

**Editorial**

**Right to Privacy**

It has become cliché to suggest that "1984" is already here. Yet some of the monstrous governmental control described by George Orwell has surreptitiously come into being.

Recently we have heard of government "enemy" lists containing the names of American citizens who have committed no crimes against the government or presumably against anyone else.

We have heard of planned governmental reprisals using governmental machinery against citizens who voiced opposition to an administration.

Police in Atlantic City and New York City have begun to use closed circuit television to watch citizens in the hope of catching crime in progress.

Manipulation of reproduction has begun with abortion approved legislatively and by the highest court in the land.

A huge bloc of Americans who happen to belong to one religion have heard that they should cease acting on issues affecting them because they might cause divisiveness.

And ever-encroaching "big brother" government has "whittled away" at our right to privacy, according to North Carolina's Sen. Sam Ervin, writing in A.D., a magazine of the United Church of Christ and the United Presbyterian Church.

Ervin claims that the government operates 750 databanks "containing personal information about individual American citizens."

He cited examples from Census Bureau forms, asking improper questions, to surveillance by the armed forces.

He said that governmental employees are sometimes asked to respond to such statements as "I believe in the second coming of Christ" or "I wish I were not bothered by thoughts of sex."

The right to privacy is not embodied as such in the Constitution but it is implicit in the First Amendment and has been upheld by the courts.

It is a natural and precious right and one we all must safeguard when filling out forms whether governmental or in the private sector.

**The Traditionalists**

In this age of skepticism, even the sturdiest and most hallowed of traditions often fall prey to questioning and overanalysis.

So it should come as no surprise that at Macalester College, a United Presbyterian institution in St. Paul, Minn., students split over the propriety of wearing caps and gowns at commencement exercises, with the all too-prevalent situation of blacks on one side of the issue and whites on the other.

Those opposed scorned the caps and gowns as not befitting these turbulent times.

A spokesman for those in favor of the mortarboard motif explained, "It's something significant, something you can always remember and look back on and feel good about."

So it came to pass. The 46 black students wore the traditional academic costume while only one of their 329 white classmates deemed it appropriate.

**Dean's List**

One of the lesser revelations, yet, when given a second thought, one of the most disturbing, is a certain aspect of the so-called "Dean's List" of Americans considered enemies by the administration.

All black members of the House of Representatives are on it.

If the list does indeed represent men and women considered enemies of the government, it is serious that these twelve should be lumped together without exception.

If, as White House aides claim, the list was merely established for social purposes to list those who might not qualify for White House invitations, then it is serious in another vein to consider that these eight congressmen should be "black-listed."

**Opinion**

**Smoking . . . It Is Sinful!**

Editor:

We vehemently object to the facetious tone of your editorial on smoking in the 6-20-73 edition of the Courier-Journal.

It doesn't take theological training to know that mutilation of one's own body or that of a neighbor is wrong. Anyone who has seen a picture of a smoker's lung would recognize that self-mutilation has occurred. Now the surgeon general of the United States tells us that research has conclusively shown that a captive non-smoker, in a closed room where someone is smoking, inhales equally as much smoke as the smoker himself.

Your editorial referred to eating eggs as possibly being harmful. This is a hotly debated medical issue. But even if their consumption were harmful, they would harm only the individual eating them. Smoking is a different matter.

Smokers not only harm themselves, but they inflict bodily harm on a neighbor, and trample his God-given rights to health and happiness when they: smoke in the presence of a person who suffers from allergy or respiratory disease; pollute the air in any enclosed place and cause premature heart attacks, emphysema, or migraine; when they cause indigestion and nausea by insisting on mixing cigarette smoke with food in public restaurants; when they impair the efficiency of fellow workers by polluting the air in conference rooms and cause the carbon monoxide level, in the words of the surgeon general, to "approach lethal proportions."

Jesus told us that the greatest commandment is to "love your neighbor as I have loved you." If we as Christians believe that knowingly breaking the commandments (and few smokers today have an excuse for not knowing) brings alienation from God, how can anyone of good conscience fail to recognize the sinfulness of these acts of selfishness and disregard for the welfare of one's neighbor? Jesus made it clear that our "neighbor" is the person next to us at a lunch counter, on a bus, in a theater, store, restaurant, hospital, doctor's office, elevator, public meeting place — or at home. Many a non-smoking husband or wife, and many allergic and sickly children, have to endure the addiction of a selfish and undisciplined member of the family.

Many people maintain that it will take "strong measures" to get smokers to quit. Maybe if more smokers would honestly admit to the bodily harm they are forcing

on other innocent human beings, they would begin to realize the serious moral obligation they have to safeguard their own and their neighbor's health, and would ask the Lord for the strength and self-discipline to free themselves of their maiming, killing habit.

