



### Watch over Belfast

Armed with an automatic rifle, a British trooper maintains watch over the predominantly Roman Catholic New Lodge area of Belfast. (RNS)

## Abortion No Answer

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

A feminist and former proponent of abortion, who is now president of Minnesota's Citizens Concerned for Life, Inc. feels abortion is a very shallow approach to equal rights.

"It is totally inconsistent to yell for equal rights and then yell for abortion. We must be concerned with all human rights," said Marjory Mecklenburg, who was in Rochester and Elmira last week as part of the diocesan Conference of Concern for the Unborn.

Mrs. Mecklenburg, mother of four, wife of an obstetrician-gynecologist — family planning expert, is an anti-abortionist with a positive approach.

She addresses herself to the problems facing the pregnant woman who needs help and understanding. Such a woman is especially vulnerable, and might be railroaded, the speaker said, through the "abortion mill" by husband or boyfriend reluctant to accept responsibility for the offspring, or by welfare workers and bureaucrats who can withhold or grant aid at will.

She tells of her own conversion from pro to anti abortion: "Most people who favor abortion law repeal do not do so because they view abortion as intrinsically good, or because they relish destruction of unborn human life.

"They cast their votes for the right to abort because they have empathy for women and the problems they may face in continuing to carry a baby. In a world that often doesn't seem to care, their solution to the problem of unsafe illegal abortion is to remove the road blocks and make it easily accessible and less dangerous."

This was how Mrs. Mecklenburg, who describes herself as a liberal, Methodist woman, felt until, she said, she realized that the fetus is a living person, and became concerned for the implications permissive abortion might create for women and society.

Speaking from four years' experience as the prime initiator in alternatives to abortion in Minnesota, Mrs. Mecklenburg tells what else can and needs to be done.

Her efforts have gone into supportive and preventive services.

She was a founding member of Minneapolis' Birthright, the first one in this country. The idea for such volunteer crisis counseling services which provide the confidential one-to-one help and friendship desperate pregnant women need, originated in Toronto in 1968.

Many supportive alternatives have come out of Minnesota's legislature, where Mrs. Mecklenburg served as a volunteer lobbyist during 1969 and 1971 sessions.

The bills she has worked on and seen passed include: extra aid to families who would adopt

Courier-Journal

## School Aid Stand Same: McGovern

Milwaukee, (RNS) — Interviewed here by Religious News Service, Sen. George McGovern stated that there "is really no difference" between his position on aid to parochial schools and that of his Republican opponent, President Richard Nixon.

The only conceivable difference, according to the Democratic presidential candidate, is that he would support "parochial aid" only if the courts found it to be constitutional, while Mr. Nixon would "probably try to change the Constitution."

President Nixon has indicated for some time now that he favors federal aid to help the financially hard-pressed parochial schools. The Republican party platform adopted in Miami Beach reaffirmed this position and came out in favor of a system of "granting income tax credits" as "one way" of aiding non-public schools.

Sen. McGovern spoke earlier before an enthusiastic audience of students and faculty at Gordon Technical High School in Chicago.

He used the occasion to announce his support for aid to "parochial and bona fide non-public schools."

Gordon Tech is the largest Roman Catholic school in Chicago with an enrollment of about 2,800 and an annual operating budget in the neighborhood of

### Pope Now 75, No Resignation

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As the pontiff went about the business of a routine day, cables and letters offering birthday wishes poured into the Vatican. One of the first such messages came from Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia.

In the last year the Pope several times publicly has said that he was tired and was feeling more and more the awesome burdens of the office he holds. However, on several occasions he publicly announced that he would not step down because he did not feel a Pope had the right to abdicate his responsibilities.

\$1.5 million. It is located in the heart of Democratic strength in Chicago — the European ethnic areas on the near northwest side of the city.

The limitations of the tax credit approach to school aid were candidly acknowledged by Sen. McGovern.

"It is true," he observed, "that tax credits only help those parents who are taxpayers."

Nonetheless, he felt that there would be indirect benefits even for those who did not have

enough income to pay taxes if for no other reason than that the schools would be financially able to continue to provide scholarship aid to needy students.

In an interview, the Democratic standard bearer intimated that he had not considered methods other than the tax credit idea because of potential constitutional difficulties. He said that he did not want to change the constitution and would drop his support of even the tax credit approach if the courts ruled against it.

## Pro-Life Conference

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Willkes and Mrs. Mecklenburg for presenting their views. "The issue," he said "is not pro-life versus anti-life legislation. The issue is life itself, the most precious gift we have received from God, the gift which makes us God-like."

He then outlined some proposals that would "give pro-life attitudes to our people and inspire them to work for . . . the community of love."

include pro-life material in the Catholic schools and religious education courses. Father Collins explained that this could be achieved through "Education in Love," the diocesan sex education series. He also said that the Sex Education Curriculum Committee will work on supplementary material for "Education in Love" "to deal with other issues."

The Sex Education Curriculum Committee is chaired by Dr. Gerard T. Guerinot, MD.

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