

### Write Your Legislators

#### To All Our Readers:

The next few days may be crucial to New York's abortion law. There seems to be a strong possibility that new legislation will be considered in Albany this week.

We urge our readers to write now to their state assemblymen and senators, to express their opinions on the right to life.

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### Archbishop Scores Government

Sao Paulo, Brazil — (NC) — Comparing the Brazilian government to nazism and fascism, Archbishop Helder Pessoa Camara of Olinda and Recife criticized the suspension of civil rights the government decreed in December, allegedly to halt subversive activities.

Speaking here to the industrial engineer class of the Pontifical University of Sao Paulo, Archbishop Camara said that the government must recognize the reaction of world public opinion to its "most terrible control over the spoken and written

press." "The government," he said, "must measure the seriousness of obliging, by decree, directors of schools to denounce their teachers and teachers to denounce their students. Thank God, that parents are not yet obliged to denounce their children and children to denounce their parents."

The archbishop's talk was not printed in any papers, but was duplicated and circulated among his friends. Archbishop Camara was skeptical

## Bishops Fight New Illinois Abortion Bill

Chicago — (RNS) — Bishops heading the six Roman Catholic dioceses in Illinois have restated their opposition to any relaxation of the Illinois law on abortion.

State law now provides that abortion performed by anyone is a crime, but a licensed physician charged with the crime can make the positive legal defense that the abortion was necessary to protect the pregnant woman's life from jeopardy.

Bills have been introduced in the current session of the General Assembly that would permit abortion for reasons not involving the woman's life expectancy.

"Catholics still hold that any direct abortion remains intrinsically evil and is never justifiable," said the letter issued over the signatures of John Cardinal Cody, Archbishop of Chicago, and the bishops of Joliet, Rockford, Springfield, Peoria, and Belleville.

In American pluralistic society "the church must show respect for the opinions of others and openness to learn from their insights," the six Catholic prelates said.

The bishops said present efforts to liberalize the laws on abortion are contrary to the "massive social-affirmation of life" evidenced by society's dissatisfaction with destruction and war, the desire for peace and disarmament, abandonment of capital punishment, and "a greater realization of the sacredness and dignity of each human person" which demonstrates rising affirmation of the value of life.

"Statistically," the bishops observed "most abortions are performed on married women who are not poor. The needs of the mother, urgent and serious though they may be, are most often in the social, psychological or economic order and cannot rightly supersede the child's basic right to life." State and private agencies should give mothers "every possible and legitimate help," the letter said.

of the government's announced plan for agrarian reform and said that international, imperialistic forces from the capitalist world will appear to try to impede the realization of the reforms.

He also reminded his audience that his social reform movement called Action, Justice and Peace is a non-violent movement. "Those who feel intimidated or checked by moralistic, lib-

## Outsider Views Our Sex Dispute

(Continued from Page 1)

water that is not needed for growth of the body must be discarded."

The aims of this unit include proper use of sanitary facilities, proper manners and respect for privacy, appreciation and respect for the body, and a desire to use "grown up" language rather than slang or baby terms, according to the syllabus. This would appear to be meant primarily as reinforcement of home instruction.

Instruction concerning the physical differences between men and women is developed further and in more detail at the third grade level. The penis and breasts are singled out for more detailed study of their nature and functions. The use of models and charts is suggested.

The syllabus lists the goals of this unit as development of a healthy attitude toward the body and all that regards it, respect for girls as the more gentle sex, and recognition that in our culture, clothing is a sign of modesty and respect for our bodies.

Third graders also learn that the baby grows inside its mother until it is ready to be born, receiving the food and oxygen it needs from the mother's blood. Activities may include the study of the development of the chick from the egg in an incubator and viewing pictures of some of the stages of the development of the baby in its mother's uterus.

Emphasis again is placed on the baby's dependence on the mother and strengthening the child's respect for his mother. Teachers are directed to "concentrate on a mother's love and the sense of giving. Even before we are born our mothers begin to give to us."

The next understanding for third grade is an attempt to explain how the baby got into its mother's uterus. The unit explains that a baby grows from the union of a sperm from its father and an ovum from its mother. Discussion of the sperm and ovum leads to study of cells and growth. The concept of hereditary traits may be introduced.

