



**ON THE LINE**  
Bob Considine

Now you can kill an unwanted, unborn child and charge the medical costs to your credit card.

One of the country's leading card companies (Master Charge) has added abortions to its list of other credit opportunities such as food, drink, travel and store purchases. The financial arrangement for the destruction of a living fetus is handled in the familiar manner: the customer presents the card, the doctor — or whatever — submits his bill to the card company, and the card company pays him, minus the usual deduction as the broker in the transaction.

The baby pays only with his or her life.

"I see no reason why this card shouldn't be accepted for health reasons," an abortionist's assistant — who got her job partly through the U.S. Supreme Court — told a TV camera. She added that the card also should be accepted from those in need of a Pap Test or treatment for a venereal disease.

These uses of the old credit card dodge open new horizons in the multi-billion dollar industry of buying-now-and-paying-later. One can look forward to that happy day when a Mafia godfather can buy a "hit" on time, and then use the same card to buy a one-way ticket to Katmandu for the executioner.

Crazy? Well, just look how far we've come since Alfred Bloomingdale more or less invented the credit card and named it for what he considered would be its ultimate use: Diners Card.

In all the eulogies offered on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Yankee Stadium there wasn't a single mention of the fact that 40 years ago it was the scene of perhaps the rarest play in baseball: a double play at home plate.

Just happened to be there that day. It was Swaddling Clothes Day at the Stadium, if memory serves. The Washington Senators and Yanks were locked in a great duel that season. Washington finally prevailed over a New York club that was studded with future Hall of Famers. But on the day of the miracle play they were closer together than quarter past three.

**Business In The Diocese**

Dorjan C. Chapman and Jasper A. Pizzo have been elected assistant vice presidents of Marine Midland Bank.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Webster Bible Church, Chapman, his wife and two children live in Fairport.

Pizzo, a 1960 alumnus of San Francisco State College, joined Marine Midland in 1968.

A native of the Frankfurt, N.Y., area, Pizzo is a member of St. Mary's of the Lake Roman Catholic Church in Ontario. Married and the father of five, Pizzo and his family live in Ontario.

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Bottom of the ninth. Washington leading 2-1. One Out. Two Yankees on base, Lou Gehrig on second, young Dixie Walker on first. Tony Lazzeri rifled a line drive to the fence in right center. Gehrig held up a few seconds to see if the liner would be caught. But Walker, a heads-down baserunning rookie, took off like a shot.

The ball dropped safely and ricocheted off the fence. Gehrig then started to run, with Walker now only a few yards behind him. They rounded third base hardly a yard apart and headed for home with what would have been the tying and winning runs.

But Washington at that moment was putting together an unforgettable defense. Goose Goslin had recovered the ball. Joe Cronin ran into short center and took Goose's great throw. Then Joe made a greater one. He wheeled and threw a perfect strike to Luke Sewell, the Washington cather. Gehrig hit Sewell with a pulverizing slide. Sewell tagged him out but was spun up in the air. Walker dived head first into the mad scene at the plate. Luke descended on Walker's back, stopping him inches short of the plate.

The great crowd that was screaming over what appeared to be a 3-2 Yankee victory was silenced as if decapitated. The game was over. Washington was the winner, 2-1. Then the crowd gave the Senators a mighty ovation.

Yankee fans were always the fairest in the land.

Takes a heap of planning to make a hotel a home, for peacocks. While Bombay's newest and India's tallest hotel, the Oberoi-Sheraton, was being planned it was suggested that as part of the decor there should be a covey of peacocks featured somewhere about the premises or gardens.

"Just males," the planner said. "Nobody looks at those drab peahens. People want to see those males with their superb tail feathers fanning out. We can save money by not having the hens."

"We'll have the hens," a wiser head said, patiently. "If we don't have peahens, the peacocks won't show their feathers. See?"

**Budget Cuts Arouse Church Ire**

The Nixon Administration's proposed 1974 budget cutbacks affecting programs for the poor, the handicapped, the sick, the aging, migrants and other disadvantaged Americans are drawing opposition from a broad spectrum of the nation's religious leaders.

Protestants, Catholics and Jews have joined to protest the proposed slashes in long-time federal social programs. They charged that the cutbacks "break faith" with America's needy and "penalize" the underprivileged, in a joint statement by Dr. R.H. Edwin Espy, head of the National Council of Churches; Bishop James Rausch, head of the U.S. Catholic Conference, and Rabbi Henry Siegman, head of the Synagogue Council of America.

"A budget which discriminates or appears to discriminate" said the statement, "against the disadvantaged can only increase alienation, cynicism and distrust. We are distressed that this budget proposes that many important social programs of the federal government be reduced or eliminated."

Among the programs eliminated, diminished or postponed, they listed "employment and educational opportunity, community development for urban and rural areas, migrant and seasonal farm labor programs, legal services, community housing, medicare and child care."

The Nixon Administration budget, released Jan. 29, included the scrapping of the Office of Economic Opportunity, federal subsidies for housing and community development, and the President's own family assistance welfare reform plan. It called for greater reliance on the new revenue sharing programs.

In the wake of the budget announcement, criticism and pleas for "reconsideration" flowed from many religious sources — particularly from agencies and groups affected directly by the federal program cuts.

The Rev. Leon Sullivan, founder of the widely-known Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC), led a march to the nation's Capitol to protest cuts in manpower training funds.

Despite the fact that the black Philadelphia Baptist minister had been praised for his creative enterprise by President Nixon, he objected to Mr. Nixon's proposal that such programs as OIC be funded locally through revenue sharing and be subject to local politics.

New regulations proposed by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, as a result of the budget cuts, were attacked from several directions.

Msgr. Lawrence J. Corcoran, who heads the National Conference of Catholic Charities, said more than 200 programs of services to 10,000 needy families and elderly people provided by the Catholic agencies would be adversely affected.

Along more general lines, sixteen of the 19 bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church held a special meeting in Washington, D.C. in February to proclaim their "deep distress" at the Nixon Administration's plan to dismantle the nation's anti-poverty program.

The moderator of the United Presbyterian Church, Willard Heckel, told delegates to the denomination's Health, Education and Welfare Conference in Dallas recently that Mr. Nixon had "callously disregarded human rights" in seeking to impound welfare funds.

Mr. Heckel, dean of the law school at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., said that if the nation is short of money the Pentagon and military experiments should be curtailed instead.

Albert Vorspan, social action director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, described the new budget proposals "as offering Americans a heart of stone."

In making the accusation, he announced the publication of a 128-page document sent to over 700 Reform synagogues aimed at initiating an inter-religious effort to combat what it called "the regressive social and domestic programs" of the Nixon Administration.

In the particular area of health care services, the American Protestant Hospital Association (APHA) and the U.S. Catholic Conference's Health Affairs Division have strongly opposed Administration policies on health programs, especially for the aging and for migrants.

The APHA's House of Delegates urged its 250-member hospitals to inform the President and Congress "that all health care workers object strongly to the blatant discrimination being imposed . . . on all health care institutions and their employees" by Administration policies.

Sister Virginia Schwager, SP, who heads the USCC health agency, has called the proposed Medicare cuts "a tragic blow to 23 million Americans, most of whom absolutely have not the resources to finance their own health care."

She gave her support to a U.S. Senate bill that would prolong federally-funded public health programs canceled in the proposed Nixon budget. As it stands now, about 44 sections of two — current laws need Congressional action before they expire June 31.

If projected interreligious coalitions such as those proposed by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and leading U.S. Catholic and Protestant leaders are formed, significant pressure could be brought to bear on Congress for budget adjustments.

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