

**Editorial**

**Abortion Amendment  
... No Time for Rift**

Despite the optimism voiced by Sen. James Buckley when he introduced his anti-abortion amendment last week, there is still some doubt as to its chances for success.

Just prior to Sen. Buckley's action, Washington newspapers reported that Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan, who had previously introduced a pro-life amendment in the House, felt that chances for his bill being approved this year appeared dim.

The reason for his skepticism, as reported in the Washington Post, was that only four other congressmen attended an anti-abortion seminar he sponsored earlier this month. Four out of 434 does not give rise to optimism.

This unfortunate development occurred despite the fact that petitions have been pouring into the nation's capital supporting the overturning of the Jan. 22 Supreme Court decision on abortion. More than 45,000 signatures were garnered by the Monroe County Right to Life Committee alone and a national organization, The Committee for Ten Million, reports that 1.5 million persons have signed its petition in favor of Rep. Hogan's bill.

When Sen. Buckley introduced his bill, supporters of Rep. Hogan's bill immediately criticized it. They say it makes no mention of protection of the fetus "from the moment of conception" as does Hogan's proposal. They also feel that when Sen. Buckley's bill refers to the death of the mother if the pregnancy is continued is a "compromise to the pro-abortionists."

Such differences are important but hopefully they can be ironed out as the amendments are discussed. What is more disturbing is the realization that while millions of Americans are upset over the Supreme Court interpretation a split may develop among those able to do something about it.

And such a rift looms as a distinct possibility. Richard Gallagher, director of the Human Life Amendment office in Washington, which was formed to support Hogan's proposal, told Religious News Service the differences in the amendments may be divisive nationally.

A quick compromise is urgent. Time can not be wasted or scars inflicted while liberalized abortion speeds along. In all of this there is a hint of jealousy — heaven forbid! Too many people have worked too hard, too long for the rights of the unborn to have it sacrificed at this crucial juncture.

So it is time for renewed dedication on the part of all who believe in the pro-life amendment.

Rep. Hogan, talking about the failure of 430 of his colleagues to attend the anti-abortion seminar, said, "This is the nature of things. Basically most politicians would prefer to avoid a controversial issue."

All pro-lifers must let their federal legislators know they are opposed to the Supreme Court ruling and support an amendment to overturn it. They must let the lawmakers know that this issue will not be avoided.

**Double Disservice**

Their personal responsibility in breaking the laws they freely accepted as priest and sister is the most serious aspect of the marriage of Father Philip Berrigan and Sister Elizabeth McAllister.

Their action also has cast a secondary cloud, and an unmerited one, over the entire peace movement. Peace activists have long been characterized unjustly as contemptuous of all laws. This latest development has lent unexpected and unfortunate credence to that viewpoint.

**Opinion**

**Abortion Law  
Inconsistent**

Editor:

No matter what the reasons for or against abortions, many are appalled by the permissiveness that puts legal sanctions on killing those babies ejected alive from their mothers. According to Dr. J. C. Willke, noted authority in the fight against abortions, New York State performed 3,900 hysterotomy abortions in 1972 and 100 per cent of babies expelled by this method are born alive "and permitted or encouraged to die." Presently, a woman has the right to terminate a pregnancy on demand as long as that baby is within her. The Supreme Court recognizes her right to personal privacy over the baby's "inalienable right . . . to life . . ." However, the instant he is removed from her alive, he is born, and entitled to the full protection of our Constitution.

Why then do we not prosecute the mother and her accomplices for homicide by neglect? How can we continue to charge and punish her for that same crime once she has returned home? In the past, inconsistencies and imperfections in the law were fought through the courts. Why not now?

Some would argue that this is merely death with dignity. Not so. The baby will not die from a terminal disease or old age but by and through the absence of his exposure to the standard "ordinary" survival procedures available in the delivery room. We expect, by virtue of their frailty, many will not make it. One little boy born after only 20 weeks of gestation is strong, healthy and happy today, yet science considered him not yet viable. Many of these murdered innocents could be living and loving in the eager homes of adoptive parents if we would challenge this genocidal decision, at least on this front.

