

# Abortion Front

## Liberalization Loses in Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. — (NC) — By a stunning 64-44 vote, the Florida House killed a bill which would have liberalized the state's 102-year-old abortion statute.

The bill would have permitted a physician to perform an abortion in a hospital on a woman who had been a resident of the state for six months.

Proponent of the liberal measure plus political writers had expressed confidence the

bill would have little difficulty clearing both the House and the Senate.

Principal opposition to the bill came from the Catholic bishops of Florida.

A similar measure is pending in the Senate. It was reported the bill likely will be amended before a Senate vote is taken to give it a new status. If then approved by the Senate, the action would open the way for possible House reconsideration of the issue.

## Beware 'Catch Words'

Allentown, Pa. — (NC) — Bishop Joseph McShea of Allentown warned that "catch words and slogans" repeatedly employed may lead the American people along a path "not too far removed in concept from the master race and the gas chambers of Dachau."

The bishop directed his remarks principally against current campaigns to liberalize

abortion laws and in favor of euthanasia.

He emphasized that it is "not a denial of the separation of Church and State, nor a denial of freedom of conscience to anyone" to contend that "the Church and its members have a responsibility and very legiti-

mate participation in public life."

The bishop said parents who decide to have more than two children, today are accused of contributing to a population explosion.

Abortion statutes and other laws protecting human life, Bishop McShea said, now are "commonly termed archaic," while the killing of elderly people is put under the guise of "dignity in death."

## Drinan Stand Rebutted

Washington — (NC) — A Jesuit priest-lawyer's proposals suggesting withdrawal of all criminal sanctions from abortions has been rejected by the director of the family life division of the U.S. Catholic Conference as practically unworkable and inconsistent with the past history of American law.

Father James McHugh disagreed with the position of Father Robert Drinan, S.J., during an address to the Diocesan Attorneys Association here.

"Although no religious group may legitimately impose its moral teaching on the nation,"

the USCC official told the lawyers, he said, "the matter of abortion is a moral problem transcending any particular theological approach."

## Abortion Prayer

London — (NC) — The bishops of England and Wales have set Dec. 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, as a day of prayer to be observed "in sorrow for the unborn who have died as a result of abortion." Legalized abortion was introduced into Britain two years ago.

## This Deputy Has a Red Hat

San Francisco — (NC) — San Francisco County Sheriff Matthew C. Carberry has added a new deputy to his staff — an American cardinal whose name is exactly the same as Sheriff Carberry's Irish-born father.

Sheriff Carberry pinned a gold badge on Cardinal John Joseph Carberry of St. Louis, making the prelate a lifetime honorary sheriff. It happened in the lobby of the Fairmont Hotel here, where the American Catholic bishops were holding their semiannual meeting.

The lawman had written the cardinal a note welcoming him to San Francisco for the bishops' meeting and asking to meet him. He said his father, John Joseph Carberry, had come to California from County Tipperary in 1904, the same year the cardinal was born.

The cardinal obviously was delighted. He took the gold sheriff's star from the lapel of his black suit, admired it, and told Sheriff Carberry he would always treasure the honor.

## 2 Faiths Merge School Grades

Santa Cruz, N.M. — (RNS) — Methodists and Roman Catholics will join here in a unique ecumenical educational program.

Officials of the Catholic Holy Cross School and the United Methodist McCurdy School announced here that they will combine educational resources at McCurdy School.

The plan to combine the classes was approved by top echelons of both Churches.

Archbishop James Peter Davis of Santa Fe and the Rev. Albert Schneider, superintendent of Catholic schools, gave immediate approval.

The United Methodist Church's National Board of Missions also gave its endorsement.

Dale E. Robinson, McCurdy's superintendent, told the press: "This is an historical event. And as far as I know it is the first time this type of joint effort between the Catholic and Methodist churches has occurred. We feel it is a definite move in the spirit of ecumenism."

"Our thinking was perhaps stimulated by the increasing problems we face in financing private schools," Robinson said. "But the most pressing reasons were to improve the quality of education being offered to our children while at the same time preserving the right to emphasize the importance of the Christian faith. We desire to provide for education in an environment which by precept and example demonstrates a better life through the practice of the Christian faith."

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe made ecumenical history in 1964 when it became the first Catholic see to join a state Council of Churches. Father Schneider now serves as president of the New Mexico Council of Churches.

## DRINK BILL LOSES

Montpelier, Vt. — (RNS) — Vermont's House of Representatives has voted 79-67 against a Senate proposal to lower the age for purchasing beer and wine from 21 to 18 years.

Supporters of the bill had claimed it would reduce the fatality rate of youths commuting to bars in the adjoining state of New York

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*McCurdy's*

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Wednesday, May 6, 1970

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## News Analysis

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