

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

2 Sections

Majority of State Candidates in Diocese Find Fault With the 1970 Abortion Law

Rocky: Change May Come; Adams Urges Law's Repeal

By CARMEN J. VIGLUCCI
(Copyrighted 1970 Courier-Journal)

If the attitude of the candidates for the State Legislature from the Rochester Diocese can serve as a criterion of the thinking of all of the state's legislators, the present abortion law will be tightened up in the next session.

By the same token, however, it also seems true that the law will not be repealed outright.

Of the 36 legislative candidates replying to the Courier-Journal Election '70 Survey, 31 indicated they are not happy with the present bill — 22 favoring reform and 9 repeal.

Only three nominees went on record as favoring retention of the law while 10 did not answer at all. Of those answering, two commented on the issue without specifically checking whether they favored reform, repeal or retention, the survey's three alternatives.

The survey question read: "With regard to the present New York State abortion law, do you favor: Repeal, Reform, Retention?"

Five men will be elected to

the State Senate from the diocese, and 13 to the Assembly. The Senate has a total of 57 members and the Assembly 150.

Courier-Journal Election '70 also polled candidates for general offices in the state and those for U.S. congressional seats. A total of 74 nominees were polled and of that number, 25 favor reform, 17 repeal, 6 retention, 21 had no comment and five discussed the issue without indicating a choice.

Under the abortion law, passed in April of this year, a woman requires only the consent of a physician to end a pregnancy of 24 weeks or less.

The old law permitted abortion only if the life of the mother was endangered.

Gov. Rockefeller, who signed the present abortion statute into law, hinted in his answer to the Courier-Journal survey that he may be open to change on the issue if future developments so suggest.

The governor commented: "As with any new law, the abortion statute is now undergoing the test of experience. The lessons of this experience will be carefully considered in determining whether any changes are indicated when the Legislature next convenes."

The Conservative candidate for governor, Paul L. Adams, stated flatly that he favors repeal of the present law and a return to the pre-1970 statute.

He added that if the old law cannot be reinstated he would urge reform, of the present measure to:

"A. Establish the 14th week as the latest point at which the abortion may be done.

"B. Protect in some adequate manner the father's interests and rights in the matter."



GOV. ROCKEFELLER



PAUL ADAMS

The Democratic-Liberal candidate, Arthur J. Goldberg, did not answer the survey but he did tell Father Richard Torrey, Courier-Journal executive editor, in a television interview, that although he personally was opposed to abortion he considers it a matter to be handled within the family structure.

Of the eight candidates from

the three major parties for the state's general offices (governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and comptroller) five indicated they favor repeal of the present abortion law.

Although lieutenant governor candidates are on the same ballot as their party's gubernatorial candidates,

(Continued on Page 2A)

Federal Candidates Split

By JOHN DASH

Although the abortion question in New York State is outside the federal legislative domain, the Courier-Journal nonetheless surveyed congressional candidates to determine how they might vote should abortion become a federal matter.

Nine of the 16 candidates for federal office answered the survey with three favoring reform, three for repeal and three for retention of the law as it stands.

Of the three Senate candidates, two are opposed to the law as is.

Conservative James Buckley

took the strongest position, urging repeal of the law.

"In good conscience," he commented, "I cannot approve of abortion on demand."

Democrat candidate, Richard Ottinger, favors reform of the present law but did not elaborate as to his reasons.

Sen. Charles Goodell, Republican-Liberal, did not answer.

Of the 13 candidates for the House of Representatives, seven answered the poll and three favored retention, the highest of that opinion of any group of candidates in the survey.

(Continued on Page 3A)



RICHARD OTTINGER



JAMES BUCKLEY

New Sports Column

John Doser, area authority on high school sports, will write a weekly column, "The Scholastic Notebook" for the Courier-Journal.

Featuring opinion, color, observations and anecdotes the column will anchor the regular Courier sports coverage. Doser's initial column appears on Page 15A today.

ON THE INSIDE

Features	Columnists
Editorial 18-19A	Child 10B
Know Your Faith 5B	Considine 19A
Musib Bag 2B	Costa 2B
Women 10B	Cuddy 16A
Recipes 10B	Greeley 16A
World 6A	Kennedy 8B
Entertainment 2B	Shamon 18A
Sports 14-15A	Doser 15A

Courier-Journal

Wednesday, September 30, 1970

Page 1-A

The Senate

Of the 12 candidates for the five Senate seats from the diocese, five want reform, two repeal, one retention. Three did not answer the survey and one commented on the question without indicating a choice of the three alternatives.

In the 48th Senate District (Chemung, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins counties), both incumbent Republican William T. Smith and Democratic challenger John B. Schamel voted for reform.

Smith would lower the time limit "slightly" while Schamel checked "reform" and commented, "There are many ramifications to this question, both moral and civil."

fications to this question, both moral and civil."

In the 49th District (Cayuga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties), incumbent Sen. Theodore Day (Rep.) didn't take a specific stand, saying, "As of now I would reserve opinion on them until I study each one." He voted for the present law in April.

Day's opponent, Democrat John Parker, favors reform, declaring, "As the law now stands I feel legalized murder is being committed." He added, however, he would vote as a major.

(Continued on Page 2A)

The Assembly

In the races for Assembly seats, of the 34 candidates, 17 are in favor of reform, 7 for repeal, 2 for retention. Seven did not answer the survey and one discussed the issue but didn't take a specific stand.

Each of the four major parties entered separate candidates in the 122nd Assembly District (Cayuga and Cortland counties).

George M. Michaels, then a Democrat, cast a decisive vote in favor of the abortion bill in April and later was beaten in the party's primary. Michaels, however, is running as a Liberal and calls for reform of the measure, declaring:

"I still believe that the amendments to the abortion law which I offered prior to passage in both houses should be enacted. These amendments limit legal abortions to hospital and hospital affiliated clinics."

His Republican opponent, Lloyd Riford, said, "I believe the present law urgently needs reform."

The Democratic candidate, John Rossi, wants the law repealed because "it completely disregards the human values which we place upon human life. I believe it to be destructive of the family unit."

(Continued on Page 3A)