

Editorial

Our Orphans

The essence of a bill introduced by Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr. of New Jersey deserves special and speedy consideration. He asks \$5 million in assistance to private voluntary agencies, including those which are church-related, working in South Vietnam with children in day-care centers, orphanages, school feeding programs.

The senator is concerned that the Vietnam ceasefire has resulted in diminishing American interest in the plight of Vietnamese orphans.

Such a humane proposal needs no embellishment — the only question is whether \$5 million is enough. For those who might object, especially in these trying times, that "charity begins at home" let it be noted that some 25,000 of these orphans, many of them street beggars, were fathered by American servicemen.

Besides it is more than charity; it is a matter of justice.

Challenging Communists

Cardinal John Heenan of England has laid down a challenge to Communist nations, kind of put your actions where your words are.

Citing "persecution of religion," the cardinal told Hungary to allow Cardinal Josef Mindszenty to return home a free man. He spoke in the presence of the 81-year-old Hungarian Primate who was in England as part of his first trip outside in some 30 years. He is scheduled to visit the United States in September and has been invited by Mayor Stephen May to visit Rochester. Word is awaited on the possibility.

Cardinal Heenan's idea is a reasonable one from a reasonable man. Cardinal Mindszenty, true, is only one man but he is a world figure and personifies Christian concern for those of all faiths suffering persecution behind the Iron Curtain. He offers Communist nations a striking opportunity to promote peace.

Cardinal Heenan made his request grim when he said forthrightly, "The West today does not know, or want to know, that in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union the persecution of religion has intensified in recent months."

He may have been referring to the limitations on Jewish emigration. Regardless, freedom of religion is too long a way from fact in too many nations professing liberty. Challenges such as Cardinal Heenan's are needed to remind us all of this.

Come On, Elks

There is good news and bad news concerning the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

The good news is that the national organization has approved a resolution to rescind the Elks' "white-only" membership clause. The grand exalted ruler, Robert A. Yothers, says the move must be approved by a majority of the 2,182 local lodges but that he expects that will done by October.

The bad news is that the action may finally have been forced because Elks' lodges in several states were threatened with loss of liquor licenses as a result of court challenges to the "whites-only" clause.

While not exactly falling clearly into either the good or the bad news categories, a report from an officer of the Rochester lodge is at least unfortunate. According to the Democrat and Chronicle, an Elks' officer said that opinion has been evenly divided in the local lodge.

We know there is a separate black Elks' organization but isn't it about time that all Elks should be sitting fraternally? We wonder how many other organizations are so retrogressive as to bar membership to any American for reasons of race.

Opinion

Problem Pregnancy Is but a Symptom

Editor:

Sharon Crist (7/25/73) should at least be commended for sensing her responsibility to delve into the subject of abortion. About five years ago after sharing a room with a young co-ed undergoing an abortion at a local hospital, I too decided to learn about the subject, but I didn't limit the search to a women's lib bibliography.

I'd like to share some observations based on my years of total immersion in the subject, active participation in pro-life organizations, giving lectures and direct contact with unwed mothers.

Problem pregnancy is but a symptom of much larger troubles in a girl's life. Abortion is a life-long addition to those problems. Encouraging a girl to continue the pregnancy is not a punishment but a positive and more safe solution to her immediate problem and equally important it provides an excellent time for counseling.

Supporting a woman's decision to abort is neither "caring" nor "Christian." Christ taught the lessons of love and humility which would hardly encompass a violent procedure which allows a mere human to destroy an innocent and defenseless being He had a part in creating.

The pro-abortionist application of "wanted" and "unwanted" upon human life has frightening implications. "Wanted" is equated with a human entitled to life, "unwanted" becomes an object, a by-product of sex, for quick disposal using such comfortable terms as "products of pregnancy," "contents of the uterus," and "menses extraction," all of which are an insult to anyone who is knowledgeable about either pre-natal development or the realities of the abortion procedure.

