

Abortion Issue Factor in National, Local Vote

By CARMEN VIGLUCCI

There can be little doubt that the abortion question played a role in the recent elections, probably reaching as high as the presidential plateau but certainly coming down to the grass-roots level of state offices.

A News Analysis

How great a role, amid the morass of other issues, is difficult to assess.

As for the Nixon-McGovern contest, voters felt that the President was opposed to abortion while Sen. McGovern's position was never quite made clear. The President won a majority of normally Democratic Catholic voters (preliminary reports indicate that some 55 per cent of Catholics voted for Nixon in 1972 as against 33 per cent in 1968).

Still, the connection between this vote and the abortion issue is nebulous. The President also won a majority of blue collar workers, increased his support among Jewish and the black voters and carried the majority of the ethnic vote. In short, such a landslide obscures particular issues. In addition, both candidates supported nonpublic school aid, although Nixon's earlier and stronger advocacy undoubtedly won him friends among Catholics concerned about this issue.

On the state scene, and focusing locally through the Courier-Journal poll, there are some indications as to the effect of pro-life on the vote, though by no means strong enough to reach general conclusions.

In the pre-election Courier-Journal survey, 25 of the 57 candidates, or 44 per cent, for legislative offices from throughout

the diocese, said they would vote for repeal of the liberalized law. Of the 23 elected, 12, or 52 per cent, had said they would vote for repeal.

Breaking it down into the two houses, five of the nine state senators elected said they favor repeal. This 56 per cent compares with the 50 per cent of candidates who took the same position.

In the Assembly, 50 per cent of those elected said they are in favor of repeal while only 40 per cent of the candidates took that position.

Pro-life sentiment seems stronger among senators than among assemblymen from this diocese. Only one of the senators elected, Warren Anderson of the 47th District, told the survey he would vote against repeal. Of the three who did not take yes or no positions, one, Fred Warder of the 52nd District, has consistently voted against liberalized abortion.

Quite aside from speculation is the fact that two state senators from Monroe County, both supporters of liberalized abortion, have lost their jobs this year.

Pro-life adherents played a strong role in the primary defeat of Thomas Laverne, a popular and entrenched legislator. The victor, Gordon DeHond, then ran against Father Joseph Dorsey, also a pro-lifer. Thus the contest was almost neutralized from the anti-abortion viewpoint.

However, a group called the Women's Political Caucus initiated a write-in campaign for Laverne which amassed some 8,000 votes. It was concerned with nothing more than liberalized abortion and thus, if nothing more, showed the impact of this issue in the vote.

The other state senator defeated is James E. Power, also a popular legislator, but running in a normally Republican area. His opponent, Fred Eckert, stressed the abortion issue and told the Courier-Journal that he would vote for repeal of the present law.

So, obviously abortion played

its role among several others. One is the generally conservative tone of the vote in that candidates endorsed by the Conservative party did well. However,

the Conservative party has anti-abortion as a platform plank, so whether the party benefited from pro-lifers, or vice versa, is hard to determine.

Your Legislators

STATE SENATE

45th District	H. Douglas Barclay
47th District	Warren Anderson
50th District	Tarky Lombardi
51st District	William T. Smith
52nd District	Fred Warder
53rd District	Gordon DeHond
54th District	Fred Eckert
58th District	Thomas McGowan
59th District	James T. McFarland

STATE ASSEMBLY

123rd District	James W. McCabe
125th District	Lloyd Riford
126th District	L. Marshall
127th District	Charles D. Henderson
128th District	Constance Cook
129th District	James J. Hurley
130th District	Thomas Hanna
131st District	Raymond Lill
132nd District	Thomas Frey
133rd District	Frank Carroll
134th District	William Steinfeldt
135th District	Don Cook
136th District	James Emery
137th District	William C. Knights



In Thanksgiving . . . Clothes

These children at the Go Vap Orphanage in Vietnam are among those neediest people in the world that the Thanksgiving clothing collection will help. (Parish bulletins carry collection schedules.)

Human Development Collection

'We Cannot Fail Our Poor'

New York (RNS) — The director of the U.S. Roman Catholic Church's self-help, anti-poverty effort warned here that people "can grow tired of doing good" but said that this campaign has made a commitment to the poor "we can't go back on."

Speaking two weeks before the annual nationwide collection that will be taken up in all U.S. Catholic churches, Nov. 19, Auxiliary Bishop Michael Dempsey of Chicago said that the Campaign for Human Development has "gone into the obscure corners of the nation and given a ray of hope to millions."

"We must keep up the effort so that the light will continue to shine and the determination to continue the educational effort to erase poverty will not be diminished," he added.

(The diocesan collection will be Nov. 18-19.)

Bishop Dempsey, who also announced the latest allocation of more than \$500,000 in grants to 37 self-help projects in 18 states, said the greatest challenge is to make Catholics and other Americans aware of the causes of poverty and of the "need for a change of heart and change of priorities by all Americans."

To date, the CHD's education-action program started two

Correction

Elmira — The Central New York Chapter and the State Council offices of the Knights of Columbus have disbursed \$15,000 to help flood relief in the Elmira area, not \$1,500,000 as previously reported.

years ago by the nation's Catholic bishops has now distributed more than \$12 million of the \$16 million it has collected to projects helping the country's 35 million poor citizens break the cycle of poverty and dependency.

Of the \$16 million raised by the CHD in 1970 and 1971, 25 per cent was retained by the individual dioceses for local funding of self-help programs.

Father Robert Monticello, executive director of the national CHD in Washington, D.C., told a news conference here that the latest funding brings to 389 the number of projects receiving grants. He noted, however, that if the CHD had been able to fund all its requests for aid it would have required \$250 million.

He said that in the past two years his office received 3,200 requests averaging \$64,000 each.

Describing this year's campaign efforts, he observed that transit cards, radio and TV spots, a film entitled "The Right to Hope" and billboards that will replace political posters after Nov. 7 are all keying on the campaign slogan "Poverty is what happens when people give up caring for one another."

Asked about local diocesan CHD programs, he said "more and more programs are developing and some are highly sophisticated." But the priest added that each diocese is responsible for operating its own human development programs.

With respect to the over-all campaign, he told reporters that the program's success cannot be measured by the number

of those helped. "More important, perhaps," Father Monticello said, "are those who gave," those involved in the campaign and who are "confronted by the moral imperative" to eradicate poverty.

Convention

(Continued from Page 1)

The main talk of the evening, "Man Is a . . . What?" was delivered by Father Joseph Jankowiak of St. Bernard's Seminary, one of the authors of the diocesan study paper on "The Mission of the Church in Rochester."

The Nazareth meeting opened with scriptural readings and music provided by a folk-song group from the University of Rochester.

Father Jankowiak attempted to explain the study paper in terms of changing emphasis on "mindset" and "timeset" in the Church today, and in relation to a new theological terminology.

"There is a waiting upon the Lord for all of us," said Father Jankowiak, explaining what he meant by the term "eschatological tension." He said, "Jesus has come and he will come again. Because He has come, we must do something, but until He comes again, we are not always able to do what we should."

"The lordship of Jesus is a serving lordship, not domination," said Father Jankowiak.

The diocesan paper was not an absolute, said Father Jankowiak, because "you should work out in your region the needs of your own people."