

Abortion Rule In Court Test

New York—(NC)—A federal judge has ordered Presbyterian Hospital to explain why it refused to let a staff doctor perform an abortion on an 18-year-old unmarried girl.

The suit was brought by Dr. Robert Hall, an obstetrician-gynecologist on the hospital staff. He said it is the policy of the hospital to require parental consent for an abortion on a patient under 21.

It was stated that the girl did not have parental consent, but also explained she had been living apart from her family since October, had been supporting herself, was graduated from high school in June and wished to conceal the pregnancy from her parents.

Under the state's new law, voluntary and nonprofit hospitals may make their own rules regarding abortions. Catholic hospitals have refused to allow abortions.

Black Pastor Takes Campus Post

Chicago—(RNS)—Chicago's controversial black Catholic pastor, Father Rollins Lambert, resigned his post at St. Dorothy's parish here to become Newman chaplain at the University of Chicago.

The first black ordained a priest in the Chicago archdiocese and the city's first black pastor, he was appointed pastor of St. Dorothy's in December 1969, in what he described as a "purely political" move.

Father Lambert is national chairman of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, which has over 150 black priests.

Ecumenical Leader Dies

Alexandria, Va.—(RNS)—Canon Theodore O. Wedel, former warden of the College of Preachers at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and a leading American ecumenical figure, died here July 21 at the age of 78. The Episcopal clergyman was the husband of Dr. Cynthia Wedel, president of the National Council of Churches.

Canon Wedel, born at Newton, Kans., was the son of a Menonite minister. He studied at Oberlin College, Harvard and Yale, receiving his Ph.D. from Yale in 1918. He taught English for a time at Yale and went to Carlton College, Northfield, Minn., in 1922. He remained there until 1934 and during those years sought ordination.

Old Catholics Seek Council

Utrecht, The Netherlands—(NC)—A joint council with the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches has been suggested here by the group known as Old Catholics.

The Old Catholics severed relations with Rome following the First Vatican Council in 1870 because of the dogma of papal infallibility the Council proclaimed. The call for a joint council was issued by two Catholic prelates on the centenary of the dogma of papal infallibility.

Author Underwrites Chapel

Dindigul, India—(NC)—A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II was married here in a church his royalties helped to build.

James Fahey, 51, author of the best-selling "Pacific War Diary," and known as the "Garbage Man of Waltham, Mass.," married Mrs. Adele Darrah, widow of a naval officer, in the church of Our Lady of the Seven Dolours. Fahey's book sales made building the church possible.

Despite the fact that "Pacific War Diary" has sold more than a million copies, Fahey continues to work as a garbage collector in Waltham. He said at the time his book was published that he was not an author but a garbage man who would always be just that.

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Family Planning Bill 'Morally Unacceptable'

Washington — (NC) — A family planning bill that would provide American women with birth control pills and other contraceptives has been called inherently dangerous, "morally unacceptable and politically unfeasible" by a division head at the United States Catholic Conference (USCC).

The nearly \$1 billion population-control bill, introduced by Sen. Joseph D. Tydings (D-Md.) with 30 co-sponsors, was recently passed by a Senate voice vote and sent to the House where action could be taken this summer.

Father James McHugh, director of the USCC family life division, said that the government's involvement in family planning "constitutes a serious threat to the rights of married couples to determine freely the size of their families and the frequency of birth."

Father McHugh said that while the bill "purports to unify and coordinate all present domestic efforts pertaining to family planning," its "actual weaknesses and inherent dangers . . . render it morally unacceptable and politically unfeasible."

The bill authorizes spending

\$991.2 million over the next five years for coordination, expanded population research, improved administration of family planning programs and distribution of contraceptives — specifically to women who cannot afford them.

A report accompanying the

legislation emphasized that it includes guidelines to insure that family planning services and information will be received only on a voluntary basis. Acceptance of such services, it added, cannot be made a prerequisite to eligibility for any other financial medical assistance.



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