

Health Institute Guarantees No Research on Live Fetuses

Bethesda, MD. [RNS] — The National Institutes of Health here, under fire from Roman Catholics for considering the support of medical research using living, aborted fetuses, vowed here not to fund any such experimentation or research "anywhere in the world."

The federal agency finances nearly half of all U.S. medical and health research, some overseas, and a few scientists have disclosed that research involving live, human fetuses was carried out underwritten by NIH-funded research projects.

Dr. Robert Berliner, deputy NIH director for science, said the agency does not knowingly support such research and "we know of no circumstances at present or in the foreseeable future which would justify NIH support."

Another NIH official, Dr. Charles Lowe, who heads the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, read Dr. Berliner's statement to a group of Catholic school students and parents who gathered at the Bethesda institution for questions and a possible protest of NIH policies.

Dr. Lowe told the students "you know we're dealing with 14,000 grants" and "we are not, insofar as we know, financing any such work."

He told the visitors he saw no need at this time for studies of a living human fetus, though he admitted many scientists in

Film Exhibitor Fined \$100,000

New York [RNS] — Mature Enterprises, Inc., the principal exhibitor here of the film "Deep Throat" was fined \$100,000 by a criminal court judge on charges of promoting obscenity.

Judge Joel T. Tyler said his calculations, supported by records of the firm, show that the controversial movie grossed \$1,228,025 during its 37-week run at the New Mature World Theater in New York. He put the defendant's profit from the gross at \$152,924. The fine of \$100,000 was a "fair and reasonable compromise," the judge ruled. Fines of up to twice the amount of gain from commission of the crime are allowed under the penal code.

Following a 10-day non-jury trial, Judge Tyler found Deep Throat "obscene by any legal measurement." The film was withdrawn the day before the March 1 decision and has not been shown here since.

2 Introduce 'Death' Bill

New York [RNS] — Two New York State Assemblymen, asserting that the death penalty would deter the rising rate of crime, have introduced a bipartisan bill which would allow capital punishment in certain cases.

The amended bill to permit the death penalty in premeditated and felony-connected murders was introduced by Robert F. Kelly (Republican-Conservative — Brooklyn) and Alan Hochberg (Democratic-Liberal — Bronx). A similar bill introduced by Assemblyman Kelly last year was defeated by a narrow margin.

Although the sponsors said they were reluctant to cite statistics since these could be shaped to fit any argument, they said the numbers of murders in New York City rose from 1,466 in 1971 to 1,691 in 1972, a rise of 15 percent. They held that the death penalty would serve as an effective deterrent to crime.

Scandinavia, Britain and the U.S. feel differently. He also said he could not condone scientists undertaking research in other countries which their own country's ethics would not permit.

Dr. Lowe did admit that NIH began considering the question of fetal research a few years ago and that a special committee was established to consider policy on all areas of human experimentation, including fetal research.

Reacting to disclosures of NIH consideration of policies relating to research on live, human fetuses provided by abortions, officials of the U.S. Catholic Conference in Washington, D.C., issued a series of statements condemning the practice.

Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, speaking for the USCC's executive committee of bishops, expressed "shock" and said in a statement aimed at the NIH: "If there is a more un-

speakable crime than abortion itself, it is the using of victims of abortion as living, human guinea pigs for medical research. Neither science nor morality is well served by laboratory experiments on human beings.

A statement by a special pro-life committee, headed by Cardinal John Cody of Chicago, called the practice "immoral and totally objectionable" and "one more evidence of the serious moral questions our nation faces when those responsible for decisions affecting human life fail to recognize the law of God and the basic moral and ethical beliefs of the people."

The two statements followed closely those of two USCC division heads — Msgr. James T. McHugh (family life) and Sister Virginia Schwager, S.P. (health affairs) — who said the research programs considered by NIH are further indications of "the eroding value placed on human life in a permissive abortion atmosphere."

Archbishop Dies

Dublin [RNS] — Archbishop John Charles McQuaid, former Archbishop of Dublin, died here April 7, at the age of 78.

Fathers, Archbishop McQuaid was born in Cotehill, County Cavan, in 1895, ordained priest in 1924, and consecrated Archbishop of Dublin in 1940, the 47th in a succession stretching back over 900 years.

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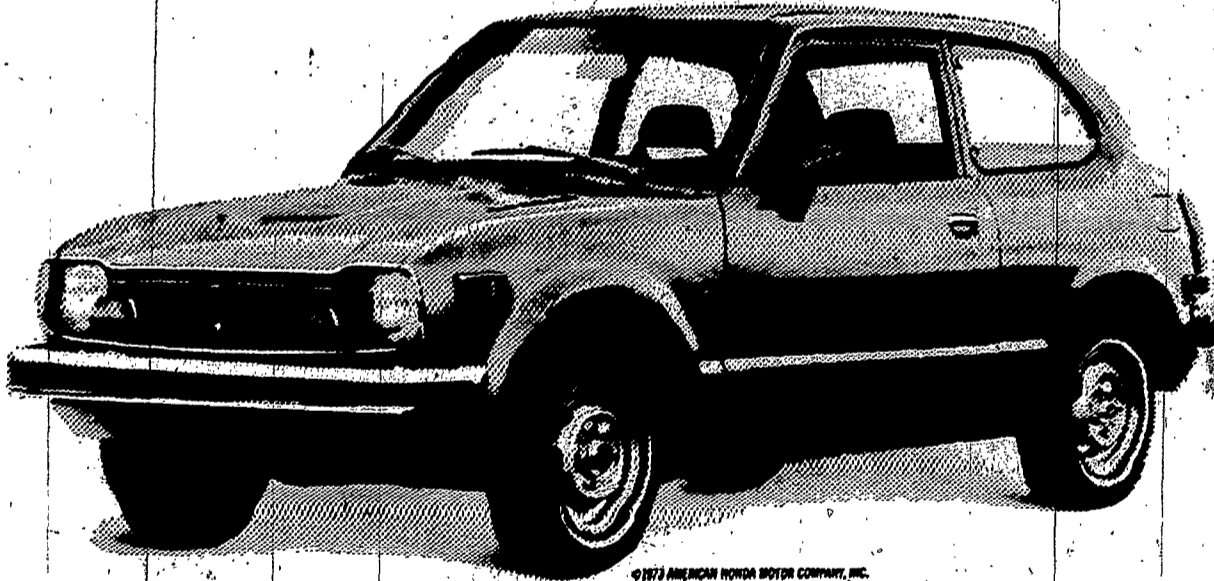
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