It is also very narrow thinking to conclude that just because a baby is "unwanted" by the mother that abortion is the best solution. I disagree with Ms. Crist that women with problem pregnancies are not as capable as she in giving birth. With the proper support, any woman is capable of continuing a pregnancy. There are many women, however, who are biologically incapable of either conceiving or successfully completing pregnancies, who face the grim reality of the severe shortage of babies for adoption.

There is much talk of women's rights, but little about corresponding responsibilities in maintaining the integrity of the

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"HEY, LOOK, MAN! DON'T FEEL GUILTY! I'VE BEEN SNEAKING IN PRAYERS FOR MY ACNE, TOO!"

family unit. The feminist movement is nothing new. Its present vocal spokesmen exhibit negativism, bitterness and dangerously hostile attitudes toward men, marriage and babies. Women's Lib as it exists today is a perversion of an earlier more wholesome movement in America which transformed this nation from an aristocracy to a democracy as characterized by the universal schooling of the masses.

I'd like to think that the best "feminists" were people like my parents and grandparents whose encouragement and support enabled their daughters as well as their sons to pursue as much education as each desired or the nuns I had in high school who instilled in us the importance of continuing education and the adventure of travel. However, at the same time they emphasized the responsibilities of Christian marriage, which in reality was to be the ultimate choice of most girls. The emphasis on the complete fulfillment of each individual by enlightened parents and teachers no doubt has manifested itself in many women today having "the best of both worlds."

Theologians can continue their academic discussions concerning "ensoulment" for an eternity. Sound science has demonstrated that abortion kills life distinctly human. Sound ethics should be based on sound science and sound law should be based on sound ethics.

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Letters Applauded

Editor:

I must applaud two excellent letters printed in your July 18 issue. One covered the Cursillo Movement and spoke of it as the "most perfect trip." The other letter touched on the Charismatic Renewal and chided the local clergy for their indifference and reticence. Having been graced by God to experience both blessings, I had a particular interest and appreciation for the insight each writer so vividly displayed.

Unfortunately, this is not the case with some articles in your otherwise fine newspaper. Your recent article about Charismatics being too spiritual (as though such a thing were possible) is a good case in point.

Generally speaking, I feel it was poor writing on the Charismatic Renewal, which is so rapidly growing in all Christian churches today. The author was not correct or complete in most of what was reported. For example, their

concern that most Pentecostals are not active in or care about helping to remedy the many social problems facing us today. May I simply point out that a) this is not the primary purpose of the Charismatic Renewal, b) most Christians in this spiritual movement are involved in social work (I noticed many pitching in after the floods in Elmira last year). But they are not interested in being recognized as Pentecostals going about being Good Samaritans since our Lord sees all and this is good enough for them.

Just a side thought, but it's interesting to note that your center-fold article in that same issue covered the treatment of alcoholics and drug addicts through Teen Challenge — sorry nobody thought to mention the fact that the founder of Teen Challenge, Rev. Wilkerson, and the entire thrust of that ministry are deeply rooted in Charismatic traditions.

There are several other half-truths and outright errors in the syndicated article that your space limitations do not permit elaborating upon at this time. But permit me to briefly mention two points: 1) neither the Pope nor most Bishops are opposed to or wary of the Charismatic Renewal; rather they are in a "wait and see" stage praying that this movement is in fact the way God is answering the prayers and objectives of Vatican II and 2) misuse of the term "neo-pentecostal" (vs Classic Pentecostal and Catholic Pentecostal) and their jumping from one subject to another throughout the article left the reader with little information on many topics without really telling them anything of substance. The writer is obviously not charismatic. This is evidenced by his lack of ability grasp and report on what the article was perhaps intended to be about — metanoia and its role in our post-Vatican II Church today.

I look forward to more articles in your paper about how the Spirit of Jesus is at-work today among His people. There is a great hunger and need for this good news everywhere and Rochester is no exception. When are you going to give it a better press?

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