

Aborted Fetuses Sold for Research

London — (NC) — Britain has been shocked by reports that live aborted fetuses have been sold for medical research.

This latest addition to the list of scandals that have been part and parcel of Britain's Abortion Act since it came into operation three years ago was revealed by Norman St. John Stevas, Catholic Member of Parliament and leading campaigner against legalized abortion.

The MP told the press that he had informed Richard Crossman, minister of social services; that Crossman verified the report and ordered private abortion clinics to refrain from any such practice.

Health department investigators have started an unprecedented drive to insure that the practice is stopped and are continuing inquiries in London and some large provincial cities. An abortion clinic in the London East End and a London hospital consultant have been involved, according to reports.

St. John Stevas said he learned about the practice from a worker in the medical field who

had also written about it to Cardinal John Heenan of Westminster and to Anglican Bishop John Tiarks of Chelmsford.

The British Medical Association, while refusing to comment on the alleged practice until a full report has been issued, said:

"The general principle of experiments on humans is contained in an international code of medical ethics called the Declaration of Geneva, a modern form of the Hippocratic Oath which says: 'I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception.'"

Medical comments published, however, indicate that the ethical problem is complicated. Some surgical experts see nothing wrong in using for research tissue taken from a fetus after an abortion. It seems to depend largely on whether a fetus, which is not legally alive in Britain until the 28th week, is regarded as a viable living organism by the doctors concerned. Trading in such fetuses in the way disclosed is generally deplored.

Sunday Obligation Holds in Ontario

London, Ont. — (RNS) — Bishop G. Emmett Carter of London has announced that Catholics in his diocese are still obligated to attend Mass on Sunday.

Catholic Bishops of Quebec has decided to permit attendance at Mass on Saturday evening. Bishop Carter said such permission was not necessary in this Ontario diocese.

Journals Merge

London — (RNS) — The Month, a periodical published

by the Jesuits here since 1964, will incorporate Herder Correspondence, a seven-year-old Catholic commentary, beginning July 1.

The Jesuit periodical, described as a "tough-minded review" took over the Dublin Review last April.

COURIER / NATION

"Protest" Study Urged

Washington, D.C.— (RNS) —Two Catholic educators have called on national officials to initiate a study of the "anatomy of mass protest."

"Contributing should be the architects of such protest as well as those charged with the preservation of peace and order," said a statement issued by Father C. Albert Koob, president of the National Catholic Educational Association, and Father C. M. Friedman, executive secretary of the NCEA college and university department.

The study would identify "patterns, but, more importantly, breaking points" and seek to find "the mechanics for peaceful co-existence with protest."

Marymount Must Hold Classes

White Plains, N.Y.—(RNS)—Marymount College in nearby Tarrytown has been ordered to resume its schedule of classes whether or not students choose to attend.

Supreme Court Justice John Marbach made the ruling in response to a show-cause order sought by six students. They objected to a vote taken by the students to strike in protest against the war in Southeast Asia.

His ruling was agreed to by both sides. Dr. John Meng, Marymount president, said that "70 percent of all the regularly scheduled classes have been held" since the strike began on May 6, despite low attendance. The student body had voted 582 to 257 to endorse a college senate call for the strike.

Episcopal See to Make Tax Study

New York—(RNS)—The Episcopal Diocese of New York has urged its churches to review holdings so that any property not used exclusively for religious purposes may be offered for taxation.

In a statement approved by more than 600 delegates to the diocesan convention at St. John the Divine Cathedral, the diocese also urged a detailed public statement covering all church finances. Lawyers and clergy who prepared the resolutions said such a statement would help clear up "misconceptions" about church wealth. They estimated that relatively little property would be added to the tax rolls.

Catonsville Fugitive Arrested

Chicago—(NC)—Federal agents here have arrested George Mische, one of the fugitive Catonsville 9 wanted for destroying draft records in a Baltimore suburban Selective Service office.

Mische was one of three remaining fugitives out of the group convicted. The destruction of draft records was an attempt to dramatize opposition to the Vietnam war. Remaining fugitives are Mary Moylan, a nurse, and Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J.

St. Louis Nuns Form Council

St. Louis —(RNS)— Delegates from 33 communities of nuns have voted unanimously to form the St. Louis Archdiocesan Council of Religious Women, to encourage "interaction among and assistance to all of the people in the archdiocese."

Formation of the council to promote cooperation among different orders and between nuns and all other segments of the Church had been proposed by John Joseph Cardinal Carberry last December.



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