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Abortions Plan New Test of Law

(Special to the Courier-Journal)

Albany — Steps to make abortion legal in New York State are taking a new direction: challenges will be made in court soon that the current law forbidding abortion is unconstitutional.

Four suits which contest the law are to be heard in a few months by a 3-judge Federal Court. These suits have been consolidated for trial, and have been brought by a group of doctors, lawyers, mothers and social workers.

A request by eight medical men — obstetricians, gynecologists, psychiatrists and general practitioners from throughout the state — to intervene has been granted.

Their application to become intervenors in favor of the present law alleges that the present law which prohibits abortion "is more than a penal section, it expresses public policy of reverence for life and the interest of the state in protecting all life, including unborn life."

The medical men made application to become party to the suit because, they felt, they are "responsible for the health of both the unborn child and the mother."

The combined cases which will be heard in Federal court seek to declare the New York abortion law unconstitutional because it is "too vague, uncertain, and deprives a woman of control over her own body."

A major effort to overturn the State's abortion law was recently frustrated by a Federal Court's refusal to grant a temporary injunction which would have permitted two expectant mothers to have abortions without arrest for violation of the law.

The plaintiffs sued under pseudonyms seeking to have the district attorneys restrained from arrests in the event they sought an abortion. One woman was 15 weeks pregnant; another was nine weeks pregnant; and a third said she had two children, is receiving public assistance and fears inability to get a legal abortion if pregnancy occurs.

Bishop Hogan To Broadcast on New Year's Eve

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will deliver a special New Year's message to the people of the diocese next Wednesday night during Holy Hour services broadcast from St. Francis of Assisi Church, Rochester, from 11:15 p.m. to 12:15 a.m.

The diocesan-wide hookup of five stations will enable the Bishop to be heard in nearly 80 per cent of the homes of the 12 counties of the diocese.

The stations involved will be WSAY, Rochester; WMBQ-FM, Auburn; and the audio channels of Cable TV: Channel 6 in Auburn, Channel 5, Hornell, and 88.75 meg., Corning.

The New Year's Eve Holy Hour, with the Bishop's address taking about 12 minutes, will also have meditations spoken by Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Msgr. Joseph Cirrincione, pastor of St. Francis, and Father Richard Torrey of the Courier-Journal.

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Broken Angel

With a black eye, broken tooth and one arm in a cast, 7-year-old Cheryl Biggley of Hamilton, Ont., looks anything but angelic. Cheryl, who played the part of one of those heavenly beings in a school Christmas pageant, suffered the injuries in a car accident. (Religious News Service)

Jews Praise Vatican Statement

New York — (RNS) — Leaders of major Jewish organizations in the U.S. have lauded the latest Vatican statement on Christian-Jewish relations.

The World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the International Association of Conservative Rabbis, through their official spokesmen welcomed the Catholic Church declaration which sets forth principles and guidelines for Catholics to improve their understanding of, and relations with, "their Jewish brothers."

Approved early in December at a plenary session in Rome of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, the document, among other affirmations, emphasizes the need to respect "religious significance" of the state of Israel and scores anti-Semitism as "essentially opposed to the spirit of Christianity."

Rabbi Marc T. Tanenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, hailed the Vatican statement as "undoubtedly one of the most perceptive, advanced and reconciling

pronouncements on Christian-Jewish relations that have been issued by any major worldwide Christian body in our lifetime."

In the Vatican document the point is made that Jewish fidelity to the Old Covenant between God and the people of Israel is "linked to the gift of land which, in the Jewish soul, has endured as the object of an aspiration that Christians should strive to understand and respect."

That is why, the document continues, "the existence of the state of Israel should not be separated from this (religious) perspective." This perspective, the document adds, "does not in itself imply any judgment on historical occurrences or on decisions of a purely political order."

The document then sets forth specific recommendations including: • True dialogue between Jews and Christians must now be established, with "all intent of proselytizing and conversion" excluded.

