

The Final Minutes of the Abortion Repeal Bill... 1971

Albany — The final disposition of the Senate repeal-the-abortion bill, introduced by Sen. Earle Brydges, Republican majority leader, was back into committee after:

- a short debate early Sunday morning, June 6

- the starring of the bill, by its sponsor, Sen. Brydges, at that time, which in effect removed it from active consideration

- recommitment by Sen. Brydges at the end of the session so it would be alive for next year.

The final action on abortion began at midnight, June 5 when the senator called his bill up.

He announced he was going to star it (i.e. put it in legislative limbo) because while the anti-abortion cause had gained ground during the year, it did not have the necessary 29 votes needed to make it through the Senate.

While he indicated he believed this "to be one of the most important issues that has ever confronted any legislature" he nevertheless felt a roll call vote would result in "erosion" in the anti-abortion voting strength.

Sen. James Donovan (R-Washington Mills), who has been the key anti-abortion voice in the Legislature this year, rose before the starring, expressed his disappointment but expressed

his confidence that "we will have the votes next year for repeal" and that there will be "a full scale debate on repeal" at that time.

He mentioned the million and a half petitions requesting repeal on file in his office and said "I doubt if there are very many petitions on file in anyone's office, especially in terms of these numbers, for retention of this law."

"I predict next year there will be five million petitioners asking for repeal of this law and" he pointed out to the legislators, "that will be during an election year."

Senator Edward S. Lentol (D-Brooklyn) was the only other

one who spoke on the issue. He said, "I do not know how reasonable men—and I think we all are—can sit here and continue with this law on the books when we know that we are taking human lives every day in the week, almost every minute of the day. This law is a horror and I wish that Sen. Brydges would reconsider his decision of starring this bill."

Senator Lentol, long a foe of capital punishment pointed out that "it took me 17 years to abolish capital punishment on the theory that nobody has a right to take a human life but God."

He called it a paradox that the legislature could approve abortion as legal while at the

same time, outlawing capital punishment. He urged those who agreed with him that it was wrong to take a life, and voted for his bill against capital punishment... to agree it was wrong to take a life in an abortion and repeal the abortion law.

Senator Brydges ended the short debate by indicating his approval of the feelings and sentiments expressed by the senator but that the matter was the lack of votes.

"I am not persuaded that the cause would be furthered by having a roll call in this House under the circumstances," Sen. Brydges concluded. "And I now ask that the bill be starred."



Father's a Real Clown

Tumbleweed the Clown, better known as Father John E. Naus, SJ, makes puppy-dogs out of balloons for two little girls on the Marquette campus. An associate professor of philosophy, the priest will be featured at the Schlitz Old Milwaukee Days, slated for July 4.

Pope Names 4 U.S. Bishops

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Pope Paul has created two new American Roman Catholic dioceses with bishops named for each, a new bishop was appointed in Texas, and a former editor of a national Catholic newspaper was named an auxiliary bishop.

The Diocese of Gaylord, Mich., was formed around a town of about 2,500 people in Northern Michigan, and the Diocese of Kalamazoo was set up around a city of 82,000 in southwestern Michigan.

The Gaylord diocese takes 21 counties from the Grand Rapids and Saginaw dioceses, while the Kalamazoo diocese receives nine counties from the Grand Rapids and the Lansing dioceses.

Msgr. Edmund C. Szoka, pastor of St. Christopher Parish, Marquette, Mich., was named first bishop of Gaylord, and Father Paul V. Donovan, pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Flint, Mich., was appointed first bishop of Kalamazoo.

Meanwhile, Pope Paul named Auxiliary Bishop Warren L.

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Boudreaux of Lafayette, La., to become bishop of Beaumont, Texas, and appointed Msgr. Joseph R. Crowley, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, Ind., auxiliary to Bishop Leo A. Pursley of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind.

Msgr. Crowley was editor of the Our Sunday Visitor, national Catholic weekly, from 1958 to 1967.

