

CAPITOL HILL

ROUND-UP

Albany—Though the Legislature doesn't come back to work until Monday, April 14, the main pro-abortion forces are already heating up for a final drive on the legislators.

You can expect to see lots of letters in your local press from pro-abortion groups. They know that steamroller, high-pressure tactics are necessary to get the abortion bill through in the 10 to 15 days before adjournment.

The pro-abortion forces will attempt to flood legislators with letters and calls in favor of easy abortion.

The only response to this is direct, immediate contact with your own legislators.

Everyone interested in preserving the right-to-life of all people is urged to write to

senators and assemblymen this week. Express your concern that New York become an easy-abortion state. Ask them to save the unborn infant from the knife that decides some life is not worth having in our society. Also write to your local newspapers.

Legalized killing by doctors was debated in the British House of Lords when it first came up for a reading. The shocking thing, and the item worrying many Englishmen, including lots of doctors, was the vote.

One hundred Lords voted on the bill. Sixty favored sheaving it. But 40 voted in favor of Doctors being permitted to kill "useless" people if the people wished it. One opponent said he expect-

ed once voluntary euthanasia went through the next thing would be compulsory euthanasia for people no longer useful to society.

Another opponent expressed it this way: What we have here, he said, is a bill by which "doctors are empowered to kill, on demand, the patients they cannot cure."

At the moment, even though the Legislators are home on Easter - Passover vacation, hundreds of staff people keep the capitol alive.

Their work during the two week layover is to determine from the thousands of bills which actually need to be done this year and which can wait.

Major legislation is pretty well limited to a few items.

The easy abortion bill is one of them and could come to the floor on Monday and be debated and voted that very day.

Decentralization in New York City schools is another major legislative hurdle.

In this case there are various voices being heard:

1) Education forces, mostly the State Education Department with a middle-ground bill.

2) Community groups and organizations who want a bill giving strong power over local schools directly to local community organizations.

The state Right-to-Life committee is strongly protesting to the Federal Communications Commission, the Advertising Council and the television networks about the latest move of the Abortion Reform Association (a national lobby) to get free time for its lobbying.

What has happened is this. The pro-abortionists have created some TV announcements pushing change in criminal abortion statutes. They want to get free time for these announcements as "a public service."

Mass Notes Biafra Mercy Airlifts

By ROCCO SACCI (NC News Service)

Sao Tome — The first year of the mercy airlift of food and medicines into blockaded Biafra was marked by a Mass on this tiny Portuguese West African island — with the sermon repeated in Portuguese, Swahili and English.

Father Anthony Byrne, C.S.Sp., who organized the airlift and is now its coordinator, spoke on three Mass intentions: memorializing the crews who lost their lives in the airlift, thanking God for the courage of the crews of the 2,000 missions and the help from worldwide donors, and asking God to bring peace to the Nigerian conflict.

The mercy nighttime airlifts from this island into the Uih airstrip in Biafra has brought in approximately 19,000 tons of desperately needed food and medicine. They are regarded as the major reason for the minimization of the death rate from starvation as well as for stopping the spread of kwashiorkor among the child population.

The mercy operation grew from a single charter flight by Caritas Internationalis (international Catholic relief agency) into a massive air-

chain sponsored by church relief agencies throughout Europe and North America, including Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the (Protestant) Church World Service of the United States.

There is at present an average of 15 completed flights each night, carrying a total of close to 200 tons of food and medicines.

Three American C-97G Stratofreighters, which joined the operation here in February, account for about half the tonnage flown into the stricken areas. The three planes are under charter to Joint Church Aid-U.S.A., a consortium of Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service and the American Jewish Committee.

The most useful food for the relief operation, is a milk substitute called CSM. It was developed by nutritionists for this particular emergency and is composed largely of cornmeal, soy bean meal and milk powder.

It can be packaged in large bags to be loaded and unloaded from planes with the greatest speed. This factor is particularly important because if a plane isn't unloaded on the airstrip in the al-

lotted time, then it means that the next plane can't come in for a landing.

Some rice, wheat, salt and cornmeal — packaged in 50 pound bags — are a customary part of the airbridge cargo.

Two factors — nutritional value in proportion to weight and displacement, and easy loadability — are the prime considerations in selecting relief supplies to be flown in.

"We are not interested in meats, we're not interested

in anything in tin cans and we're not interested in anything packed in water," authorities explained.

Famed Viet Priest Killed In Accident

Saigon — (NC) — Father Dominic Mai Ngoc Khue, nationally-known for his vigorous anti-Communist leadership and one of the organizers of the mass exodus of Catholics from North Vietnam in 1954, was killed in an accident near here.

Both American and Vietnamese police are investigating the accident. The 59-year-old priest was struck by a U.S. military police jeep as he was walking across a road near Tan Son Nhut airport.

The possibility of an assassination attempt on the priest just before he was hit has been raised. One of the unusual circumstances in the case is that the key was left in the ignition of the priest's car, parked on a side street near the death scene.

Archbishop Paul Nguyen van Binh of Saigon officiated at the funeral for Father Khue, in the shell of an unfinished church here in a parish where the priest had once served. Auxiliary Bishop Tran Thanh Kham of Saigon and about 100 priests attended. Chairman Nguyen van Huynh of the Vietnam Senate, a prominent layman, was also there.

Army Reversed on Mention of God

Washington — (NC) — The mention of God will not be prohibited in character guidance courses which the U.S. Army provides to soldiers, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird declared.

He said such terms as "God," "Supreme Being," "faith" and "spiritual values" would not be prohibited.

Laird's comment in effect reversed a new army policy for the character guidance training which was planned after the American Civil Liberties Union charged that the program was becoming a form of religious indoctrination.

Some Congressmen had been angered by reports that the army was planning to eliminate reference to God

and religious philosophy in the character guidance lectures each soldier goes through during his service.

Laird explained in a Defense Department statement: "Espousal of religious dogmas or particular sectarian beliefs is not the purpose and has no place in a character guidance program."

He described the purpose of the program as "to instill and strengthen patriotism and a sense of moral responsibility."

Laird emphasized that the character guidance program, which consists of a mandatory one-hour lecture each month, is separate from the army's voluntary religious programs conducted by chaplains.

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