

Birth Control Legislation Draws Cardinal's Wrath

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle, archbishop of Washington, has condemned bills offered in Congress that would reward couples for not having children and penalize parents having more than two children.

Both types of legislation would involve tax deduction. In one in-

stance, couples not having children would receive a benefit in estimating their taxes; in the other, parents would be permitted to list only their first two children as dependents in estimating their taxes.

Cardinal O'Boyle said such proposals "indicate the depths to which some would descend in

fashioning our society according to their own social engineering plans."

His remarks were made at the Annual Patronal Feast Mass of the Archdiocese in honor of the Motherhood of Mary at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here. The Mass was attended by 8,000 people.

Referring to a recommendation of the President's Commission on Population Growth and the American Future that abortion on request be available to every woman to "eliminate the unwanted child," the cardinal said:

"We do not, as followers of Christ, hold that there should be any such person as an unwanted child, an unwanted teenager, or an unwanted elderly person."

"I wish to remind you today," he continued, "that quality of life is only properly understood in the context of the sanctity of life. And the sanctity of life derives from God's love for us and the redemptive acts of Jesus Christ."

The archdiocese extended its observance of "Respect Life Week" beyond the first week in October suggested by the American bishops, and the cardinal's statement was intended as a part of that observance.

He said there is one factor in American society today that is "sapping the moral fiber of many of our people, especially the young, Catholics and non-Catholics alike."

"I refer to the feeling, sometimes a conviction, that because something is declared legal, therefore it is morally right. Nothing could be further from the truth," he declared.

"We acknowledge in a republic such as ours that democracy operates on the principle that a majority vote rules. This does not mean, especially in moral matters, that the majority is always right. Nor does it mean that public opinion polls are accurate measures of moral convictions."

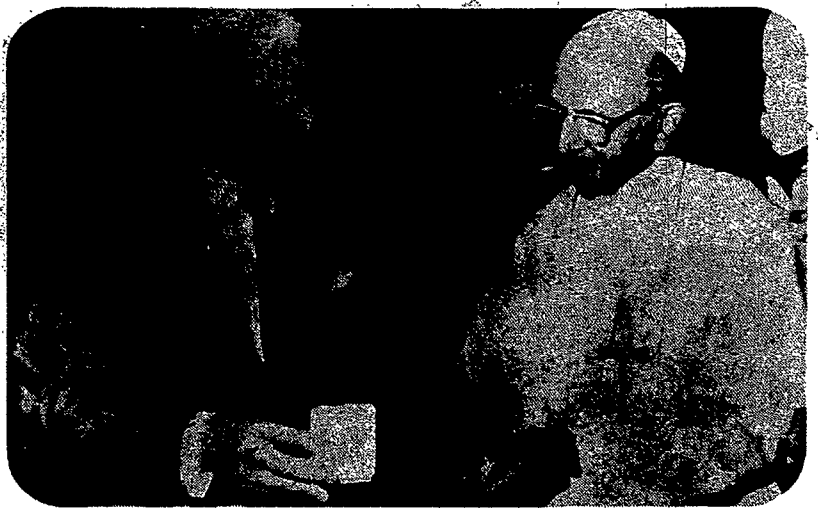
Cardinal O'Boyle referred to a recent poll which reported that a large number of Americans favored abortion on demand. "Does this poll prove abortion is morally right? Absolutely not. What it does prove is the puerile gullibility of many of our American people who say to themselves, 'The majority seems to favor this, so I should remain silent about my moral convictions...'"

"We as a people are in serious danger of becoming morally weakened and actually sick," the archbishop said. "Let us not succumb to the sophistry of those who say honorable and respectable men favor the legalization of abortion."

"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 and morally wrong."

The cardinal noted that Hitler could not have led Germany "to the shame of the slaughter of the Jews if decent and respectable men had not cooperated. It was not less unjust and morally wrong."

"Many other examples could be given," he continued, "but I ask you to keep in mind these examples so that it shall not be said of us that we ceased to oppose the slaughter of the innocent unborn, that we became silent, and, therefore, we were cooperators in the killing of the innocents..."



Confer on Ulster Crisis

British Prime Minister Edward Heath and Pope Paul VI exchange gifts during their Vatican meeting to discuss the situation in Northern Ireland in particular and international violence in general. The pontiff pledged the continued efforts of Catholics in all of Ireland and England on behalf of peace in Ulster. (RNS)

British Salvation Army Hits Abortion on Demand

London (RNS) — Critics of Britain's liberalized Abortion Act received support from a powerful ally here when Salvation Army headquarters issued a formal statement expressing "serious concern" about the law.

