

Catholic Spokesman Assails Senate Report on Abortion

Albany — A report by the State Senate Health Committee on abortion has drawn sharp criticism from a leading Catholic spokesman here.

The report recommended a package of bills calling for certain changes in the abortion law, the most significant of which would outlaw commercial abortion referral services.

Other bills in the package provide for the confidentiality of records concerning abortions, banning of fee-splitting by hospitals and health-related facilities, and prohibition of hospitals and doctors from accepting referral patients from out-of-state agencies.

Sen. Tarky Lombardi of Syracuse, commission chairman,

said the majority on the panel recommended lowering the time-limit on abortions from 24 weeks gestation to 20.

Charles J. Tobin, secretary of the State Catholic Committee, called the report "incredible and irresponsible."

"It is an outrage that the committee has yielded to the pressure of the medical profession and the abortionists and has failed to recommend a reversal of the tragic 1970 New York abortion law and restoration of the former legal protections for both mother and child," he said.

"It is shocking that in answer to this the committee speaks of fee-splitting, record keeping and testing. Such a program is incredible!

"The major recommendation to reduce the legal limit of abortion by four weeks is a mere legal shield to protect the abortionists from the prospect of malpractice suits due to live births during the abortion process.

"The legislature must not return home at the end of this session without repealing the outrageous 1970 abortion law."

Nixon: Can't Accept Abortion on Demand

San Clemente, Calif.—Stating bluntly that he considers abortion "an unacceptable form of population control," President Nixon last week reversed liberalized abortion regulations for military hospitals.

"I have directed that the policy on abortions at American military bases in the United States correspond with the laws of the states where these bases are located," the President said.

He continued, "If the laws in a particular state restrict abortions the rules at the military

base hospitals are to correspond to that law."

In expanding on his personal feelings, Nixon stated that "abortion on demand cannot square with my personal belief in the sanctity of human life—including the life of the yet unborn. For surely the unborn have rights also, recognized in law, recognized even in principles by the United Nations.

"Ours is a nation with a Judeo-Christian heritage. It is also a nation with serious social problems — malnutrition, broken homes, poverty and delinquency. But none of these problems justifies such a solution."

New Law Aims to Help 'Hard-to-Place' Children

Albany — A bill signed into law last week by the governor formally establishes a State Adoption Exchange charged with finding adoptive homes for "hard-to-place" children who have not been placed in their own localities.

The legislation is the result of hearings and conferences conducted by the Adoption Subcommittee of the Social Services Committee in the summer and fall of 1970. Assemblyman Lawrence E. Corbett (R-Ft. Edward) and William T. Smith (R-Elmira), chairman of the Senate Social Services Committee, co-sponsored the bill.

The law, which will take effect in 90 days, promotes and encourages increased adoptive activity for many children currently in long-term foster care.

Corbett explained that this purpose is accomplished by requiring authorized adoption

agencies to refer to the exchange all children in their care who are legally free for adoption and have remained in foster care for six months. Approved adoptive applicants not receiving children within six months would also be automatically referred to the exchange. Agencies could make voluntary referrals of children, or adoption applicants at their discretion.

The new law increases adoption opportunities for "hard-to-place" children; shortens waiting times for many approved couples seeking to adopt children; encourages the maintenance of uniform and enlightened adoption procedures throughout the state; serves to reduce the long-term foster care caseload and its accompanying high costs; and helps assure a beneficial, loving home life for many hundreds of children presently without their own permanent families.