Detailed discussion of coitus is avoided at the third grade level. Teachers are instructed: "If the question arises as to how the father's sperm cell gets inside the mother, the teacher may say that the father and mother have a special way of loving each other in which the father puts the sperm in the mother's body. This simple explanation may be given to an individual or, if necessary, to the whole class."

The teacher also is cautioned that "children at this age level are aware of certain words, expressions and signs that they think are 'dirty.' Open discussion will clear up much of this but some children may need explanation in some detail."

Gestation, or the development of the unborn baby inside the mother, is discussed in the fourth grade. Considerable time is devoted to an explanation of the de-

velopment of the baby from a single fertilized egg cell.

The second understanding developed in the fourth grade is that of family life and the roles of father, mother and children in the family group. The reasons for adoption also are discussed in this unit, with emphasis on assuming that an adopted child may receive as much love and affection as the parent's natural children.

It is not until the fifth grade, and after a gradual development of related ideas in the earlier grades, that the genital organs are discussed in any detail and in the context of their role in reproduction. It is explained for the first time that the penis is the male organ for reproduction as well as for urination.

Puberty is discussed in terms of glandular changes, and in its social context. Children are encouraged to discuss their problems with parents and teacher.

Masturbation is discussed as a nor-

mal physiological process and "not a messy, dirty business." Menstruation is the only topic which the teacher is expected to discuss with girls alone, because it is more a matter of personal hygiene than of sex education, according to the syllabus.

Fifth graders also are told that masturbation should be avoided as a misuse of sex organs. The teacher is cautioned to avoid stressing the notion of sin in this connection.

"Too much emphasis has been placed on the inherent evilness of the act, without a proper understanding that this may be a symptom of more complex psychic development," the syllabus cautions.

"Psychologists say that masturbation is best treated with a group. (This does not mean small group discussions among children.) It is very threatening to a child to talk about masturbation on a one-to-one basis even with a parent," according to the syllabus.

(To Be Continued)

## Auburn Pastor to Shift Sex Course to Parents

Auburn — An Auburn pastor said Sunday that he would restrict the use of the diocesan "sex education and family life" program in his parish to a program for parents, and that he would take full responsibility for teaching sex education in the parish school.

Father Edward A. Shamon, pastor of St. Aloysius Church, told his parishioners that the diocesan sex education syllabus "shall be retained in its entirety, not as a classroom guidebook but rather as a guidebook totally restricted to a vigorous program of parental sex education."

Father Shamon said he had decided on this approach "to protect my people from confusion and loss of balance."

"The predominantly physiological and biological approach — its full thrust — is to the parents . . . The predominantly spiritual and attitudinal approach shall be toward the child by the pastor, if possible, according to the traditional position of the Catholic Church."

"The guidelines for the various grade levels in school shall come from material researched by the pastor himself and delivered by him directly to the students according to his prudent judgment," the priest declared.

"The teachers themselves may refer to material used by the pastor, whenever the opportunity presents itself and when all such references are valuable to the character develop-

ment of the child."

Admitting that "the major thrust toward parental sex-education will pose many difficulties," Father Shamon stated:

"We shall ask those who have been most vocal and active to be in the forefront in forming the structures for parental recruitment."

## Pope Cites Lesson of St. Joseph

Vatican City — (NC) — The lesson to be learned in the life of St. Joseph is that "the true follower of Christ need not do great things, but do humble things perfectly," Pope Paul VI declared on the saint's feast day.

"In St. Joseph, we see how God has hidden the secrets of the wise and revealed them to the humble," the Pope said in his homily at Mass in St. Peter's basilica.

"The lesson for us in the life of St. Joseph is a lesson of poverty, of honest work to secure a livelihood, energy to pursue higher spiritual things."

After the ball is over we go home and drip-dry!

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Rome — Pope Paul VI

Pope Paul VI of the Sacramento diocese of Sacramento, Calif., was elected Bishop of Sacramento in 1965. He is the first American-born bishop of the diocese since the late President John F. Kennedy.

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