

Editorial

Lack of Interest?

A Rochester couple, trying to learn the status of the Hogan Amendment to secure the rights of the unborn, wrote to all nine members of a House Judiciary subcommittee where the bill rests now.

Rep. Charles E. Wiggins, a Californian, answered them that the judiciary committee has relegated the abortion bill to low priority because of lack of interest.

"You should be advised," he wrote, "that as of Sept. 2, 21 congressmen have sponsored Hogan's resolution or some variant thereof. Twenty-five congressmen have sponsored constitutional amendments which are directly the opposite of the Hogan resolution.

"You may also wish to know that to date I have received approximately 300 letters from around the country concerning the Right to Life amendment, 60 per cent of which have been in opposition to the amendment."

Unhappy news indeed.

We all must revitalize our efforts for the unborn. The area Right to Life Committee urges that everyone interested in reversing the Supreme Court decision on abortion write to members of the judiciary subcommittee and urge high priority for the Human Life Amendment, HJ Res. 261.

Write now. The House is close to adjournment.

Members of the committee:

Donald Edwards (Chairman), 2422 Rayburn House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Jerome R. Waldie, 408 Cannon House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Paul S. Sarbanes, 1507 Longworth House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Robert F. Drinan, 509 Cannon House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Charles B. Rangel, 226 Cannon House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Charles E. Wiggins, 229 Cannon House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Robert McClory, 2452 Rayburn House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. M. Caldwell Butler, 329 Cannon House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Trent Lott, 1712 Longworth House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

The Mideast War

As of press time hope was growing for a ceasefire in the Middle East. Please God that this happen.

The tanks, the warplanes, the dead soldiers should be anachronistic at this late date in history. Unfortunately they are not.

As the world grows smaller, it becomes increasingly difficult to justify war. It becomes ever so much more important to avoid it.

Admitted, one war may vary from another in circumstances. The constants, however, are disturbing — destruction of youth, waste of material and money, and the increasingly evident fact that wars seldom solve the problems that cause them.

O'Connor Tribute

We hope that Tom O'Connor's many friends throughout the diocese get as much pleasure from this paper's centerfold tribute to him as we did in preparing it.

There are many ways to describe Mr. O'Connor — exceptional journalist, devout churchman, dedicated family man being a few that come readily to mind.

But we venture most people who know him think of him simply as a warm and loving human being, the characteristic he displays in all of his roles.

Opinion

Red Cross Sends Thanks

Editor:

For the past year and four months, the wonderful and benevolent people of the Greater Rochester area have made great contributions in time, energies, and materials for the flood victims of the Corning-Painted Post Area of the Southern Tier.

The donors don't know how much happiness and comfort their gifts have meant to the flood victims.

There are many people who helped our cause. Presently, through the efforts of Father Elmer J. Schmidt, St. Vincent's Church, Corning, successful furniture drives have been conducted at St. Ambrose Church, Rochester, and St. Margaret Mary's Church, Irondequoit.

The leadership of the local drives, and the trucking firms (Boulter Transit Co., Shay, Neptune-Worldwide Movers), Teamster Union, Army Reserve and National Guard Units, and private individuals who donated transportation for the grateful cause, has been monumental.

We, in the Disaster Services, are very much concerned with the senior citizens, handicapped individuals, and fixed income families, who are faced with limited housing conditions, high prices, and scarcity of furniture and other essentials in our area. These people are faced with a hard winter and trying times. Your kindness and generosity will make their paths through life much easier and better.

We want to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of our hearts for your continuous efforts in aiding the flood victims. The Corning Chapter of the American National Red Cross is indeed grateful for your help.

Thanks again and God bless you for your efforts.

George E. Minno
Disaster Services Chairman
American Red Cross
286 W. Pulteney St.
Corning, N.Y. 14830

Open Letter To Fr. Baum

Editor:

Dear Father Baum:

I regret that my emotions caused me to address my

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"AND ANOTHER THING... WHATEVER BECAME OF THE LOW MASS?"

Letter Sent To Senators

Editor:

Your readers will be interested in the following letter sent to the 100 U.S. senators and 435 U.S. representatives in regard to the Human Life Amendment.

Honorable sir:

The Committee of Ten Million has in its possession more than two million signatures on a petition to the Congress for the Human Life Amendment.

These signatures have been received since Easter. They are already broken down by congressional district. A Fall program has been launched to secure eight million more signatures.

The thousands of petition gatherers are being organized by congressional district so, as to become politically effective insofar as the Human Life Amendment is concerned. The indications are that 1974 will see a "one-issue" campaign.

You will be interested in the results of our grass-roots, nationwide, preference surveys:

1. The "States Right" type of amendment (Whitehurst proposal) is totally unacceptable. It is immoral.

2. The Buckley Amendment, in spite of the public relations effort of its backers, has only 10% support in the constituencies. This is because of basic defects in the amendment wording.

3. The Hogan/Helms Amendment has the overwhelming support of the pro-life voters. The Hogan/Helms is the best proposal to date — by far.

It is imperative that we have an amendment guaranteeing to the unborn the right to life, due process and equal protection of the laws from the moment of conception. Conception occurs when the male sperm fertilizes the female ovum. There must be no pussy footing in the amendment wording. It must be so clear that even a federal judge couldn't misstate its meaning.

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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.

question to you at Mercy High School, Oct. 6, in a manner that you found particularly offensive. I was angered, first of all, by what I considered your affrontery in presuming to appear before this Catholic audience in laymen's garb. Of all the priests in the auditorium that night, you were the only one who dared to deny his priesthood, so far as external appearances went, by wearing the informal clothes of a layman. This, in spite of the fact that the Holy See has explicitly stated that priests and religious are expected to wear a religious garb when appearing in public. Please do not tell me that you wear lay garb because it makes you more approachable. I have worn the collar for over 50 years and I KNOW that many people, Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish, have approached me, because they saw in me a Catholic priest, who would never have spoken to me if I had not worn the clothes of a priest. Christ said, "He who confesses me before men, I will also confess before my Father who is in Heaven." It is through the religious garb, which is our uniform, that we show the world that we are in the service of the King of Heaven and earth.

Secondly, I resented your attitudes and mannerisms, which I considered smug, and replete with innuendos and childish humor. You spoke of the "Church absolute" of days past, exemplified by the acquiescent Catholic, "Yes, Father; Yes, Father"; and the pastors who might be opposed to "group worship," as opposed to attendance at Mass in the parish church, because parish revenues would suffer thereby.

Lastly, I saw in your lecture a certain willingness to undermine the sacramental priesthood and the divinely bestowed authority of the episcopacy; even a willingness to substitute group worship as an alternate for the Sacrifice of Calvary, the Sunday Mass. Should anyone wonder that my anger and indignation, on hearing these ideas advanced, should be betrayed in my voice during the answer period? To me, you were playing the role of the "super-man" of Nietzsche who assumes leadership by saying what others would not dare to say; who finds the joy and thrill of power in overthrowing the established order; in destroying what the rest of mankind holds sacred.

If this letter seems devoid of all charity, my dear Father Baum, it is because I have written it out of concern (love) for you, for the faith of others and for the Church of Christ.

Rev. G. Stuart Hogan
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