**Julia Pendino, Chairman**  
Rochester Chapter GASP-ASH  
4 Henry Circle, Gates

**Catherine K. Tanguay**  
311 Tobey Road  
Pittsford

**Coupon Drive A Success**

Editor:

We wish to say "thank you" for your help and the help of your readers in the recently completed project of obtaining playground equipment for Lakemary Center, School of Special Education, Paola, Kan., through the collection of Betty Crocker coupons.

The project was a success. The retarded students, ages 3-16, are now enjoying their playground equipment.

We appreciate your help. May God bless and reward you!

**Mrs. Walter Vitt**  
Route 1, Box 5  
St. Paul, Kan. 66771

**Appeal Made For Pro-Life**

Editor:

The Human Life Amendment is our last chance to win against the national madness — ABORTION. Only the Human Life Amendment to the Constitution will guarantee the right to life to the unborn, the ill, the aged and the incapacitated.

The hour is late! Estimates by pro-abortionists indicate 1.6 million babies will be killed by abortion during the year 1973 alone. Quick action is needed!

Your readers are asked to check with their pastor and see if he has received the petition kit on the Human Life Amendment (H.J. RES. 261) from the Committee of Ten Million.

This national pro-life organization feels that a national petition can only be successful with 10-25 million signatures. Their campaign is beginning with a petition drive unlike anything ever seen in the United States. This non-sectarian group has launched the petition drive by distributing 1.5 million petition forms to more than 30,000 pastors, heads of religious organizations & institutions, and pro-life leaders throughout the country.

Gilbert Durand, national chairman of the committee, provided the initial petition and mailing costs of \$30,000 from his own funds. His plan, as soon as 10,000,000 signatures are returned to the committee, is to escort the petitions, with maximum publicity and fanfare, from the West Coast to Washington, D.C., pausing en route for pro-life rallies and additional signatures. With full coverage from TV, radio and press, the mountains of petitions will be presented to the President, Senators and Congressmen.

But the Committee can do nothing until at least 10,000,000 signatures are received. 5,000,000 just won't do the job. Again, your readers are asked to check with their pastor. If he is has not received the kit, with his permission, they should send his name with a request for the kit to:

Committee of Ten Million, P.O. Box 10399, Glendale, Calif., 91209.

The Committee of Ten Million offers the only nation-wide, unified, organized campaign for securing passage of the Human Life Amendment. The success is up to your readers. — They are the Committee of Ten Million.

**John J. Karcha**  
121 Battle Street, S.W.  
Vienna, Virginia 22180

**Church Law Explained**

Editor:

In a letter (Courier-Journal 6/27/73), Ellen T. Zazycki makes charges against the Church and the Church's teaching which should be answered.

\* "The laws" (of the Church — on abortion and contraception) she states, "were made by men and the women suffer under them." There is no law of the Church against contraception but the Church does teach that contraception is a gravely sinful act against nature. The Church does impose excommunication against all (not only women) who are directly involved in an abortion, because abortion is the taking of a human life. This judgement of the Church that abortion is the taking of a human life, is fully corroborated by medical science. The encyclicals of the Popes on contraception are not man-made laws but, rather, they represent the highest teaching authority of the Church on marriage and the natural law. Christ founded His Church to teach all mankind. If the teaching authority of the Church is called into question even by those who are presumed to be members of Christ's Church, then mankind is, indeed, in a precarious position as there is no other authority under Heaven authorized by the Almighty to speak in His name.

\* "So far," continues Ms. Zazycki, "only the Church has thrown the first stone, knocked her (women) down and stepped over her . . ." This hysterical statement, I believe, will scarcely find sympathy among our Catholic people who realize that it was the teaching of the Church and the Holy Family for the last 2,000 years which liberated woman from the slavery of polygamy under paganism and Judaism and which, through Christian veneration of Mary, as the Mother of God and the Sinless One, placed her on a pedestal of love and honor which she still occupies in the home as the mother of her family.

Yes, by all means, women should help women but not by teaching the Girl Scouts sinful techniques. They can teach morality instead of contraception & abortion. They can help women by teaching them that self-control for both men & women is possible in marriage; that marriage fidelity is not dependent on sexual indulgence; that a right conscience is a first requisite for marital happiness; that sacrifice is necessary in marriage if one is to experience the deeper joys and satisfactions of family life; that it may be necessary at times for married people to have separate rooms that they may experience these joys and satisfactions; that saving her own soul, and the souls of her husband and children, is still a woman's first duty in marriage.

**Rev. G. Stuart Hogan**  
789 East Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

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.

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