

# Pope Lauds Women's Lib, Scores Abortion

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul said here that the women's liberation movement "is in itself justified," but held that some of its backers sometimes espouse "distorted ideas" on the subject of abortion.

The pontiff mentioned the liberation movement in an unusually to-the-point and hard-hitting new condemnation of the growing practice of abortion throughout the world.

He told the world that a fetus has specific rights from the very instant of its conception and argued that any opinion contrary to that is against all-morality and laws of God and nature.

In addressing a group of Italian jurists at a private audience, he said that the very idea of

abortion "is repugnant not only to Catholic morality, but even to universal human ethics."

The 75-year-old spiritual leader, long in the forefront of the forces opposing legalization of abortion, said a fetus from its conception is granted juridical rights which are the same as those of any individual person.

"Now the first and most fundamental of the rights of man is the right to life," the Pope stressed, "and there also is the right of man to the protection of that life."

Pope Paul maintained that it is sinful for any person, group of persons or government to take away that right from an unborn child through an intentional abortion.

No one, he warned, has a "counter-right" in the matter, especially "when an innocent is involved."

"The more defenseless the subject, the more need there is to protect him, and the more obligation there is for everyone to protect the mother while the child is in her womb," the Pope said.

He then turned to the women's liberation movement in remarking that "certain distortions of the movement of feminine emancipation, or the movement of so-called sexual liberation, can be false and alien to Christian principles."

The Pope repeatedly emphasized that the Church teaches that no woman has what some present-day backers of legalized abortion describe as "the right of determination" over their own bodies.

He said an individual woman is not permitted to decide on her



own whether or not to have an abortion, because the rights of the unborn child and the very foundations of society hang in the balance.

The papal talk was particularly forceful since the Italian jurists to whom it was given were then meeting at a congress that discussed abortion.

"Jurists have a task second to none in defending this universal human value, right to life, which is the very foundation of life, and at the roots of civilization, not just Christian but simply universal human civilization," the pontiff said.

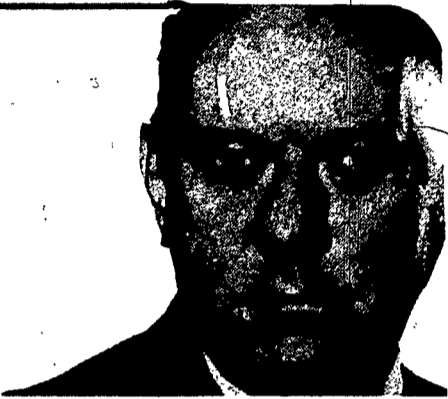
Addressing himself to the women's liberation movement that has been gaining momentum throughout many developed nations, the Pope said the movement "does not lie in formalistic or materialistic equality with the other sex."

Instead, he said, the movement has its roots in "the recognition of that specific thing in the feminine personality — the vocation of a woman to become a mother."

This vocation, he said, carries with it the rights and duties which amount to that universal human value.

BOB CONSIDINE

## On the Line



If you will forgive a personal reference, once again, last year I wrote a piece predicting that President Nixon was on the verge of making some completely out-of-character moves. I wrote that he — who had based so much of his earlier career on vigilant anti-Communism — might even go to Red China and sit down with Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai.

My syndicate, having distributed this nonsense, had to send out urgent corrections by telegram, smoke signals and sky writings to editors to change my piece. Seems that the day after I made the crazy prediction, and four or five days before it was scheduled to appear, Mr. Nixon went on TV and casually announced that he was going to the People's Republic of China before the following May.

My piece was no leak from the White House, no trial balloon. It just happened to coincide with a continuing series of boggling mind-changes the President has been undergoing for several years. They will continue into his farewell term, to confound the stuffer elements of the Republican Establishment which once found him so easily predictable.

The GOP on the whole has treated him shabbily more often than not. It entertained the thought of dumping him as President Eisenhower's Vice President in 1956. It did not give him much loyalty in 1960 when he lost to JFK, and little or no help in his witless battle against Pat Brown in California in 1962. It was annoyed by his request for two extra tickets to the 1964 Convention that hopelessly nominated Barry Goldwater. It finally got behind him in 1968 with dough and a sense of deication and he won a squeaker over Hubert Humphrey, the man the Democratic Establishment — notably LBJ — had not boosted or bolstered.

Now Richard Nixon doesn't have to give a damn about the Republican Establishment. In his swan song four years in the White House, he'll not ever have to worry about possibly stepping on the toes of some fat cat who might hurt him at the next election. He can fire everybody in the Establishment who humiliated him or threatened to bring him down before he could reach the bliss of a second term. He can pick as his associates men he personally knows and respects. After all, the only opponent he must meet from here on in is the historian. He'll want very much to take care of him.

