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Warning Issued on Relaxing Abortion Law

Loosening of laws against abortion which would allow for any number of reasons a person or a group of persons to decide to end the life of a conceived but unborn infant can become a step toward control over lives by society or government.

An extension of this kind of thinking could result in society's deciding that its welfare would be bettered by taking the lives of the elderly or the mentally or physically incapacitated.

This was one of several viewpoints on abortion legislation outlined Sunday night at a meeting in St. Margaret Mary School hall.

Speakers were Dr. Thomas R.

Sweeney, an obstetrician-gynecologist, and Eugene R. Cusker, attorney, co-chairmen of the diocesan Right to Life Committee. The committee was formed recently to alert the laity about attempts to liberalize the state's abortion laws.

Doctor Sweeney noted that the baby in the womb is a distinct human being within a few days after conception, and Cusker pointed out that an unborn child's rights to inheritance and to compensation for injury have been recognized legally.

"The right to life," Cusker said, "is a primary right of a person. It is guaranteed by the United States Constitution and by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights."

Neither the mother or father, nor any group of doctors or commissions, should be given the power to decide that a life can be aborted, it was pointed out.

Following the presentations, both speakers fielded questions. Several listeners wondered whether special instances—such as rape or incest—would not seem to justify abortion.

Both speakers maintained that there should be no exceptions to allow the direct taking of the life of an unborn infant. Admitting that inevitable difficulties might be foreseen for parents and/or children, they returned to the principal of every individual's "right to life."

They noted that there are means and agencies which will help to alleviate problems.

Declaring that attempts are under way to make "abortion on demand" seem reasonable, logical, charitable and humane, Doctor Sweeney and Cusker appealed for more public understanding and concern for the "right to life" principle. They urged listeners to write their legislators.

They pointed out that there will be a public hearing on the state's abortion laws in Rochester at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, and that persons who have concern about the legislation should make it evident to the legislators.

The High Cost of Killing

World Arms Budget 3 Times That of Public Health

By J. J. GILBERT
NC News Service

Washington — Except for the peak fighting years of World War II, the world has never spent as much money on armaments as it spends today.

Money spent by nations on arms increased 50 per cent between 1962, when United Nations experts took a look at the situation, and 1967, for which a projection has been made in the light of experience. U.N. experts estimated global expenditures on armaments to total \$120 billion in 1962. It has been put at \$182 billion for 1967. And preliminary data suggest a rise for 1968.

The U.N. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) first surveyed these expenditures in 1964. Its third annual survey, covering 120 countries, has become available, and it includes the following revelations:

tions:

- Military spending now takes more than 7 per cent of the world's gross product.

- These expenditures, in money terms, are equivalent to the total annual income produced by the one-billion people living in Latin America, South Asia and the Near East.

- They are three times the worldwide expenditures for public health.

- The world's education budget is only about two-thirds of the budget for military purposes, and half the nations of the world spend more on defense than on education.

- The average expenditure, worldwide, for a soldier is \$7,800 a year, while the average public expenditure, worldwide, for one of the one billion young

people of school age (5-19) is \$100 per year.

- The world's two major military alliances—NATO and the Warsaw Pact powers—accounted for nearly nine-tenths of the rise in armaments spending in 1966 and 1967. Increased spending by the two leading powers—the United States and the USSR—accounted for \$35 billion of the \$44 billion increase in those two years.

The two earlier surveys by ACDA had provided some indications of a more rapid rise in military spending in developing countries than in developed countries. This tendency was no longer evident in 1966 and 1967. In those two years, the increases were 35 per cent for the NATO nations, 29 per cent for the Warsaw Pact countries, and 24 per cent for all other countries, including the less developed.

Md. Governor Plans Study on 'Parochial Aid'

Annapolis, Md. — (RNS) — Gov. Marvin Mandel has announced he will appoint a commission to study the possibility of state aid to parochial schools.

Gov. Mandel's statement came about a month after he took office and approximately a week after the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore announced it would halt financial aid to several Catholic high schools.

Gov. Mandel said that he was aware of the financial problems facing Maryland's parochial schools. He also acknowledged the constitutional problems involved. He explained:

"It is a very, very difficult problem, from both the legal and practical financial point of view. But I think that in view of the overall problem facing the schools, there are areas now in which some help can be given. Areas that do not necessarily create any constitutional or legal problems.