Rosary Crusade In Holy Land

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Fulfilling a dream of many years, Father Patrick Peyton conducted his first Family Rosary Crusade in the Holy Land, the area he calls "the very proving ground of the 15 Rosary mysteries."

The 10-day pilgrimage, which featured separate Rosary rallies in Nazareth and Jerusalem, culminated in an open-air service in Bethlehem's Manger Square.

Reportedly urged by close friends, diplomats, and other religious to postpone the Holy Land crusade and wait for a

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In a letter addressed to all priests of the archdiocese, Cardinal Cooke stated that he hoped the new policy would "provide a reasonable system of rotation in the pastoral office."

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"more peaceful day," Father Peyton said he scheduled the rallies on what he terms "Mary's timetable."

Father Peyton has been invited to conduct a Rosary Rally in embattled Belfast, Northern Ireland later this month. The occasion would be the international observance of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Legion of Mary, a world Catholic lay action group launched in Dublin in 1921.

There are still obstacles, religious and political, to be cleared away before the Belfast rally is assured, Father Peyton indicated.

Wednesday, June 23, 1971

Pope Speeds Procedures In Annulment Cases

Vatican City—(RNS)—While stating that the Roman Catholic Church looks with grave concern on the increasing number of marriage annulments reaching ecclesiastical courts, Pope Paul introduced reforms designed to speed procedures for such annulments.

Provisions of the apostolic instruction (motu proprio), released June 10 at the Vatican, make it possible for Church authorities to pronounce an annulment after only one full hearing.

Set Term for Pastors Approved for N. Y. City

New York (RNS)—The Vatican has approved what may be an unprecedented policy in the American Catholic Church, authorizing the appointment of pastors in the New York archdiocese for a specified term of office.

Terence Cardinal Cooke, in announcing the policy's approval by the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy, said future pastors will be appointed for six years and may be appointed to a second six-year term in the same parish.

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Previously an advocate defending marriage was obliged to appeal to a second diocesan court which had to hear the case over again. If a contradictory ruling was made the case had to go to the Sacred Rota (court) in Rome, a process which often took a minimum of two years, often longer.

The Pope indicated that the church wants to prevent excessive length of matrimonial cases from contributing to an "aggravation of the spiritual condition of many of its children."

ly rebound to the good of both the parish and of the pastor offering just opportunities for challenge and renewal," he said.

A recent survey of archdiocesan clergy pointed out that priests generally feel that their assignments "do not challenge them sufficiently" and offer mainly "routine activities." The study indicated that most priests are eager for responsibility and feel that they must wait too long before assuming pastoral status.

Cardinal Cooke, in his letter, also noted that the archdiocesan Senate of Priests voted for the new policy after it held meetings of priests to discuss the matter. He added that Vatican authorization for the new policy was granted "pending the revision of the Code of Canon Law."

In limiting a pastor to two six-year terms in a parish, the cardinal observed that such a priest may be appointed pastor of another parish following a 12-year tenure elsewhere.

The instruction will go into effect Oct. 1. Under its provisions a diocesan advocate opposing the annulment is obliged to appeal, but the second court can uphold the original decision without additional hearings and grant immediate annulment. Both partners in the marriage would then be free to marry within 10 days.

Pope Paul also allowed national conferences of bishops to appoint one layman to every three-member panel of judges for initial court hearings. Women will also be allowed to hold official positions in such courts, but may not sit as judges.

The papal instruction extends to individual bishops' powers to pronounce marriage annulments when presented with "clear, documentary evidence of a marriage's invalidity."

Until now this power was reserved for certain obvious impediments, such as a close blood relationship between partners or a previously taken vow of chastity. After Oct. 1, bishops may use their own judgment on all types of impediments.

Impediments to marriage are defined by the Catholic Church as those obstacles which render a marriage either unlawful or invalid. Those impediments resulting from natural law never change and cannot be dispensed, but impediments resulting from Church law are subject to change and are dispensable.

In his latest instruction, Pope Paul reserved for himself the right to deal with annulment cases concerning royalty, heads of state, their children and heirs. He will entrust such cases to a Vatican congregation tribunal or commission.

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