

# Abortion Bill Defeat Hailed

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rape or incest, or when the female was 15 years of age or younger.

• The mother was mentally disabled or incompetent.

• There was substantial risk that the fetus would be born with serious physical or mental abnormalities, or so malformed that it would be permanently incapable of caring for itself.

The bill fell seven votes short of 76 needed in the 150-member house. Governor Rockefeller and Assembly Speaker Ferry Duryea Jr. made appeals for its passage. Its principal proponent was Assemblyman Albert Blumenthal, D-Man., who has been trying for such legislation for the last four years.

The dramatic five hours of debate preceding the vote was a high point of the legislative session.

Blumenthal had indicated he felt he had 82 votes for changing the law. Some of these, it appeared, were presumptive on his part; others may have changed their stand during the debate.

Some of the decision or change may have resulted from the most dramatic part of the debate — a highly personal and emotional speech by Nassau Assemblyman Martin Ginsberg (R) (who can walk only with two crutches). He cited his own deformity by polio in opposing the bill because it would allow abortions in case of the risk of medically predictable birth defects.

Ginsberg, 38, the father of two teenage girls, said: "I wanted to support this bill, but I can't."

"I don't know why God saw fit to let me live in this form and condition. Perhaps it was so I could be here on April 17 to speak on this specific bill."

## How They Voted

Following are the votes of assemblymen whose districts are in the Rochester Diocese on last week's attempt to loosen the state's abortion law.

### AGAINST CHANGE (7)

CARROLL (R) Rochester; LILL (D) Rochester; STOCKMEISTER (D) Rochester; MICHAELS (D) — AUBURN; WARDER (R) Geneva; EINLEY (R) Newark; EMERY (R) Genesee.

### FOR CHANGE (6)

SHOEMAKER (R) Webster; ROSENBERG (R) Brighton; DON COOK (R) Henrietta; CONNIE COOK (R) Ithaca; MARSHALL (R) Elmira; HENDERSON (R) — Hornell.

"What this bill says," Ginsberg said solemnly, "is that those who are malformed or abnormal have no reason to be part of our society."

"If we are prepared to say that a life should not come into this world malformed or abnormal, then tomorrow we should be prepared to say that a life already in this world which becomes malformed or abnormal should not be permitted to live."

As he eased himself back in his chair, Assemblymen began to applaud, and finally all of them, including the bill's supporters, were on their feet applauding their crippled colleague.

Another major argument against the bill was a vivid presentation by Assemblyman Neil Kelleher, Troy Republican. Displaying three-foot

photos to illustrate his explanation, he produced queasy feelings among some legislators as he described in clinical detail what is involved in abortion.

Kelleher declared: "Legalization of abortion is simply answering the question of who shall live and who shall die."

Attempting to counter, Assemblyman Blumenthal displayed large photos of babies deformed by rubella or by the mother's use of thalidomide.

Another assemblyman, Fred Field of Albany, described the "mental anguish" experienced by his wife and himself several years ago, saying that if the Blumenthal bill had been available "we might have availed ourselves of it."

Their fears, he said, were ill-founded, and "the love brought into our family" by their four-year-old daughter was "beyond measurement." He described the abortion liberalization as being based on the "convenience" of individuals.

Thirty-five assemblymen spoke during debate. Three of four women legislators in the chamber voted for it. One of them, Mrs. Constance Cook, Ithaca Republican, had introduced a bill to remove abortion from all criminal penalties. She wanted no bars whatsoever.

Conceded to have had major influence in the decisions of some legislators was the stand of the Right-to-Life Committee, organized in each of the state's eight dioceses by the New York State Catholic Committee.

It is headed in the Rochester Diocese by Dr. Thomas R. Sweeney, Rochester physician, and Eugene R. Cusker, Rochester attorney.



Coeds from Ithaca College sorority, Gamma Delta Pi, guide youngsters from the Perkinsville area in a campus tour last Saturday.

## Ithaca Collegians Act To Help Rural Poor

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grew the drive-sights — were raised higher and higher.

To add interest to the radio-project 120 rural children ranging from 7 to 13 years were brought to the campus from Perkinsville area on Saturday. Nearly 100 students hosted them all day with campus tours, athletics and entertainment.

The farm youngsters visited the radio studio and shared the money-appeal, saw the physical education facilities and tried bowling, had a swim, played volleyball and bounced on the trampolines.

## Canadian Bishops Level Attack on Abortion Bill

By DOUGLAS J. ROCHE

Ottawa — (RNS) — The Canadian bishops wound up their semi-annual meeting by once more attacking the abortion bill now before Parliament. They requested an amendment to protect Catholic hospitals and doctors from lawsuits for refusing to perform abortions.

The bishops' conference also dealt with these other topics:

The bishops issued a statement standing "squarely behind" the pastoral statement of last Fall in which Catholics of Canada were told they may follow their informed conscience on birth control once the Pope's encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, had been taken into account.

The statement said: "We wish to reiterate our positive conviction that a Catholic Christian is not free to form his conscience without consideration of the teaching of the Magisterium." The encyclical "imposes a great burden of responsibility on the individual conscience."

Eight elected and appointed priests, who met with the bishops during a diocesan session, urged "the introduction of optional celibacy. There is no intended implication by the bishops that they intend to try to get the Pope to change his stand on cel-

bacy, but it is now clear that an open debate on the subject will be launched across Canada.

The bishops, in a formal resolution submitted by Cardinal designate George Flahiff, called for an open news policy at the world Synod of Bishops next October in Rome. The Canadian bishops issued the same request prior to the first synod two years ago, but it was ignored by the Vatican. However, said Cardinal Flahiff, because the situation of the Church today calls for the greatest possible degree of openness, the attempt to get full information out to the public was being made again.

In fact, he added, referring to Michael Novak's article in the underground Church in the U.S. in a national magazine, there is no underground Church in Canada, because the very things that were being done underground in the United States were done openly in Canada with the approval of bishops. He referred to liturgical adaptations now being done with permission at experimental centers and other designated parishes.

He said, "It is humanly impossible to set an even pace of renewal for all. We must accept the agony of progress and the pain of growing up. If we didn't do this, we wouldn't be growing up."

## The Bishops In Houston

### Liturgical Center Approved for Notre Dame

Houston — (NC) — Liturgical renewal discussed in the meeting of the U.S. Bishops here this week led to formal approval of Notre Dame University as a "liturgical research center."

Applications from the University of San Francisco, St. Louis and Marquette Universities and St. John's College, Minnesota, for the establishment of such centers also were being looked upon "favorably" by the bishops.

These are not to be centers for "experimental liturgies." The Vatican already has turned down a request for the establishment of such institutions.

The bishops vetoed broad proposals for the establishment of special Masses for small groups and children. "The reason they were shot down," Auxiliary Bishop Mark J. Hurley of San Francisco, said, "was that they were too broad. The bishops were asked to vote yes or no on a package deal, and they want something more specific to vote on."

The negative vote by the bishops will in no way affect Masses currently being offered in private homes, a practice the bishops heartily approve.

Archbishop Hannan also announced that new marriage rites will be available July 1 in Latin and as soon after that as possible in English, when proper translations will have been made.

Other elements of parochial liturgy discussed were the successful use of new funeral rites and experimental rites for adult baptism.

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