"If we can find those areas within the constitutional realities, I think that possibly some help can be given."

Jewish Unity Grows, N. Y. Rabbi Declares

Detroit — (RNS) — A completely new and entirely unified Jewish consciousness has emerged since the June 1967 "six-day war" and Christians would be wise to take note of it, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum told an interreligious clergy conference here.

The New York rabbi, director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, said that all the old differences dividing Jews suddenly became "absurd" as they witnessed the threat of genocide by Arab forces.

Both the Nazi Holocaust and the Arab threat, he said, convinced Jews that they must never again be silent.

Turning to the consideration of Jewish-Christian relations, the rabbi asserted that Christians and Jews are "out of phase" with each other.

"While Christian thinkers seek to desecrate society, Jews appear to be sacralizing Israel as the Holy Land . . . Christians demythologize Scripture while Jews appear to be re-mythologizing Scripture by sug-

gesting its fulfillment in the rebirth of Israel."

"Israel bears out the Biblical description of a 'nation people' and has become a testing ground for ancient traditions, to see if they have any relevance in the modern world," Rabbi Tanenbaum said.

Film Causes Clash on ND Campus

Notre Dame, Ind. — (RNS) — The banning of a film from a student-sponsored conference on pornography and censorship led to the first violent confrontation between police and students in the history of the University of Notre Dame, it was reported here.

Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Notre Dame president, declared that the film and other pieces of art could not be shown on the grounds that they contained "hard core pornography."

In showing the film, Father Hesburgh charged, the student group sponsoring the conference had violated an agreement with a faculty-administration committee.

He noted that the film in question, "Ghost Riders Poems," had been judicially declared pornographic in two states.

"It must be emphasized," Father Hesburgh wrote in a letter to the student group, "that this university has no objection to a serious discussion of pornography, which is a great problem in our day. It was on these latter grounds that the committee's project was originally presented and approved."

Father Alletto Still Critical

Father Nicholas Alletto, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church, was reported still in "critical" condition Wednesday in Genesee Hospital.

Father Alletto and the assistant pastor, Father James Russell, were overcome Jan. 15 by carbon monoxide fumes which seeped into the rectory from a car accidentally left running in the attached garage.

Father Russell still is recuperating at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Russell, 940 Jay St.

Proposed Welfare Cuts Deplored

Gov. Rockefeller's approach to social problems and costs stirred alarm this week among Catholic Charities' directors of New York State.

Msgr. Donald Mulcahy of the Rochester Diocese looks for "aggressive proposals" that would "destroy the hopes of the poor and mistreat the taxpayers."

The words are from a statement he issued as chairman of the Catholic Charities Directors of New York State. Msgr. Edward Head of New York City, vice chairman of the organization, joined in the statement.

Monsignor Mulcahy said here that the joint comment was a response to the "general thrust" of the governor's statements on welfare and budgetary considerations. The bills which the Charities' directors foresee as an "economic attack on the disadvantaged" were expected to be brought forth this week.

Meanwhile, the New York State Catholic Committee described "a series of backward-looking proposals already being given serious consideration."

Some of these, the committee has pointed out, would change eligibility standards so that fewer would receive help; reduce the amount of medical aid available to welfare recipients; provide script instead of cash grants and require "restrictive" investigation procedures.

"In a time of affluence this approach is an ironic paradox," the Charities' directors observed. "Such legislation, they said, would contradict 'the whole tradition of our State in coming to the aid of the aged, the dependent child and those struggling to achieve economic independence.'"

"The immediate harm," their statement added, "will be matched by the need for increased allocation of funds in the future."

Entrance Exams Set For High School

Examinations for entrance to Catholic high schools in the diocese are scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.

Each pupil will write the test at his first-choice school. A fee of \$1.50 is to be paid at the time, the diocesan education office announced.

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DOUG FARRELL

Mooney Cagers:

They're No. 1

Aside from the obvious athletic talents needed, how does a basketball team rise to the rating of No. 1 in the State?

For a fresh insight, turn to a Sister's viewpoint, turn to Page 16 for an interview with Doug Farrell, captain of Coach Ed Nietopski's Cardinal Mooney team.