The statement referred to the act, passed by Parliament in 1967, legalizing abortion on various grounds. Since then "scored thousands" of abortion operations have been carried out in Britain.

The Salvation Army, a worldwide evangelistic and social welfare movement said:

"We feel serious concern, shared, we understand, by an increasing number of persons, regarding the provisions, workings and influence on national standards of morality of the Abortion Act 1967, now in force."

"We sense considerable danger in the almost facile request for abortion on demand, with its concomitant claim that only

the woman herself, who may be below the legal age of consent, should determine whether or not to bear a child. We feel that abortion cannot rightly be considered in isolation from the rest of the entire field of family relationships, including sex education, family planning and contraception, and the whole complex interaction involved in the termination of a pregnancy.

"We agree with the opinion which holds that abortion is almost always either medically or socially evidence of failure."

The statement concluded by saying the Salvation Army "strongly recommends" that a Royal Commission or similar body be set up to study fully the social and ethical implications of abortion with a view to the 1967 Act being revised.

"In our view," it said, "abortion should continue to be legalized on adequate medical grounds, both physical and psychological, but not for social reasons."

Is Pope Planning Reforms in Method Of Papal Election?

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul is reported to have delayed the calling of a consistory for the creation of new cardinals until early 1973 when he can tie the ceremony to the announcement of widespread reforms in procedure for electing popes.

Vatican sources said the pontiff spent a good portion of his two-month Summer "working vacation" polishing rough drafts of a decree which he originally had hoped to have ready for the observance of the 10th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II on Oct. 11.

The same sources also said it was on the council anniversary date that the Pope had hoped to hold a consistory to replenish the depleted ranks of the College of Cardinals.

No one available for comment claimed to have any specific knowledge of what the pontiff plans to include in his conclave reforms, but several Vatican sources suggested that they could include the franchising of bishops holding certain strategic posts and even giving the vote to some laymen.

Expanding the franchise to include bishops and representative members of the laity had been suggested at sessions of the Synod of Bishops and elsewhere by such Church leaders as Cardinal Leo-Josef Suenens of Belgium.

A number of top theologians, most of whom are European scholars, have tried in the right of bishops and laymen to vote for a Pope with the principle of collegiality — a theory under which "there is collective participation and coresponsibility in decision-making and other matters of the Church."

As long as two years ago, one source said, Pope Paul first made overtures about the possible reform to various cardinals

and received "highly negative responses" from many conservatives.

Later, copies of proposed reforms in mere outline form were reportedly put into the hands of many cardinals with the same results — the progressives applauded it and asked for even more liberalization of the conclave while conservatives rejected it as unsound and contrary to Church tradition and Catholic teaching.

For more than nine centuries, only members of the College of Cardinals have been eligible to enter the secret conclaves at which successors to St. Peter are chosen by written ballot.

"It would follow then," said one Vatican official, "that the Holy Father is going to consider this one of the major — if not the major — document of his pontificate. You don't change something that has been in practice for nine centuries, and on which so much depends, without giving the matter concentrated study and research."

There also is speculation that the papal reforms will no longer demand that the voters be locked up in cramped quarters in and around the Sistine Chapel, day and night, during the time it takes them to decide on a new pontiff.

Instead, the balloting would be conducted in the new hall inside the Vatican walls that was erected as a meeting place for the Synod of Bishops, a unit which Pope Paul elevated to the status of permanent Church body.

Sources here said that if the new Synod Hall is used for the conclave, it is probable that the delegates would be permitted to eat and sleep in religious houses or hotels in Rome, bound by oath not to divulge anything about the conclave either while it is in progress or after it has ended.

Judging from past performances, such a procedure would certainly not breach the secrecy of the deliberations as nothing of any substance has ever leaked in modern history about what went on in conclaves at which popes were elected.

As it now stands, the College of Cardinals is down from an all-time high of 135, set in 1969 when Pope Paul called his last consistory, to 116. But, in line with a 1970 decree, 26 of these prelates are ineligible to vote for a Pope because they have reached the age of 80. By the first of the year, another four cardinals will pass the 80-year mark and automatically be disenfranchised, leaving the voter strength at 80.

Paper Drive To Benefit Hospital

Cardinal Mooney High School students will hold a paper drive Saturday, Oct. 21, to help build the new Park-Ridge Hospital in Greece.

The drive, a project of the Action For People Association, will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The collection depot will be the school parking lot, 800 Maiden Lane. Pickup of scrap paper, magazines, paperbacks or IBM cards can be arranged by calling the school, 865-1000, on the day of the drive.

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