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2 Sections



Abortion May Go To High Court

Washington — (NC) — The U.S. Supreme Court will ultimately settle the legal problems of abortion, a Los Angeles attorney told a meeting (April 27-28) of the Diocesan Attorneys Association here.

Joseph J. Brandlin said: "It appears clear that the basic issues as to the rights of the unborn child will have to be finally decided by the United States Supreme Court if there is to be any definitive resolution of the problem."

The two-day meeting, attended by 120 diocesan attorneys, was sponsored by the USCC office of general counsel.

Brandlin discussed two California abortion cases, including the Belous case which was denied review by the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Robb case heard by the municipal court of Orange County, Calif.

The Orange County Court, he said, would not recognize legislation which decrees that life begins at conception, because, in the court's opinion, to do so "would be to blandly support the philosophy of one of the country's major religions, an act which clearly would be in violation of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

Brandlin concluded: "If the legal battle is ultimately lost, abortion will then become a matter of education; a matter of convincing as many persons as possible that an abortion, even if legally permitted, is still the taking of a human life."

"The problem will always be essentially one of educating society concerning the real meaning of an abortion — the real nature of the life which is the inevitable victim of every abortion."

Second speaker on the abortion panel was Professor Robert M. Byrn of Fordham University School of Law, who discussed similar New York cases of abortion litigation.

He echoed Brandlin's hope that the Supreme Court will directly confront the right to life issue, after disregarding attempts to "isolate the Catholic Church as the only opposition to abortion."

He said the issues can be resolved into the single question: "Does every innocent human being possess a basic right to live or are such rights meted out selectively according to situational quality, utility and convenience? Courts have reached different conclusions, he added."

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Viva Zapata!

Jose Zapata, La Paz folksinger, sings his welcome to Bishop Hogan. More pictures are in the centerfold.

Bishop Hogan Reports on Latin Trip

Following are major excerpts from Bishop Hogan's radio-report on his Latin American trip to visit diocesan Sisters and priests during April. The Bishop was interviewed by Father Richard Tormey on WHAM, Rochester, last Sunday evening.

Q.—Please give us a few observations about the living conditions of the Sisters and priests in the Latin missions.

Bp. Hogan:—We have 11 Sisters of St. Joseph in three missions in interior Brazil. One convent is in a city, Uberlandia; the other two are in towns, something like my own home town of Lima, except that Lima looks very good by comparison. One of them, Cocheria Alta just had electricity piped in about a month ago.

The conditions of their convents are excellent, simply be-

cause the Sisters see to it that their homes are kept very clean. These homes were built for them by the missionaries, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who work very closely with them. They have a housekeeper and their diet is very good.

The conditions under which they have to work are something else. For example, the roads in Brazil: a Pan American highway, if it were up here in the States, I'm sure it would have a sign on it: 'No passage; this road is condemned'.

I took two overland trips with the Sisters and was quite amazed at their driving ability; nothing seems to frighten them. The roads are filled with craters especially after a rain.

It was incredible to turn off the main roads in the bush country and go out to the ranches way out in the jungles, where they go once a month with the priests to provide Mass and to meet the people.

Q.—How about the living conditions in Bolivia?

Bp. Hogan:—Oh, Bolivia is unbelievable. The altitude in La Paz is 13,000 feet, which means that you're gasping for breath most of the time. A visitor, they say, should go to bed for the first whole day and never exercise at all. I have particular admiration for Father Peter Deckman and Father Edward Golden who are living in the poorest section of the poor, way up on a hillside in a parish called St. Joseph the Worker.

The neighborhood conditions
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