• Wherever possible and mutually desirable, "meeting before God in prayer and silent meditation should be encouraged."

• Efforts must be made to under-

stand better "the proper validity" of the Old Testament. It "should not be understood exclusively in reference to the New Testament, nor reduced to an allegorical significance, as is so often done in the Christian liturgy." However, "the continuity of our faith with that of the Old Testament should be underscored."

• Particular attention should be paid to translations of certain passages or expressions in the New Testament "which can be interpreted in tendentious fashion by uninformed Christians." Thus, the directive reads, the phrase "the Jews" in St. John can at times be translated according to context, as "the leaders of the Jews" or "the enemies of Jesus."

• The Old Testament and Jewish tradition should not be opposed to the New Testament "in such a way as to make it appear as a religion of justice alone, a religion of fear and of legalism, implying that only Christianity possesses the law of love and freedom."

• Christians should bear in mind that the points on which Jesus, a Jew, took issue with the Judaism of his time "are fewer than those in which

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Is 'Good News' Really No News?

By THOMAS A. CAFFREY
(NC News Service)

New York—No news is good news?

Not to lawyer Morris Ernst, who says that the nation's press, radio and television are all too happy to invert the cliché — and follow it.

Good news, Ernst complains, is all too often considered no news.

He has had long acquaintance with both news and those who report the news. Ernst was a close friend of the late Francis Cardinal Spellman, and lunches regularly with Terence Cardinal Cooke. His firm has represented the CBS and NBC television networks, the New York Times and Life magazine.

But when he sits down with his friends in the news media, he says to them, "Why won't you mention the unions that haven't had a lockout or a strike in 10 years, 20 years, 30 years some of them."

"Nobody's interested," they say. "I say, 'How do you know? You haven't tried it.'"

Lawyer Ernst has the evidence ready.

Ten years ago the Ford Foundation distributed thousands of copies of a study Ernst did that listed several thousand cases of peaceful desegregation in the two years following the 1954 Supreme Court school desegregation decision.

Ernst says nobody used the story.

Not long ago the lawyer helped a Harlem group start a cooperative market. The capital — \$250,000 — was raised among Harlem residents by black lawyer Cora Walker. Not a

We're Looking for Good News

What stories haven't reached print that accentuate the positive, that tell what people have done or can do, rather than what they haven't done?

NC News Service, in collaboration with the Courier-Journal, is sponsoring a nationwide search for good news to start the 1970s.

We need your help. And we'll pay for it.

A cash prize of \$100 will be awarded to the best "Good News" story submitted among all readers in the U.S. Deadline is Jan. 15. Stories should be double-spaced typed, and should be no longer than 400 words. They must be factual.

The editors of NC News Service will be the judges.

Entries should be submitted to:
GOOD NEWS
c/o Courier-Journal
35 Scio St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

dime came from foundations or from the government.

The cooperative's founding was reported, said Ernst.

But nobody noted the "good news" — that the people did it themselves.

He's disturbed about it for this reason:

"If they'd given me that headline, I could tomorrow start 10 more cops in New York City . . . Easy."

His list of evidence goes on:

• There is a new home teletype-like mechanism that makes communication with deaf persons possible through their telephone circuitry.

• Six or seven nations like Greece and Taiwan have sent to the United States letters of gratitude for the U.S. aid which has helped make the countries self-sustaining. Ernst saw these letters at the White House.

Write Hanoi, Red Cross Urges

Write a letter to the president of North Vietnam?

The idea may shock you, especially with 1,300 Americans probably imprisoned in that country.

Yet, says the Red Cross, that's exactly the reason for doing it. He has the power to guarantee that our boys will be treated humanely — that they won't be starved, humiliated or beaten.

There's a good chance that he'll

listen to you. It has been evident that the North Vietnamese leaders are very conscious of American public opinion. And if they think there is something to be gained by bowing to it, they will.

The Red Cross suggests that leaders plead that Hanoi allow communications between the prisoners and their families; that it let the Red Cross inspect the prisons and that prisoners be treated properly.

