

High Court Dismisses Anti-Abortion Plea

Washington — (NC)—Without publishing formal opinions to support their action, the Supreme Court's nine justices dismissed (Oct. 12) a Wisconsin appeal of a three-judge federal tribunal's decision that the state's anti-abortion law was unconstitutional.

The high court action sustains the panel's finding of unconstitutionality and in effect renders the law void. It also sets a precedent regarding the application of similar laws in 30 other states.

In its opinion, delivered last

March 5, the Wisconsin panel ruled that "a woman's right to refuse to carry an embryo during the early days of pregnancy may not be invaded by the state without a more compelling public necessity than is reflected" in the Wisconsin law.

The panel's finding is more extensive in its legal application than another federal court finding that ruled a District of Columbia abortion law unconstitutional on grounds of "vagueness."

A high court ruling on the D.C. law is expected later this term.

Vermont Court Upholds State's Abortion Law

Montpelier, Vt. — (RNS) — The Vermont Supreme Court upheld the state's 124-year-old abortion law, rejecting a claim that it unconstitutionally violates due process because of vagueness and for denying a mother's right to choose against childbirth.

Its ruling negated an appeal by a 19-year-old South Burlington laundromat operator accused of securing abortion for two Vermont women in Montreal. The court said the law is constitutional "as it applies to the petitioner."

The petitioner, Joseph Bartlett, contended that the Vermont law, which bars abortions except when the mother's life is in danger, violates the U.S. Constitution, and he cited favorable court rulings on abortion in other states.

The court said that in other cases "where the facts require it, we might be called upon to determine the specific limits of the statutory exception for

abortions performed with lawful justifications — or to deal with a constitutional challenge made by the defendant claiming he was not adequately warned of the criminality of his conduct."

However, Associate Justice F. Ray Keyser noted that Bartlett was well aware that his offense was illegal and that "it is immaterial that the statute may be broadly phrased and that another could be misled."

Patrick Leahy, Chittenden County state's attorney and original prosecutor of the case, hailed the decision, but said it left open the question of what would happen if a doctor should be prosecuted under Vermont law.

"I hope that Vermont has a test case on this," he said, "or that the U.S. Supreme Court acts."

Vermont's Senate, earlier this year, rejected an attempt to broaden the Vermont law dating back to 1846.

N.J. Abortion Bill Sent Back to Committee

Trenton, N.J. — (NC) — A bill making abortions easier to obtain in New Jersey has been returned to the state Assembly's judiciary committee.

It went back to committee after twice failing to clear the majority (Republican) caucus, an "unofficial" session which actually decides which major pieces of legislation will be cleared for a floor vote.

Observers here are divided on the significance of the move to remand it back to committee. Some believe an attempt might be made in committee to amend the legislation to make it more acceptable. Others think it may be allowed to languish in committee until the legislative term ends in December of 1971.

The bill was introduced by Assemblyman William Crane of Bergen County after a series of public hearings held by a joint study commission resulted in a sharply divided report. It would permit abortions in the early stages of pregnancy in cases involving rape, incest, girls under 16, the possibility of a deformed birth and for psychiatric and health reasons.

Meanwhile, in Elizabeth, the City Council unanimously adopted a resolution opposing

a change in the current law and the New Jersey Right to Life Committee issued a seven-page pamphlet analyzing traditional legal concepts which would be upset if the permissive legislation move is successful.

Brooks Robinson Becomes Catholic

Baltimore — (RNS)—Brooks Robinson, the most valuable player in the World Series which saw Baltimore's Orioles crush the Cincinnati Reds, 4 games to 1, was recently received into the Roman Catholic Church.

The Orioles third baseman, whose fielding plays alone would have qualified him for Sport magazine award of a new car, batted .429 during the series. He also hit two home runs.

There was little or no publicity about Robinson's conversion to Catholicism in Baltimore in late September.

His instruction in the Catholic faith was given by Father Martin A. Schwalenberg of the St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Baltimore. The priest has been a longtime friend of Robinson.

CANONISTS ELECT

New Orleans — (RNS) — Father Robert T. Kennedy, a 41-year-old New Yorker, a graduate of Holy Cross College and Harvard Law School, is the new president of the Canon Law Society of America. He is a member of the New York State Bar.

DIVORCE LAW TOPIC

New York's liberalized divorce law will be the topic of a legal conference at Nazareth College on Wednesday, Nov. 11, under the sponsorship of the Monroe County Bar Association and the State Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.



The Toll of War

The bitterness of war lingers as Jordanians bury their countrymen killed in the recent civil conflict. The scene is an Amman cemetery. (RNS Photo).

Disarmament Position Urged On U.S., Russian Christians

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — An executive of the U.S. Catholic Conference has urged a gathering of American and Russian churchmen to press for total disarmament as a "profound expression of Christian love."

The call was made by Msgr. Marvin Bordelon, director of the Department of International Affairs for the conference, at a consultation of Catholic and Protestant church leaders in Russia.

Sponsored by the Russian Orthodox Church, the consultation on the Christian Contribution to the Establishment of Peace was held at Trinity and St. Sergius Monastery, Zagorsk, Russia, Oct. 10-14. It was a follow-up of a consultation on arms limitation last year in St. Louis.

"Christian leaders on both sides should press for total disarmament as a goal to be

achieved as soon as possible," Msgr. Bordelon stated.

He said "it is precisely in the field of armaments that we might find ample opportunity

for a profound expression of Christian love."

"Are we not compelled as Christian leaders to join together as citizens of these two powerful nations," the priest asked, "and unequivocally condemn the possession and the use of nuclear weapons and all other weaponry capable of massive and indiscriminate destruction of human life?"

300
Maternity Shop

886 Monroe Ave.
at Canterbury Rd.
Phone 271-1654
Daily 10 to 6:30
Tues., Thurs. 'til 9

FOR FALL FLATTERY

Come in and see our superb collection of new fall fashions. Sizes 5 to 44. Budget and charge accounts.

FREE DRAWING
Stop in and register anytime each month for free drawing for \$20 in merchandise. No purchase necessary. Drawing last day of each month.

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



MAKE LEGISLATOR
SANTORO
ASSEMBLYMAN
SANTORO
ELECT
SANTORO
131ST DISTRICT
ASSEMBLYMAN

KEEP AN ACTIVE CATHOLIC LAYMAN AT WORK FOR YOU!

Life-long St. Andrew's Parishioner - Holy Name Society Past President - Parish Advisory Board - Trustee - Member of St. George Benevolent Society and Nocturnal Adoration Society.

NICK SANTORO Is Qualified and Experienced

STAY WITH NICK ON ROW A — PULL 7A ON ELECTION DAY