



Mooney Wins

Photo by Lawrence E. Keefer

Center Larry Lane scores for Cardinal Mooney in Sunday's quarterfinals in the Carter-Sammons Tournament at RIT. Mooney beat Bishop Kearney, 72-45, to win the right to face the winner of next Saturday night's semifinals at Monroe Community College. There, Vincinian of Albany will meet St. Peter's of Saratoga at 8:30. St. Patrick beat St. Lucy's High School last Saturday night, 58-43, in an upset victory in the tournament being played locally among New York State Catholic high schools.

Donovan To Introduce Pro-Life Legislation

State Sen. James H. Donovan (R-46th District) has stated he will shortly introduce a legislative package of bills which will serve to demonstrate that New York State is committed to encourage women to carry their pregnancies to birth and to insure that necessary services and opportunities are available for child development.

Senator Donovan said, "New York State and the federal government spend millions of dollars yearly in this life-destroying process. Surely a counter-effort to sustain respect for life, and in fact provide a balance to anti-life legislation and governmental policies, is warranted, especially since the pernicious U.S. Supreme Court decision of Jan. 22, 1973."

Senator Donovan said his legislative program of positive alternatives will include the following:

- Establishment and maintenance of child-life centers to assist persons with problems related to pregnancies. The centers would, additionally, provide a contact point for problems such as venereal disease, birth defects, and child abuse, serve as information and referral centers for child adoption inquiries and requests.

- Provide grants-in-aid to persons adopting children with physical and mental handicaps.

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- Establish a system of state-funded birth insurance which would insure a family for the expenses incurred, both prenatal and post-natal, for a child with a congenital defect needing special attention.

- Appropriate state funds to augment federal dollars which are now the sole support of New York State's Birth Defects Institute.

- Require health insurance companies to provide full maternity benefits as they now provide full expense reimbursement for abortions.

- Utilize existing government and private agencies for maximum benefit to society, as related to this legislative program of positive alternatives.

Senator Donovan said he recommended that the state fully fund the program in the first start-year and thereafter the program be funded on a four-to-one basis, less any federal aid. He estimated the cost for the first year operation of child-life centers to be \$20 million.

Since the Supreme Court's pro-abortion ruling, the Courier-Journal has begun a series of editorial challenges to legislators on all levels, to introduce bills which provide alternative solutions for women with problem pregnancies.

Congressmen Submit Bills On Rights of the Fetus

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Six Congressmen have introduced joint resolutions calling for a constitutional amendment insuring "due process and equal protection" to an individual from "conception."

They are Congressmen Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.), who was the first to introduce a resolution on Jan. 29, John M. Zwach (R-Minn.), Clement J. Zablocki (D-Wis.), James J. Delaney (D-N.Y.), John N. Erlenborn (R-Ill.), and Angelo D. Roncallo (R-N.Y.).

The resolutions are nearly identical, except for Mr. Delaney's. Three Representatives (Hogan, Zablocki and Delaney) asked protection "from the moment of conception," while the other three state only "from conception." Except for Mr. Delaney's, the texts of the resolutions are as follows:

"Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to insure that due process and equal protection are afforded to an individual from (the moment of) conception . . .

"Section 1. Neither the United States nor any state shall deprive any human being, from (the moment of) conception, of life without due process of law; nor deny to any human being, from (the moment of) conception, within its jurisdiction, the equal protection of the laws.

"Section 2. Neither the United States nor any state shall deprive any human being of life on account of age, illness, or incapacity.

"Section 3. Congress and the several states shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Mr. Delaney's measure has a different Section 1, which reads: "No person, from the moment of conception, shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor shall any person from the moment of conception be denied equal protection of laws."

On the difference in terminology between the phrases, "from conception" and "from the moment of conception," an aide to Mr. Erlenborn told Religious News Service the difference is a "matter of interpretation."

"We see it as putting some question on the use of contraceptives," she said, "to say 'from the moment of conception,' and we didn't want to put that interpretation on it.

"From the moment of" could simply be that you're saying you're denying the use of contraceptives, particularly any immediately after (intercourse), and we just didn't want that question to arise," she explained.

"Now, when we get down to actual words, I suppose it doesn't make too much difference at this point, because the (House) when they hold hearings, will have a great deal more to say about it."

An aide to Mr. Hogan told RNS: "From our point of view, we don't see any problem with it. I suppose that perhaps the question comes in cases regarding rape or incest, where there's a grey area of about six-seven days regarding when conception and implantation actually begins. I suppose the question they (Messrs. Erlenborn et al.) have is in regard to that.

"I can't see where contraception would come in that at all," he said. "So I imagine that it would have something to do with this period (of six-seven days following intercourse) that in medical terms is not clearly defined . . ."

"I think that probably technical testimony will be required," he added, "and this is what we try to do in the hearings. If there are any real technical problems"

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like this, we could refine, on the basis of expert testimony both on the part of lawyers and doctors, the language on it, if necessary."

The aide said the language of Mr. Hogan's resolution "was taken basically from a suggestion by Prof. Charles Rice of Notre Dame University, who's worked on this for a long time. He and a group of other interested lawyers got together and suggested this (resolution), and we took it basically as they had it," he said. "We don't see any particular problem with the 'from the moment of conception' idea."

Mr. Hogan plans to seek co-sponsors and re-introduce the resolution with co-sponsors. After that, he would make a formal request to the House Judiciary Committee for public hearings.

"I think with the volume of mail we've been getting (on the resolution) and feedback from other Congressional offices,"

the aide told RNS, "we'll have a pretty good chance of getting the hearings, because there seems to be a substantial amount of interest in it."

To date, no resolution on this subject has been introduced in the Senate. However, Sen. James L. Buckley, a New York Conservative-Republican, plans to submit legislation, possibly later in March.

A spokesman for the Senator, who is a Roman Catholic, said he "wants to come up with the best possible amendment" before introducing legislation. He has been meeting with "scientists, medical people, etc.," and going over the whole issue," the spokesman said.

Two areas Sen. Buckley still hasn't reached a decision on are whether to state "from conception" or "from the moment of conception," and whether the amendment should leave the question up to the individual states to decide, or the federal government.

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