Where to Write Your Legislators

SENATE

William T. Smith
RD 1,
Elmira, N.Y., 14903

Theodore D. Day
RD 2, Town of Ovid,
Interlaken, N.Y., 14847

Thomas Laverne
36 W. Main St.
Rochester, N.Y., 14614

James E. Powers
17 Evergreen Dr.
Rochester, N.Y., 14624

Thomas F. McGowan
704 Brisbane Bldg.
Buffalo, N.Y., 14203

ASSEMBLY

Lloyd S. Riford Jr.
West Genesee St. Rd.
Auburn, N.Y., 13021

Constance E. Cook
209 Coy Glen Rd.
Ithaca, N.Y., 14850

L. Richard Marshall
7 Strathmont Park
Elmira, N.Y., 14905

Charles D. Henderson
30 Church St.
Hornell, N.Y., 14843

Frederick L. Warder
100 Lewis St.
Geneva, N.Y., 14456

Joseph C. Finley
38 Sherburne Rd.
RD 1,
Walworth, N.Y., 14568

Donald C. Shoemaker
833 Lake Rd.
Webster, N.Y., 14580

Raymond J. Lill
31 Wolfert Ter.
Rochester, N.Y., 14621

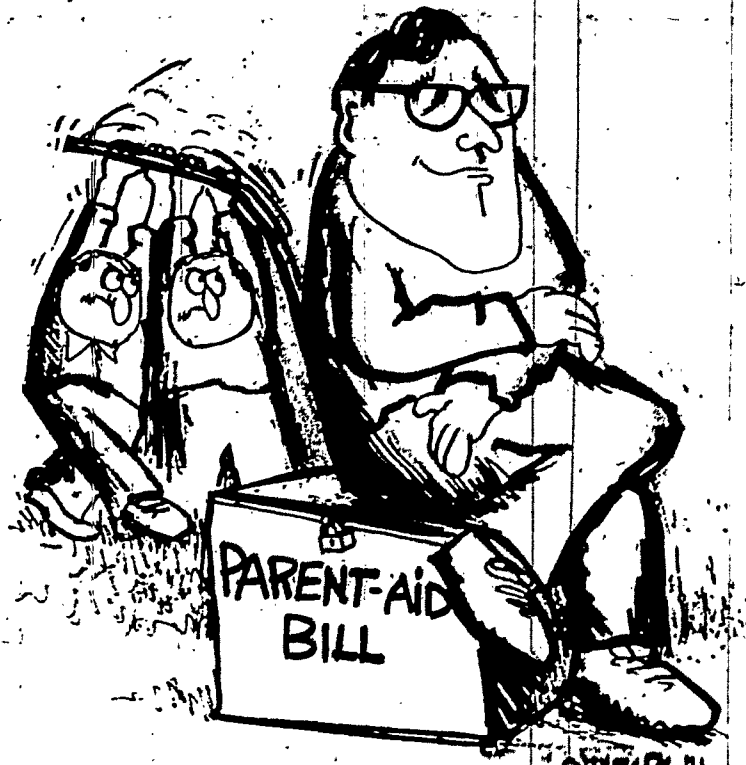
S. William Rosenberg
1866 Clover St.
Rochester, N.Y., 14618

Frank A. Carroll
613 Elm Grove Rd.
Rochester, N.Y., 14606

William M. Steinfeldt
217 Weston Rd.
Rochester, N.Y., 14612

Don W. Cook
1508 Lehigh Station Rd.
Henrietta, N.Y., 14467

James L. Emery
5477 Lakeville Rd.
Geneseo, N.Y., 14454



What does he stand for, anyway?

COURIER / NATION

Texas Churches Promote Self Help

Austin, Tex. — (RNS) — A United Presbyterian clergyman has been named to head a projected Texas self-development fund or the Texas Conference of Churches. The Rev. Dawson W. Tunnell has been a mission field administrator in Texas.

The development fund will receive cash gifts from individuals, corporations, churches and foundations to be used for loans and grants among disadvantaged groups.

It is one of the first such programs sponsored by a state ecumenical organization. The Texas Conference of Churches is made up of Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and most Protestant denominations in Texas and is one of the most broadly representative inter-Church organizations in the world.

Reasoner Wins Franciscan Award

Minneapolis — Harry Reasoner, correspondent-commentator for ABC News, will receive the Franciscan International Award at a dinner here April 16.

He will be the 13th recipient of the award "given to an individual or to some organization who has promoted in an outstanding way, some Christian idealism." He will be honored for "promoting integrity in communication."

Previous recipients have included Lawrence Welk, Dr. Charles W. Mayo and Ara Parseghian.

Minnesota Abortion Bills Fail

St. Paul — (RNS) — Chances that the 1971 legislature will enact any substantial change in Minnesota's abortion law now seem slim.

A House subcommittee has acted on all bills to liberalize the law, and pro-abortion forces have failed to win approval of any of their measures. The only abortion measure recommended by the subcommittee simply asserts that no doctor, nurse or hospital can be held liable for refusing to participate in an abortion.

The Senate's judiciary committee was told that Minnesota will likely have no abortion law unless legislators act to liberalize the current statute. Sen. Kelton Gage of Mankato, sponsor of what he terms a "middle-of-the-road" bill, said laws in six states similar to the Minnesota law have been struck down as unconstitutional.

"We have reason to believe that if nothing is done we will have repeal by the courts," Sen. Gage said.

More Crime Reported Last Year

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Reported crime in the U.S. during 1970 increased 11 per cent over 1969, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI's preliminary annual report on last year's crime trends shows a 12 per cent increase in violent crimes as a group (rape, assault and robbery).

While serious crimes in all categories except rape continue to grow faster than the nation's population, the 1970 report indicates that the rate of increase has slowed somewhat.

Property crimes increased 10 per cent last year. Most of the over-all offenses were in that category — 79 per cent of the total in New York City, 89 per cent of the total in Seattle are examples.

Crime in the large core cities with 250,000 or more population increased 6 per cent, according to the preliminary report. Suburban areas reported an increase of 15 per cent and the rural areas 14 per cent.

Baptists Appeal for End of War

San Antonio — (RNS) — An agency of the American Baptist Convention has appealed to President Nixon for "national liberation" from the "atrocities and burdens" of the war in Indo-China.

The denomination's Division of Christian Social Concerns said "the present level of bombing and other forms of killing are so cruel and so destructive of people and society" in both Southeast Asia and the U.S. that liberation from such "intolerable conditions" must come.

Bishop to Broadcast On Holy Saturday

Bishop Hogan will address an Easter Message to the entire diocese on the network of Family Rosary radio stations at 7:15 on Holy Saturday night. The program will open with recitation of the Rosary at 7 o'clock.

The Bishop will speak from

his apartment in the Pastoral Office building using facilities of WSAY, Rochester, WRLX, Auburn, WCLL, Corning, and the audio channels of TV-cable stations in Elmira, Auburn, Corning and Hornell.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be the celebrant and homilist at the Easter Sunday Mass on television aired by WHEC-TV, Channel 10, at 8:30 a.m. next Sunday.

WRNY - Rochester will carry a face-to-face debate on the merits and dangers of the proposed bill for Parent-Aid to parochial school parents at 10 a.m. Easter Sunday. Spokesmen for the Rochester chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State will oppose diocesan speakers, Father Richard Tormey, director of the Communications Office, and Robert Warth, member of the Laymen's Legislative Action Committee on Parent-Aid.

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