about the new emphasis growing out of the theological renewal is the concentration on now and on the future which is in a sense now present to us through Christ.

No matter how you tried to dress it up, it was a pretty bad affair spending one's life simply avoiding Hell and dreaming of what Heaven might be like. I am not denying Hell or pretending to know all about Heaven, but I certainly enjoy life a great deal more, since I have learned that it is not only all right to do so, but that to do so is a pretty necessary part of being Christian.

We can rise, rise to life at its greatest. We do this as one in Christ, through Christ, because of Christ. To accomplish this each of us must fulfill himself as an individual in the interest of the community. We live, work, give, die, mostly alone. We rise together. We celebrate together. That's what Easter is all about.

This series was based on a very simple verse which I found in a hotel room on a rainy day when I was trying to figure out what to say to a youth convention the next day. What came out on paper was kind of a summary of everything I've learned and of everything I believe:

I'll put it all together now to close the series, stating it as very special wish for each reader and wishing each reader a very happy Easter beginning now-and-lasting-forever.

Be what only you can be.

And love as only you can love children's corner with unusual things which God has planned for you to do.

To do so as only you can do. Those things which God has planned for you to do.

By emptying all there is in you. To die as only you can die.

We can rise as only Christ can rise.

Part of 3-Day Weekend Bill
Columbus Day a Federal Holiday?

By **J. J. GILBERT**, NC News Service

Washington—For as far back as anyone can remember, each Congress has had before it a bill to make Columbus Day (Oct. 12) a federal holiday. The proposal is up again, and this time it has got out of the House Judiciary Committee, but in an unusual way.

Columbus Day is included in a package proposal which would create three-day legal holidays on five weekends in each calendar year.

One might think offhand that a proposal like this would be resoundingly popular and would receive overwhelming support. However, a similar proposal failed of passage in the first session of this 90th Congress. But at that time the bill would have created only four 3-day holidays, so that the inclusion of Columbus Day at this time is in the nature of a "sweetener" no doubt calculated to improve chances of the bill's passage.

What is proposed is that four holidays now observed on specific calendar dates would hereafter be observed on fixed Mondays. This would make five Saturdays, Sunday and Monday holidays. Washington's Birthday (Feb. 22) would be observed on the third Monday in February. Memorial Day (May 30) on the last Monday in May. Labor Day would continue to be observed on the first Monday in September. Columbus Day would be observed on the second Monday in October, and Veterans Day on the fourth Monday in October. Columbus Day would join the list of legal public holidays under this arrangement.

The change would take effect in 1971, if enacted.

As has been the case when such proposals came up before lawmakers refused to tamper with Christmas and New Year's Day. And the new bill leaves the observance of Independence Day (July 4) and Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November) unchanged.

Does everyone support the idea of having three-day holidays five times a year? Not at all.

Last time round, lawmakers found that American business, headed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, was perhaps the strongest supporter of the idea. Labor, as represented by local unions rather than large national organizations, also spoke out in favor. Some other interests did likewise. It was argued that having three days off in a row gave workers a better chance for rest and recreation, and that knowing exactly when these holidays would occur for years in advance gave business a better opportunity to plan production. The advantage to both workers and employers, it was said, was that they could plan in advance.

The legislators feared in the past that the general public might not take kindly to the idea of tampering with their traditional holidays—dates learned in school. This belief seemingly did not get a test, however, as the principal objection heard by Congressmen came from religious groups, largely Protestant, that felt that more numerous three-day weekends would adversely affect attendance at church services and Sunday school classes.

It was also argued that to have more three-day holidays when you don't have to is to court an increase in traffic accidents round the nation. Interestingly enough, a study made public at about that time disagreed with this contention.

Halfway House Aid Urged by Methodist

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A Methodist official testified before a subcommittee of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce committee that he believes the federal government should take on the responsibility of funding "halfway houses" if these facilities are to be effective in rehabilitating alcoholics and drug addicts.

Dr. Leonard Boche, director of the Department of Social Welfare of the Board of Christian Concerns of The Methodist Church, said church-sponsored and other halfway-house facilities often degenerate into "boarding house situations" when they must take on responsibility for their own support.

"Time has become the teacher and we have come to learn that good halfway houses must be supplemented on an annual basis," Dr. Boche said. "Halfway houses which have become financially self-supporting do so invariably at the cost of staff and they degenerate or often into boarding house situations rather than adequate halfway houses where people learn how to live."

Gerald Evans, director of the halfway house on Plymouth Avenue South, says his organization is not in need of federal support. It is a member of the Community Chest and members pay the organization's deficit.

"We're not in trouble at all," Evans said, "although there may be need of funds to set up more halfway houses across the country."

Halfway houses are not religiously affiliated.

Dr. Boche, who also is president of the Association of Halfway House Alcoholism Programs of North America, made his remarks during hearings on the Alcohol and Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Amendments of 1968.

A major item in the bill deals with halfway houses, but is being an integral part of such government-supported rehabilitation programs as care of the mentally retarded and the mentally ill, former convicts, and alcoholics and narcotics addicts. Church agencies have been among the pioneers and chief proponents of the plan.

The Methodist spokesman said that while the facilities and their concept of treatment and service have been developed to a fairly high plane, there is a now need for development of a sensible philosophy of funding.

Nazareth Prof Gets Grant

Anthony J. Sorce, assistant professor in art at Nazareth College, has won a Guggenheim Fellowship valued at \$6,000.

Sorce, who has been teaching at Nazareth about a year, is a graduate of the American Academy of Art in Chicago, and obtained both his Bachelor and Masters degree in Fine Arts from Notre Dame.

A showing of his work at the Nazareth Arts Center in February this year marked the first time that polychrome sculpture had been shown in this area. The figures, which had been shown in previous shows, were instrumental in Sorce's selection for the fellowship.

Msgr. Roche At School Convention

Monsignor William Roche, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools and president of Catholic Superintendents Department of the National Catholic Education Association, will conduct one of the sessions at the NCEA convention April 15, in San Francisco. Other supervisory personnel from the diocesan schools, department will attend the convention with him.

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Junior Varsity cheer Lamb, 4 Cheerlea

Four cheerleading teams of 108 entries emerged victorious in the 10th Annual High School Cheerleading Tournament held at the CVO building April 6.

The West Irondequoit High School team took honors in the Senior Varsity Division consisting of seven or more cheerleaders. In the Senior Varsity Division with seven or fewer cheerleaders...

Youth Our Only Hope
Saginaw, Mich. — (NC) — to America's racial problem, people who believe that the sick, director of the Congress said here. The Negro leader a Lenten lecture series on at St. Paul Seminary.

"Youth, he said, should be facing society such as Viet Nam."

"The younger generation and we've got to quit kicking mirror the faults we have. Listen to what our young are saying."

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