

# Select House Committee Urged for Abortion Study

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — A resolution that would create a select committee in the House of Representatives to study the impact and ramifications of the Supreme Court's controversial decisions on abortion last January has been introduced in the House by Rep. Harold V. Froehlich (R-Wis.).

He was submitting the measure "because I believe it is imperative for the Congress to hold hearings on the transcendent issues of public policy that flow from the Supreme Court's unprecedented decisions last January.

"There is, of course," he continued, "an appropriate standing committee of the House to review the many bills and resolutions that seek to modify the court's rulings. However, the Judiciary Committee has demonstrated an obvious disinclination to hold public hearings. In fact, the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and

Constitutional Rights (of the Judiciary Committee) formally rejected a motion to conduct hearings on abortion," the Lutheran lawmaker said.

"In addition, there are a number of major issues, including possible charges of misconduct against high government leaders, that could legitimately absorb the full attention of the Judiciary Committee in the months ahead," he said. "For these reasons, it is entirely proper to establish a select committee, so that the vital issues surrounding the court's abortion decisions may be considered."

While noting that Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.) has filed a discharge petition covering his constitutional

amendment that would protect individuals from the moment of conception, Rep. Froehlich said that petition "is still far from the required number of signatures" (or 218 members of Congress).

If the discharge petition is successful in bringing Rep. Hogan's resolution to the House floor for a vote, Rep. Froehlich said, it would "severely limit the careful consideration that may be given to an amendment by the House," because the several other abortion amendments which other members of Congress have so far introduced in the House could not be taken into consideration — only Hogan's.

Furthermore, both Houses of Congress would have to approve such a constitutional amendment

by a two-thirds majority, and then three fourths of the state legislatures would be required to adopt it before the amendment could become part of the U.S. Constitution.

## Episcopalians Turn Down Ordination Of Women

Louisville [RNS] — The Episcopal Church had decided emphatically against ordaining women to the priesthood, defeating a resolution which would have made such possible by the beginning of the new year, and then under-scoring it with another resolution that killed further study of the question.

When the issue came before the House of Deputies, it would have required the affirmative votes of 57 dioceses, with each Church order, the laity and the clergy, passing it by at least that margin.

When the roll call was ended, 50 of the clergy delegations had votes yes, 43 no and 20 were divided.

Among the lay contingent, delegations representing 49 dioceses voted for ordination, 37 against and 26 were divided.

In the final tabulation, convention procedure rendered the divided votes as essentially negative ones.

Debate on the ordination question, clearly the most significant issue before the 64th Triennial General Assembly of the 3.5 million-member denomination, proved orderly, with no demonstrations.

A minority effort to keep study of the issue alive for future votes failed.



### Stamp Honors Kolbe

A commemorative stamp has been issued by the Federal German Republic in honor of Father Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest who gave his life in the Auschwitz concentration camp to save a father of several children from execution. The 40 pfennig stamp contains a prison picture of Father Kolbe in red and the date of his cremation, Aug. 15, 1941. Father Kolbe was beatified by Pope Paul VI in October 1971. [RNS]

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