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**Cartoon Draws  
Objection**

Editor:

I most strongly protest the cartoon printed on Page 4 of the Courier-Journal of May 30.

The notion that women as participants in the liturgy should behave in such a manner goes beyond the humorous to the sickening. The cartoon merely serves to reinforce the lowly, secondary position accorded to women to this day in the Church.

**COURIER-JOURNAL**

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Vol. 87 No. 59 June 13, 1973

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15¢; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.50; other foreign countries, \$9.50. Offices, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604; (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.



"WELL, WE KNOW THIS ABOUT HIM... HE'S A COUNTERFEITER, HE'S GENEROUS, AND HE'S NOT TOO BRIGHT!"

The addition of women to the celebration of the liturgy had added a much more human and believable quality to the worship. I quote from a recently developed campaign on women and their rights: "Womanpower — It's much too good to waste."

It is far too late in our religious, indeed, in our human state of growth to depict women in such light as this cartoon has done. No longer does it appear quite so funny to portray women as objects of ridicule, as the cartoon does. We know better. At least we should.

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**Jobs Seen Key  
To Irish Woe**

Editor:

Catholics in Northern Ireland must rely on the Catholic press in this country to come to their defense. The secular papers seldom mention the main violence in that unhappy country, i.e. job discrimination against the 500,000 Catholics.

The national and local governments employ between one and two per cent Catholics. The main industry, the Harlan and Wolfe Shipyards, hires 200 Catholics out of 11,000 employees. The Sirocco Engineering Works hires 15 Catholics out of 5,000 employees. It has been a long time since blacks in this country were treated so unfairly.

Now that England has assumed direct rule of Northern Ireland, nothing is ever said about reducing the discrimination in employment against Catholics. In the past 50 years, half a million Catholics have been forced to emigrate permanently because of job discrimination. Tens of thousands of others have had to work in England, seeing their families only at Christmas and on their annual vacation. This is still the case, all because they are Catholics, and for no other reason.

Now England has come along supposedly to set the matter straight. She recently appointed the 28 heads of the civil service for Northern Ireland. One is Catholic and the other 27 are Protestant, though Catholics are 40 per cent of the population.

I recently visited the Falls Road area in Belfast. Forty-seven per cent of the heads of families there are unemployed, all of them Catholic. When I interviewed the pastor there, Father Padraic Murphy, he told me that if it were announced a factory would be built in the area to help provide

employment, the terrorism would decrease by 50 per cent immediately. The biggest violence in Northern Ireland is the job discrimination: violence to Catholic families and especially to Catholic children. When we talk about peace, let it be peace with justice, not peace at any price.

[Rev.] Daniel Lyons, S.J.  
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**Bombing Also  
Anti-Life**

Editor:

It was ironic that the same day the press reported the introduction of an anti-abortion constitutional amendment by Sen. Buckley, it also reported that he was one of only 19 senators who voted against a bill designed to stop the bombing in Cambodia.

Evidently Sen. Buckley feels that it is all right to continue the heroic bombing of people's homes and the killing of women and children as long as they are living, non-white, foreigners and not unborn Americans. The pious concern for the unborn is the height of hypocrisy when coupled with disdain for the lives of the living.

Sen. Buckley's attitude toward the Indochina bombing is one of anti-life. The pro-life pose taken by him and his supporters is a fraud.

His anti-abortion amendment should be defeated because it is not pro-life. We need a truly pro-life amendment that would protect not merely the unborn, but all people, especially the living from government violence.

To be truly pro-life, a constitutional amendment should also state that, "neither the United States nor any state shall deprive any human being of life for any reason."

The commandment, "thou shall not kill," provides no exceptions and does not confer on any person or government the license to usurp God's exclusive right to terminate life.

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Opinions to the editor should be addressed: Letter to the Editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.