

Abortion Euthanasia Raked by K. of C. Aide

Houston — (NC) — The Knights of Columbus' top official deplored the inconsistent evaluation of human life by today's society, which he said "would usurp power of life at its beginning by way of abortion and at its twilight by way of euthanasia."

Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt, speaking at the 88th annual meeting of the K. of C. Supreme Council, said modern society is bent upon eliminating capital punishment for murder and other serious crimes, but at the same time would destroy life through abortion and mercy killings.

The Supreme Council is the highest legislative body of the 1.2 million-member society.

In his assault on abortion and mercy killing advocates, McDevitt declared: "Some glorify their efforts with the banner of freedom, asserting that the life in a mother's womb is entirely her own concern, with which she can do as she pleases."

McDevitt continued: "Others march behind the banner of population control, arguing that killing of the unborn is just another fitting way to keep the world's population under control. Still others conduct their campaign under the guise of antipoverty, asserting that the unborn child must be eliminated because the addition of another mouth to feed would drag down the economic level of society."

Whatever the motivation, McDevitt said, the proponents share one thing in common—"a serious blind spot if not total blindness on the sacredness of human life."

He reminded those in favor of euthanasia for the aged, mentally ill, chronically sick that there was a similar "rampant evil in what was considered a highly civilized country only a few decades ago"—in Hitler's Germany.

McDevitt said the time has come "to ask our politicians this important question—When is human life sacred?" He said society today needs "a supporting structure of morality based on the eternal truths of the Judeo-Christian tradition."

NBC Changes Format for Religion Shows

New York — (RNS) — NBC News has announced a new religious programming format for the Fall season, replacing the weekly half-hour shows with Sunday one-hour features.

The Sunday programs will be produced by the Public Affairs Department in association with religious groups that have cooperated previously. They are the National Council of Churches, the National Catholic Office for Radio and Television, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

NBC will also produce three half-hour shows during the year with three religious groups: the World Council of Churches, the American Council of Christian Churches and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The series of holiday specials will be continued. Two will be at Easter, two at Christmas and one each on Hannukah, Yom Kippur and Passover.

Detroit See Reports Finances

Detroit — (RNS) — Each of Detroit's 1.5 million Catholics paid about \$1.50 — a total of \$2.4 million — for archdiocesan administrative services last year, according to the first financial report issued by the Detroit See.

Overall, the archdiocesan operations had an income of \$4,724,504 and expenses amounting to \$4,401,376 giving it a year-end excess of \$323,128, but the Archdiocesan Development Fund recorded a deficit of \$627,248. The latter deficit was made up from funds collected in past years.

The largest single outlay, almost \$1.2 million went to seminaries, the report noted. Another large outlay, \$231,874 went to the Newman, Apostolate serving collegians on secular campuses.

Under the Loan Agreement Account, about \$41 million is at work in parish loans. But, the report noted, funds available for loans "are completely depleted," and future parish loans will have to come from banks.

Grape Pickers Challenge Union

Delano, Calif. — (NC) — More than 200 grape workers here filed suit against Cesar Chavez and his United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee, as well as against area grape growers, to protest the signing of compulsory union shop contracts between growers and union spokesmen.

Backed by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, the workers asserted that their "constitutional rights of freedom of speech, freedom of association and right to a bargaining

agent of their own choice" were violated by Chavez and the UFWOC. They charged that the contracts enable the union to prevent employment of workers who don't pay union dues.

Anti-Abortion Group Formed

Harrisburg, Pa. — (NC) — An organization to fight the legalization of abortion has been established by the Diocese of Harrisburg. A bill to make abortion a private matter is pending in the Pennsylvania legislature.

The new group, labeled a "task force on the preservation of human life," is headed by the Rev. Gerald Lytle, of Mount Carmel. In addition to marshalling church forces against legalized abortion, the task force will concern itself with such subjects as ghetto life, war, and the care of the aged, diocesan officials said.

Priest May Face New Charges

Baltimore, Md. — (NC) — New charges may be placed against Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J., as a result of his four-month evasion of federal agents.

The U.S. attorney for Maryland — where Father Berrigan committed his original crime of destroying Selective Service records—said the recently arrested priest faces possible charges of criminal contempt and bail jumping.

In Rhode Island, assistant U.S. attorney Everett Sarmortino said that an FBI investigation was under way to determine if charges would be pressed against people who had sheltered Father Berrigan. Anyone convicted of hiding the fugitive could receive a sentence of up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

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