So, here are a few guesses about what the President will do, or try to do, in his lame duck years:

- End the U.S. participation

war in Indochina, but not quite the way George McGovern promised to end it. Stop the bombing, sure, call the fleet home, give the South Vietnam and Thailand bases back to those peoples, and get every last cook and bottle-washer out of South Vietnam. But drive a bargain, through muscle and Henry Kissinger, which will enable us to keep the South Vietnamese government and its peoples from going completely down the drain.

- Achieve much closer relations with the People's Republic of China, but at the same time not turn America's back on Taiwan and the miracle of its post-revolution economic development.

- Further convince the Kremlin hierarchy that it is stupid for both of us to continue breaking ourselves financially supporting armed nuclear camps which could not afford World War III.

- Make the most serious pitch to unite the Americas since FDR and JFK tried and failed to bring the quarreling peoples together.

- Renew diplomatic relations with Cuba, despite the protests of the Cuban refugees in this country and the hotel, night club and gambling interests in Puerto Rico.

- Discover Africa.

- Knock some heads together in Israel and the Arab world.

- Lighten the burdens of the people who pay for NATO forces facing Warsaw Pact armies in Eastern Europe.

- Keep the Common Market, which could not have come into being with our costly Marshall Plan, from throttling our European trade.

- Persuade Japan, the power we lifted out of the radioactive debris, to cooperate with us more diligently on the matter of trade balances.

- Keep G. Washington's head on the U.S. dollar free of migraine.

- Smash crime more effectively, fight immoralities born of permissiveness, succor the addict, pummel the pusher, preserve the "neighborhood school," which has come to mean legalized segregation.

- Continue the freeze on prices, wages, etc., as long as the unions will refrain from revolution.

- Keep Henry Kissinger by not appointing John Connally Secretary of State.

- Play a little golf in public without having to apologize.

## Pope Cites 'Singular Vocation' Of Roman Catholic Universities

Vatican City (RNS) — A Catholic university must show, despite its deep involvement in the contemporary world, that the search for truth is not diminished "but is rather stimulated and strengthened by the Word of God, by the hierarchy of values" it receives from the Church, Pope Paul declared here.

Addressing 80 officials of Catholic universities from many countries at a congress on Catholic higher education, the Pope said he endorsed an expression in the preparatory document of the congress which called for inspiration and encouragement from Church leaders.

Expressing his own willingness to help, he praised the objectives of the meeting held under the direction of Cardinal Gabriel-Marie Garrone, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education.

He noted that the congress proposes to carry out a profound study of the relationship between the teaching authority of the Church and the teaching of the university and to seek opportunities for collaboration between universities.

The Pope observed that the Catholic university is already deeply immersed in the secular world and he urged the delegates to be certain of the "singular vocation" of the Catholic university — to "demonstrate by

facts that truth is not diminished, but is rather stimulated and strengthened by the Word of God, by the hierarchy of values" derived from the Church.

He said the Catholic university "shares in demonstrating the superiority of the Spirit" and "can never accept putting itself entirely at the service of anything other than the search for truth."

Speaking of the increase in knowledge and technological skills which characterize the present era and the "great currents of thought which impregnate public opinion," Pope Paul affirmed that men are still untiringly involved in the search for truth at all levels.

"In this situation the Catholic university has an impassioned task," he declared. "Do not al-

low, do not tolerate truth to be placed under a bushel. In you the world must see the true liberty of the Spirit, in you the people of God need to find the witnesses of the faith they profess and shrewd guides along the paths of life."

Pope Paul went on to say that "pastors await your help to fulfill their mission" which is to guarantee the authenticity of the revealed message of Christ.

Calling upon the Catholic university to be the "melting pot of thought and the school of life," the pontiff exhorted the delegates to "witness that the inner man, while he is reaching out toward the transcendent meeting with the Lord and the fulfillment of the kingdom, is also dedicated to the good of his brothers and the progress of society."

## Nervi's Hall Criticized

Vatican City — (RNS) — A major complaint about the new papal audience hall adjacent to St. Peter's Basilica is that it places too much distance between the pontiff and most of the people.

Yet there was absolutely nothing either Pope Paul or the building's designer could have done to remedy the situation.

The building had to be long and narrow to fit into the space available for its construction.

And Pope Paul is required to sit at one end of the 300-foot-long structure because most of the rest of the building rests on Italian soil, even though it lies behind the famous "Vatican Wall."

The parcel of land became Italian land leased to the Holy See under the terms of the 1929 Lateran Treaty.

"You can appreciate, can't you, that the Holy See wants the Holy Father to be on his own home grounds when he conducts a general audience and when he speaks out on the issues of the day," one Vatican official said.

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