

Grim Irony:

Birth Certificates May Be Needed In Some Instances of Abortions

(Special to the Courier-Journal)

Albany—Birth certificates as well as death certificates may be required in some instances of abortions according to the official Hospital Memorandum issued by the State Department of Health.

The stark reality of exactly what the new loose abortion law may bring was dramatized in the cold, precise language of the announcement.

New procedures include:

1) A new fetal death certificate which is now being distributed to hospitals, physicians and funeral directors.

2) Reminder that if the aborted unborn is 20 weeks or more old "disposal" is subject to provisions of the Public Health Law regarding removal and burial.

3) Noting that "termination of a pregnancy beyond the early weeks of gestation" may result in the birth of a "live infant" and, if so, a birth certificate is required as well. The memorandum goes on to say: "The beyond the early weeks of ges-

subsequent death of the infant necessitates the filing of the usual death certificate."

In all cases the fetal death certificate is to be filed within 72 hours after the abortion "irrespective of the length of gestation", according to the regulations.

While little of this information was reported during the debates in the Legislature when the act was approved, it is clear that in dealing with this new legal practice of abortion medical personnel will be faced with startling contradictions.

It is for this reason that regulatory agencies have introduced the "conscience clause" into their rules providing that "No physician or other person should be required to perform or participate in a medical surgical procedure which may result in the termination of a pregnancy."

The exact language of the memorandum is:

"It is quite possible, however, that termination of a pregnancy

tation will result in the birth of a live infant. Should this occur, the filing of a birth certificate is required in accordance with the provisions of No. 4130 of the Public Health Law.

"Live birth is defined as the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered live born. The subsequent death of the infant necessitates the filing of the usual death certificate."

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Lay Teachers Threaten Strike

Brooklyn, N.Y. — (RNS) — Catholic high school teachers voted a "delayed action" strike against the diocesan school system here, starting Aug. 31 if demands for higher salaries and improved fringe benefits are not met. The Lay Faculty Association represents more than 400 teachers in 37 high schools. Salaries range from \$6,000 to \$13,500 a year. The association is asking for an \$8,500 starting salary and a \$17,000 maximum.

The diocese is doubling its per-pupil tuition from \$300 to \$600. A spokesman for the diocese said the schools will remain open next Fall, whether there is a strike or not. There are about 350 religious teachers, mostly nuns, in the diocesan high school system.

Goldberg Supports Fr. Drinan

Boston —(RNS)— Making an exception to his "no endorsement" rule, New York's Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Arthur Goldberg, openly supports Father Robert F. Drinan, S.J., the Boston College Law School dean who is running for Congress.

A spokesman said Mr. Goldberg made an exception because the priest is an old friend and Mr. Goldberg had promised his support before he decided to run for office himself.

Father Drinan is seeking the Congressional seat of Rep. Philip J. Philbin, 71, who has represented Massachusetts' Third District for 14 years. The 49-year-old Jesuit has been endorsed by the district's independent Democrats for the Sept. 15 primary.

'Reasonable' Effort Defined

Richmond, Va. —(NC)— A 4-2 decision by judges of the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals established the doctrine of "reasonableness" as a guide to determine if school officials have tried hard enough to integrate their schools.

Adopting principles outlined in President Nixon's March 24 message and suggestions from the Justice Department, the decision indicated that schools will not have to integrate if integration requires unreasonable steps.

Unreasonable steps in the case that led to the court's decision meant long-distance busing. A minority opinion by Baltimore Judge Simon E. Sobeloff held that the ruling merely opened a loophole to evade Supreme Court demands for immediate integration. The immediate effect of the decision will be to halt an elementary school integration plan in North Carolina's Charlotte-Mecklenburg county school system.

'Fast Sunday' Suggested

Culver City, Calif.—(NC)—A suggestion has been made that American Catholics observe the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day as "fast Sunday," serving the simplest meals and donating the savings to a nation-wide collection for the poor.

