

The Slot Man A Chilling Sense of Loss

By Carmen Viglucci



It was a tender scene — a great-grandmother from a small backwoods town in Pennsylvania lovingly playing with her latest great-granddaughter, a 6-month-old, adopted biracial baby.

Any doubts about the dark baby from the city being welcomed by the small-town woman in her 70s were erased upon their first meeting a few months before when the woman embraced the child both figuratively and literally, unceremoniously nicknaming her "my little papoose."

Since then the baby herself has given the greatest evidence of the feeling tendered her by the old woman as her constant giggling smiles and easy friskiness with her great-grandma reflect the love she senses, as only a baby can.

It is a beautiful relationship.

But recently as the white woman, old only in years, and black baby gamboled, sudden dismay clouded the great-grandmother's face. Tears seemed to well up in her eyes and she uttered:

"Oh, my God, it's babies like this that they'll be aborting in your state, isn't it?"

Another instance of the personal tragedy of abortion is recounted in "Spector", a new novel getting excellent reviews. The author, Marc Davis, uses as his protagonist Steve Spector, a sick comedian who is searching for principle in the half-world of second-rate show business.

It is a sordid story, akin to its subject matter, but Spector himself provides hope as he tries to be his own man during tangles with the seamst and most depressing of circumstances.

One of these arises with the pregnancy of his girl friend Myra. She wants an abortion; Spector tries to dissuade her, even proposing marriage.

But Myra goes off and has the abortion and on her return tells Spector:

"You know, Steve, I've been seeing children lately for the first time. I mean really seeing them. I've never noticed it before but they're everywhere, all over the city . . . you should have stopped me. I was counting on you, Steve."

"I tried."

"You weren't strong enough to stop me."

"You didn't want to be stopped."

"Yes I did, couldn't you tell?"

And still later in the same chapter she says:

"I asked the doctor when it was all over, was it a boy or a girl? What's the difference, he said. Do you know, Steve, he carried her out of the room in a little aluminum tray . . . Then, after I left the place like I told you, I started noticing children everywhere, in the streets, in the subway, even after dark, everywhere."

"Don't torture yourself, Myra."

"I thought I was tougher. I thought I'd be able to get through this without so much emotion. God, what an experience. I'm really quite square."

"It's over now, forget it."

"Somehow I felt that little girl was me. It was more than just killing an embryo, it was like killing a possibility."



"First, I'd like to see your license to practice medicine!"

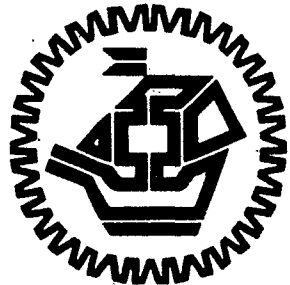
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Jersey Archbishop Rejects Poll Idea

Newark, N.J. — (NC)—Archbishop Thomas A. Boland of Newark has rejected a proposal that the priests' senate, through a poll of priests of the archdiocese, and the Pastoral Council be permitted to submit nominations for his successor.

Father Robert T. Lennon, senate president, said the archbishop based his rejection on grounds it would be contrary to canon law. Father Lennon added that the archbishop said he would consider names submitted by individual clergy.

A committee of clergy and laity has organized in Jersey City to conduct an educational program on the history of episcopal nominations in this country and to report on current developments.



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JUNE 30, 1970

ASSETS

Cash and due from banks	\$ 31,266,781
U. S. Government securities	27,519,555
State and municipal obligations	44,612,118
Other bonds and securities	3,351,123
Loans	140,115,990
Mortgages	26,496,013
Total loans and mortgages	166,612,003
Bank premises and equipment	1,854,680
Customers' liability on acceptances	2,884,910
Interest receivable	1,961,126
Other assets	2,812,628
	<u>\$282,874,924</u>

LIABILITIES

Deposits:	
Demand	\$100,030,735
Time	125,658,489
Total deposits	225,689,224
Funds borrowed	18,489,900
Interest, taxes and other liabilities	2,542,003
Unearned discount	8,700,619
Liability on acceptances	2,884,910
	<u>258,306,656</u>
Reserve for possible loan losses	3,392,747
Capital funds:	
Capital stock	3,300,000
Surplus	6,700,000
Undivided profits	11,175,521
Total capital funds	<u>21,175,521</u>
	<u>\$282,874,924</u>

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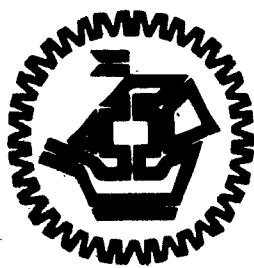
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