The Courier-Journal urges that you,

write your own letters, rather than using group petitions or form letters. Personal letters, worded individually will have greater effect.

The Red Cross says:

"We have to act now. We have to send enough letters to make a difference — millions of them. Address them to the Office of President, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Hanoi, North Vietnam."

Air mail postage is 25 cents.

Pope on Christmas: Reject Gaudiness, Grasp True Faith

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI, speaking on a Christmas theme, called for a true faith that will see through the gaudiness of the world's Christmas and even beyond the many religious traditions of the Holy season to behold "Christ made flesh" for mankind.

The summons came in a general audience talk in the Hall of Blessings in which the Pope emphasized the true and continual value of "faith and life."

Dwelling on the concept of life, Pope Paul called attention to the virgin birth of Christ to illustrate the loftiness to which humanity has been raised. Hence, he said, "The family finds in Christmas its own feast." To Christian families he offered some words of "admiration and comfort," and to the young contemplating matrimony, he bequeathed the hope that theirs would be a concept of family as "an ideal splendor."

Still addressing the young on their future marriage, he urged that "no impure thoughts and improper morals devastate the eve of their marriage." He further exhorted the young not to "gadden the plans for the future hearth" by indulging in "selfish and hedonistic calculations."

"We expect a new type of family

from the young generation," he stated. "The tremendous experience of present history must have taught (them) that only an authentic and strong Christianity possesses the formula of true life."

In calling for a strong religious overtone to Christmas, Pope Paul was careful to point to the need for a total comprehension of the coming of Christ, and said that this should not be merely a pietistic dwelling on valued folklore or treasured storytelling.

"The word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us," he said, and this, according to St. Paul, is the Christmas of faith.

Speaking of the Christmas of life, he noted that the coming of Christ "spreads throughout mankind a regenerative wave." He then introduced the idea that every man reflects the face of Christ because every human being has been touched by this wave of the coming of Christ. This is the Christmas of life.

Holy Father Pleads For 'World Peace Day'

Vatican City — (RNS) — In a message "to all men of goodwill the world over," Pope Paul VI has called for universal observance of Jan. 1 (New Year's Day) as a "World Day of Peace."

And in his appeal for prayers for peace, the pontiff took note of a rising tide of brutality in the wars and military crises besetting the world.

"The fierce inhumanity" of war crimes now afflicting mankind "reflect dishonor on all responsible," the Pope said, in an apparent reference to the alleged massacre of a South Vietnamese village, Song My, by U.S. troops.

His message noted that war crimes were deplored universally, as he condemned terrorism, torture of prisoners, retaliatory repression of innocent civilian detainees, and of the slaying of hostages.

"The world's conscience no longer tolerates such crimes," the Pope said.

A "period of peace," starting Jan. 1 with a World Day-of-Peace proclaimed by Pope Paul is slated for observance throughout the 160 Catholic archdioceses and dioceses of the U.S.