Dale Francis, publisher, in a column in Twin Circle, a national Catholic newspaper, made the suggestion. He said "fast Sunday" could augment the plan of U.S. Catholic bishops to conduct a collection on the Sunday before Thanksgiving in all Catholic parishes to aid the country's poor. The bishops have set a \$50 million goal for the collection.

Lutheran Heads Newman Group

Youngstown, Ohio—(NC)—Probably the first Protestant ever to head a Catholic Newman Student Organization chapter has been elected president of the group at Youngstown State University.

Michael Babinka, a 21-year-old Lutheran, was overwhelmingly elected after friends urged him to join the group he had been attending about a year. Father Anthony Exposito, director here and former Newman chaplain in a five-state region, said that many of the 1,200 Newman chapters on U.S. campuses are admitting Protestants and Jews.



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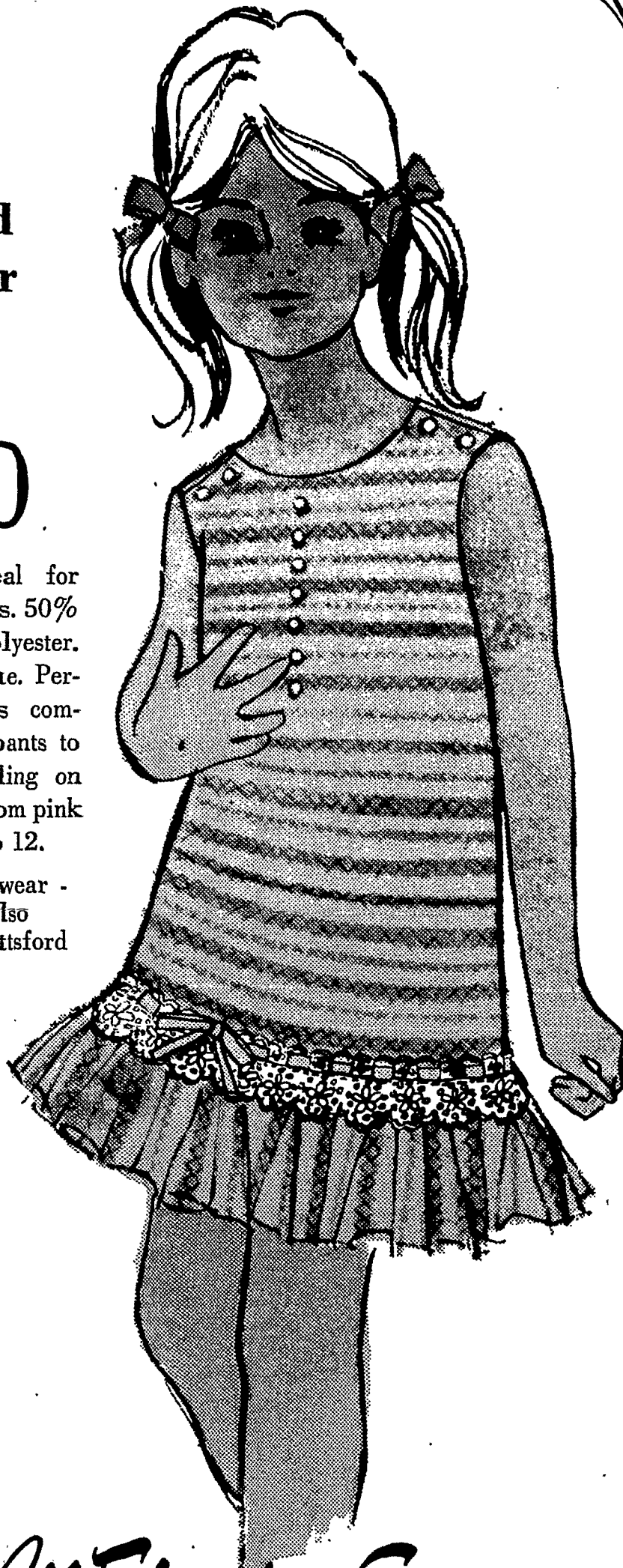
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