

When You're Unwed ...and Pregnant

By JOHN DASH

"Carol" woke early one morning last February, when the winter sky belled down like a cold clam. Downstairs her mother was draining the breakfast bacon. Carol awakened with the kicking of new life deep inside her. She was four months pregnant. She had been breaking off with her boyfriend for almost a month.

"I went to the obstetrician then," she said, lighting another cigarette and shaking her long, dark hair out of her eyes. "I'm a nurse. I knew I was pregnant, I wasn't just irregular."

The chic 26-year-old sitting in the board room of the Catholic Family Center, Rochester, calmly described her recent life: a life marked by pain, anxiety and ostracism, and finally, marked by the hope she found at the center and with the birth of her baby.

Carol started by telling the story of the slow erosion of a four-year relationship which had brought her the baby. The last breakup was carved out of a conversation during which they told each other how adult they were.

Then the wandering started. She had to quit her job at the hospital. She told her mother and her brother and left home. Two months later, and now six months pregnant, Carol wound up in a small town south of Rochester, alone, frightened, spent.

There she met a priest who is "probably one of the most wonderful men I've ever met. He told me I could find help in Rochester at the Catholic Family Center."

Directors of the Catholic Family Center, recently described their service as being for all

Cardinal Cushing Position Clarified

In an ad appearing in the Courier-Journal last week, a candidate for the State Senate quoted Richard Cardinal Cushing as saying in regard to abortion, "We do not need the protection of civil law in order to practice our religious beliefs and we do not seek to impose them on any other members of society."

The quote is taken out of context and was used in 1967 by the Los Angeles Times to support its own arguments for abortion law changes.

Cardinal Cushing at that time sent a letter to the paper reiterating his opposition to relaxed abortion laws and charged he was misquoted.

The paper acknowledged its error, saying a "secondary source book" had not made clear the context of the cardinal's words.

In his letter, Cardinal Cushing said, "Let me make perfectly clear that I am not in favor of the so-called liberalization of the abortion laws."

"... In the case of abortion the public's interest in the health and welfare of the mother is matched by its interest in the health and welfare of the child and it is the responsibility of society to safeguard both interests.

"When I say Catholics do not seek to impose by law their moral views on other members of society I do not mean to imply that American citizens because they are Catholics should stand idly by and permit the enactment of unmoral laws or the repeal of laws that have for their source and support generally accepted moral and ethical principles."

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women with problem pregnancies (Carol, by the way, is Protestant).

The program there provides counseling, medical care, psychiatric help, if needed, as well as a host of other services, from tutoring a high-school-age mother to providing a home for the baby.

It was at the Catholic Family Center that Carol learned to resolve the "hell" of the indecision over what to do with the burgeoning life inside her. Yet:

"You know, I never thought much about abortion. I never participated in one but I've seen the results in the hospital, miscarriages and abortions."

"I sort of wished the pregnancy just wasn't so. I told myself 'It really isn't fair, it just isn't fair.'"

"I was so ashamed. It's something you just don't do."

'They Became Silent; 'They Cooperated'

Washington — (NC) — "Even if abortion is legally permitted, it still is a sin," Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle declared in a pastoral letter sent to all Catholic churches in the Washington archdiocese.

While Catholics are not alone in fighting abortion, he said, "Catholic moral teaching has always insisted that abortion is the killing of an innocent person. Morally, it is a form of murder."

"No changes in the laws, no pressures of opinion, no subtle arguments can alter this murderous reality. Today we Catholics must withstand the despotism of those who shape mass public opinion."

Noting that some "honorable and respectable men" favor legalizing abortion, the cardinal added that "honorable and respectable men cooperated in making and enforcing the laws that legalized slavery and slave trade. But that was unjust."

"Honorable and respectable men cooperated in making and enforcing the laws that legalized the killing and spoliation of the American Indians. But it was unjust."

Hitler, the cardinal said, "could not have led Germany to the shame of the slaughter of the Jews if decent and respectable men had not cooperated. Many today say that Christians did too little to oppose legalized slaughter."

The cardinal urged Catholics to "keep in mind this example so that it shall not be said of us: they ceased to oppose the slaughter of the innocent unborn; they became silent, they cooperated."

Pope Warns of Trend Sapping Moral Order

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has warned that there is a growing tendency to set aside the existing moral order in favor of a morality based on permissiveness or individual circumstances.

He said doubts about the existence of a moral order are being raised "by a considerable part of the new generation, which immediately responds with the usual attitudes of contestation, rebellion, revolution and with a single tendency: bring about change, without

But, "No one was more accepting" than the smiling gentle-voiced case-worker at the center.

Over the next few weeks of visits to the center, "I learned you survive if you want to." She also learned she had a responsibility to the baby and decided that once the baby was born, she would rear it herself.

Even still, "there's so much emotion involved especially toward the end its really hell. You have a madly, passionately negative attitude."

Six weeks ago, "Laura" was born. "The minute I came out of the delivery room I loved her. You could say it is just a very strong maternal instinct but there's a real love I can give her, too."

Laura was bundled up in pink, chortling over her bottle. A happy baby. She has her mother's blue-grey eyes.

N.H. Gubernatorial Candidates Declare Selves Abortion Foes

Durham, N.H. — (RNS) — All gubernatorial candidates in New Hampshire's current election campaign have assailed the Democratic Party's stand on the state's abortion law.

During an hour-long debate over the New Hampshire Educational Television Network, Roger Crowley of Manchester, Democratic candidate for governor, shared the views of the other gubernatorial candidates despite the fact his party's convention approved a proposal to abolish abortion laws in New Hampshire.

He was joined by law book publisher Meldrim Thomson,

clearly realizing how or why."

The pope warned against two oversimplifications which he said, "undermine moral order." These, he said, are a "progressive permissiveness and the concept that 'behavior should be guided by circumstances.'"

To judge what is permissible, he continued, "men must discern if the action does not result in canceling out the notion of good and evil, if it does not deprive the human personality of the vigor of self-control and the respect for others."

American Party candidate, and Republican Gov. Walter Peterson, who is seeking re-election.

The governor said, "I did not support the abortion bill (for repeal) in the last session of the legislature. I do not support the excessive permissiveness in the platform of the Democratic party." Gov. Peterson had previously declined comment on the abortion issue.

Mr. Thomson declared "I believe the laws on our books (on abortion) are adequate."

Mr. Crowley, the Democrat, stated, "I believe the wholesale taking of human life is moving in the wrong direction."

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SENATOR POWERS DID NOT CO-SPON- SOR THE PRESENT NEW YORK ABOR- TION LAW



CHARGE: In the October 21st issue of the Courier, the Senator's opponent stated "Senator Powers was one of the sponsors of the abortion bill..."

FACT: The abortion bill signed by the Governor was sponsored by Senator Dominick and 7 senators from New York City (1970 NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE RECORD AND INDEX, S628, BILL #8556)

FACT: Senator Powers co-sponsored an abortion reform bill which permitted legal abortion if a pregnancy endangered the life, or gravely impaired the mental or physical health of the mother—this bill called for a hospital abortion committee to review all requests for abortions (1970 NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE RECORD AND INDEX, S628, BILL #2344)

FACT: In casting an affirmative vote on Senate Bill #8556, the Senator stated that amendments should be passed if abuses occurred.

FACT: Action by the Supreme Court indicates that New York could amend the present law to restrict non-therapeutic abortions to the first 12 to 14 weeks of pregnancy—THE SENATOR HAS PUBLICLY STATED HIS SUPPORT OF THIS AMENDMENT.