

Protestants to Join Anti-Abortion Drive

London—(RNS)—Bitter Roman Catholic critics of Britain's liberal abortion laws will be supported by Protestant groups as the result of a new campaign launched at a press conference at the House of Lords.

The development came as a conference of top medical men rejected support for voluntary euthanasia (mercy killing) and voices grew louder for greater British action to prevent a world population explosion. Issues of birth, living and death were thus all brought into headline prominence simultaneously.

The new anti-abortion campaign launched at the House of Lords is designed, according to its sponsors, to "rally the Protestant conscience" against the present 1968 Abortion Act, under which more abortions are being carried out in this country than ever before.

This campaign is being conducted by an organization called Sanctity of Unborn Life, or "Soul," whose membership is drawn from evangelical — particularly Pentecostal — churches.

One of Soul's organizers, Derek Lindley, a Manchester teacher, said the unit does not

resist abortion absolutely and it considers that there might be circumstances in which it might be justified, notably to save a mother's life.

But, he charged, the act had helped to propagate the idea that abortion was a cheap way out of social problems and the problems of caring for the handicapped.

Soul, he said, wishes to alert the Protestant conscience to the fact that the present law "eased the way for racketeers in the medical profession."

Soul will also campaign against the existing situation in which certain abortion clinics can benefit from tax concessions because they are linked with organizations registered as charities.

Soul, he said, is totally opposed to "London's pigsty morality" being transported to the provinces.

Another speaker, William Spring, claimed there was no widespread demand for an abortion clinic in Birmingham — Britain's second largest city — while Dr. Margaret White, a vice president of the Anglican Mother's Union, said conditions

in Britain were likely to become even worse than in Eastern Europe, where easy abortion is "reaping a bitter harvest."

As these evangelicals discussed the killing of the unborn, doctors at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association at Leicester rejected a motion urging a more tolerant attitude to the possibility of the introduction of voluntary euthanasia legislation. (Such legislation has at least

twice been rejected in Parliament).

One who opposed the motion was Dr. Joseph McGlone of Glasgow who said, "How can we be more tolerant to an idea which is so repugnant to doctors and so contrary to one's fundamental principles on which the ethics of medical practice are based? The deliberate taking of human life is not a solution."

Both developments at Leices-

ter and at the House of Lords came only a few hours after the annual conference in London of the Family Planning Association had discussed population, in Britain and the world. One of the chief speakers was Lord Caradon, former British ambassador to the United Nations, who urged Britain to take the lead in attacking and overpowering the growth of world population, which he described as "the greatest single danger to mankind."

Berrigans Charge Parole Decision Was Dictated

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Fathers Philip and Daniel Berrigan, imprisoned for destroying draft board records, were denied parole by federal authorities here. Attorneys for the brothers said an appeal would be made in 90 days.

The U.S. Board of Parole recommended that Father Daniel Berrigan, a Jesuit, be required to serve out his three-year sentence, and Father Philip Berrigan, a Josephite priest, be considered for parole in January, 1973.

The board heard the pleas for parole automatically, since both priests — who are at Danbury (Conn.) Federal Prison — will have completed one-third of their sentences within the next two months. The hearing was closed, the priests were not represented by counsel, and the vote of the six board members present was not announced.

In a statement, the priests said, "Our parole decision came from Washington, from the Department of Justice, within nine days of our interviews at Danbury," which, they said, might be considered normal procedure.

"... yet, in here," they went on, "we witness the needless suffering of the families of other prisoners who wait for months for a decision to be handed down."

The statement, given to their lawyers at Danbury following the decision, was released during a press conference in New York at the Center for Constitutional Rights.

George J. Reed, parole board chairman, revealed that the priests had been granted hearings July 19 in the prison. He said their files were discussed and they were asked questions about adjustment to prison life in an attempt to determine how well their "rehabilitation" had progressed.

Father Philip Berrigan, 47, serving concurrent six and 3½ year sentences for draft board raids in Baltimore and Catonsville, Md., in 1967, has also been indicted as master mind of a conspiracy to kidnap Presidential aide Henry A. Kissinger and blow up federal property in Washington.

Father Daniel Berrigan, 49, is

serving a three-year term for the Catonsville raid. Reportedly, his health has deteriorated since he entered prison last August. Without parole, his release date would likely be November, 1972.

According to U.S. Justice Department spokesmen in Washington, no recommendations on the paroles were made by that department.

At Danbury, both priests are involved in the prison's education program, with each teaching a few courses.



EVENTS at
OUR LADY OF FATIMA SHRINE
 (Barnabite Fathers) Town of Lewiston, Youngstown, N.Y.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 7th: FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS
 at 11:30 A.M. 2:30 and 7:30 P.M.
 All-day adoration in the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament; priests are available for confessions.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 8th: CORONATION FEAST
 2:30 P.M. — Religious Pageant "Our Lady of Fatima"
 4:00 P.M. — Rosary Procession, Crowning of statue on top of dome, sermon, Benediction.
 8:30 P.M. — Candlelight Rosary Procession.
 The public is invited to attend!

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