At its meeting last month in Washington, the National Conference of

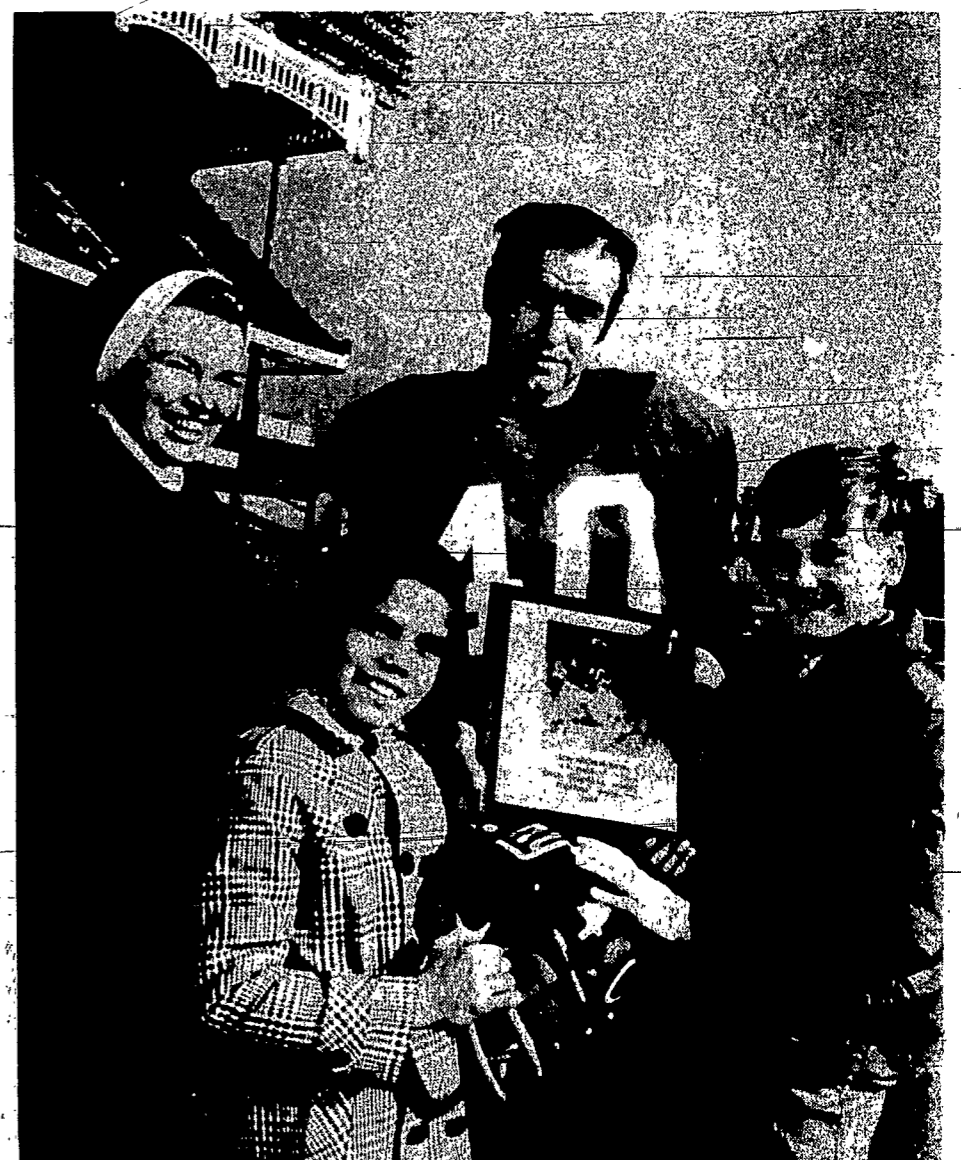
Catholic Bishops agreed to encourage American Catholics to extend the third annual peace observance by the world's Catholics under the theme "Self-Education for Peace through Reconciliation."

In his peace plea, the Pope said, "It is not our duty to pass judgment on the disputes still in progress between nations, races, tribes and social classes. But it is our mission to cast the word of peace into the midst of men at strife with one another."

"It is our mission to remind men that they are brothers. It is our mission to teach men to love one another, to be reconciled with each other, to educate themselves for peace."

Pope Paul expressed his approval and encouragement of all who promote this "education for peace" and called on persons and organizations that hold responsibility on organs of public opinion, statesmen, teachers, artists and especially youth to walk resolutely along "this path of true and universal civilization."

"To preach the Gospel of forgiveness seems absurd to human politics because in the natural economy, justice does not often permit forgiveness," he said. "But in the Christian economy, which is superhuman, it is not absurd. Difficult, yes — but not absurd."



Football Angel

New York Giant's halfback Joe Morrison receives a visit at Yankee Stadium from a few friends from The Angel Guardian Home. Here, Sister Mary Owen and Angelo, give Joe a plaque naming him 1969's "Football Angel for The Angel Guardian Home." (RNS)