

Courier-Journal Candidate Survey Shows Abortion Repeal Gains Support

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Of the 57 state legislative candidates from the Rochester diocese, 25 have told the Courier-Journal that they would vote for repeal of the present liberalized abortion law. Only 12 said they would not support repeal.

Six other candidates commented on the law but did not make yes-no commitments and 14 did not answer.

The survey seemed to show increasing support for repeal. In the 1970 election survey, only nine of the 46 candidates favored repeal.

The Legislature voted to repeal the law in the last session. The Assembly voted 79 to 68 for repeal and the Senate concurred by 30 to 27. Gov. Rockefeller, however, vetoed the repeal.

This year's survey question read:

"Will you vote for repeal of

the present New York State abortion law?"

Yes or no check boxes were provided as well as space for the candidate's comments.

Of the 22 candidates for the State Senate, 11 said they would vote for repeal of the law, 2 said they would not, 3 commented without indicating a definite position and 6 did not answer.

In the races for the State Assembly, 35 candidates were polled with 14 saying they would support repeal, 10 saying they would not, 3 commenting without taking a yes-no stand. Eight did not answer.

THE SENATE

By CARMEN VIGLUCCI

Of the 22 candidates for the State Senate from districts within the Rochester diocese, 11 said they would vote for repeal of the present abortion law, 2 said they would vote against repeal, 3 commented but did not indicate yes or no, and 6 did not answer.

In the 45th District, which includes part of Cayuga County, Harry M. O'Brien, Democrat, and Dr. Ronald G. Perciaccante, Conservative, both said they would support repeal. Incumbent Republican H. Douglas Barclay did not comment but voted against repeal in the last session of the Legislature.

O'Brien said, "I am unalterably opposed to the present law and have clearly stated this many times since I became a candidate."

Perciaccante commented that he regards "repeal of the present abortion law as one of the most vital issues in this election. I am campaigning most actively to restore legal protection to life. I have urged my supporters and opponents to publicize my point of view."

In the 47th District which includes part of Tioga, incumbent Republican Warren M. Anderson said he will not support repeal while Democrat John E. Cheev-

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THE ASSEMBLY

By JOHN DASH

Of the 35 candidates for seats in the Assembly, representing dioceses, 14 have told the Courier-Journal that they will vote for repeal of the abortion law. Ten candidates said they would not; three commented without taking a yes or no stand on the question and eight had no comment.

In the 123rd District, which includes part of Tioga County, Maurice F. Battisti, the Republican candidate had no comment. Democrat James E. McCabe said he would vote for repeal of the law and cited a letter he had written, as mayor of Johnson City, to Warren Anderson, chairman of the state's Senate Finance Committee.

"The same logic which was brought to bear on the problem of capital punishment should apply equally to abortion . . . Philosophically, it doesn't make any sense to me to assert that up to a certain point — say, three months — the human embryo does not have life, but after that point it does . . . It seems to me that abortion, whether of convenience or compassion, is more reprehensible than any capital punishment or any other form of murder, because its purpose is to murder the innocent."

Brigham P. Thomson, the Conservative candidate, will not vote for repeal. "As an individual," he commented, "I do not approve of abortion but on the question of legal right I must leave the issue

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Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Bishop Kearney Milestone

When the St. Bernard's Seminary alumni had their recent reunion, a cake was baked noting Bishop James E. Kearney's 40th anniversary as a bishop. Bishop Kearney presented the first slice to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, quipping, "Our bishop takes the cake." With the two bishops is Auxiliary Bishop Richard Harrison of Syracuse, an alumnus. This week's centerfold focuses on Bishop Kearney's anniversary and there are other photos of the alumni association reunion on Page 21.

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A Sense of Movement

Catholic schools are in their renaissance after their days in hell. This kind of provocative comment spiced the talk of Dr. Edward DeRoche, chairman of the Department of Curriculum and Administration at Marquette University, at the annual meeting of elementary parochial school principals. Barbara Moynihan has the story on Page 9.

Several diocesan officials comment on the move and its meaning on Pages 7 and 8.

The diocesan vicar for education, Father Albert Shamon has written a new book which is reviewed on Page 11.

Two series continue — Barbara Moynihan's second article on Urban Park is on Page 7. The housing development opened this week. And on Page 17, Auburn correspondent Mary Ann Ginnerty has another in a series of reports on the Year of Renewal drive and King's Prep this in her area.