

Ohio Election... Abortion Also Big Factor

By JOHN DASH

Cincinnati, Ohio — Right-to-Lifers claim abortion got to be a hot political potato in the special election last week that saw Democrat Thomas A. Luken defeat Republican Willis D. Gradison in a bid for Ohio's First Congressional District seat.

While area Republican leaders blamed Watergate and President Nixon for the rout in the traditionally Republican district, the question of abortion was also a "clear negative" for the Republican loser told the Courier-Journal in the aftermath of last week's election.

Musing on his defeat after a vigorous anti-abortion educational campaign by Cin-

Special Report

Report on Washington hearing on abortion amendment, PAGE 10.

Cincinnati Right to Life, Gradison said the weight of abortion was "hard to sort out" for him. He said he had people coming up to him on the street saying they didn't like his opponent but the abortion matter would put their votes in Luken's pocket.

Luken, in Washington after the election, was unavailable for comment.

What happened was that Right

to Life sent both candidates a questionnaire asking: "If elected to Congress, will you vote for a Human Life Amendment of the Hogan-Buckley type?" and "If elected to Congress, will you sign the discharge petition for the Hogan Amendment?"

Luken's answers were "yes" to the first and "yes, at the appropriate time" to the second. He further commented that he would prefer to see a consensus reached on the several pro-life proposals before Congress. He also said he viewed a discharge petition as a symbolic move.

Gradison, however answered

"no" to the first question and "yes" to the second.

He qualified his no by saying that "I am personally opposed to abortion. I will not, however, support legislation which would force my views upon others."

But he didn't end the matter there, Gradison went on to tell Right to Life: "Presently the question as it is above suggests that the only answer is federal control over a highly personal matter which goes to the heart of an individual's religious and moral beliefs."

"There are other approaches such as education or state

determination which should be considered. By eliminating such alternatives you are inflaming a sensitive issue, injecting potent religious pressures into the political arena, and depriving your supporters from knowing my full views as a candidate.

"I deplore your strong-arm tactics, your obvious appeal to sectarian views, and your, perhaps unwitting, support of yet another step towards a police state in America."

On Feb. 22, nine days before the election, Right to Life mailed out 57,000 newsletters carrying Luken's and Gradison's sentiments.

Continued on Page 3

Action Aplenty!



Sharon Kowalski of Bishop Kearney leaps high to shoot over defender's hands in girls' high school basketball game against Our Lady of Mercy. Other Susan McKinney action shots of the game are on our sports page. There you also will find Rochester's premier sports writer, George Beahon, whose In This Corner column provides a fresh and honest look at the world of fun and games, and Scholastic Notebook by John Doser, which weekly takes readers behind the scenes of scholastic sports. PAGE 16.

The Priests Council met last week and among other things approved a fund-raising plan for inner city schools proposed by the Council of Inner City Parishes. Sharon Darnieder has details on PAGE 14.

Another of the major advisory boards to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan is the Sisters Council which meets monthly. A words-and-photo look at their latest meeting is in this week's centerfold.

Sister Virginia Hogan, director of the diocesan music commission, talks to Sharon Darnieder about a widespread problem — possible violations of music copyright laws by parish musicians. PAGE 6.

Last week a joint commission of United States Roman Catholic and Lutheran theologians issued a study declaring that papal primacy need no longer be a "barrier to reconciliation" of their churches. Religious News Services provides a look at the issue from the Lutheran and Catholic viewpoints. PAGE 2.



Photo by Dave Witbeck

Scout 'Signs'

Robert Fluman [r.] "signs" to his son, Robin, [l.] while Robert McClure attentively watches the explanation of what is needed for a merit badge, during a meeting of one of several unusual Scout troops that are featured on Page 9.

Mass of Chrism Scheduled April 9

For the second year in a row, the diocese will break with standard practice as it celebrates the annual Mass of Chrism and blessing of the holy oils.

Ordinarily the Holy Week rites which prepare several oils for use in various sacraments are held in the Cathedral on Holy Thursday.

This year, however, because of the diocesan push toward regionalism, they will be celebrated in St. Stephen's Church, Geneva, on Tuesday, April 9, at 8 p.m.

Sister Margaret Mary Mattie of the diocesan liturgy office said the reason for the switch was to allow greater numbers of people to attend at a more convenient time and at a more centrally located site. She said the ceremonies may be viewed as a "convening of the diocese."

The theme of the rites, which will be concelebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Father Michael Conboy, his secretary, Father Douglas Hoffman, director of pastoral ministry, and the 10 regional coordinators, is Respect

The theme is a carry-through, according to Sister Margaret Mary, from last year's Family Life and Human Development Campaigns.

Also present at the Mass and blessing will be lay representatives from each of the regions who will serve as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. The representatives will be present as a sign of the role of the laity in the sharing of the priesthood, Sister said.

She also noted that each region will decorate the church with a banner proclaiming subordinate themes of the rituals, such as Healing, Love and Confirmation.

As happened last year, the Mass and blessing will include a ceremony of renewing priestly commitment, which will include the entire assembly.

The Concert Chorale of the Sisters of St. Joseph, under the direction of Sister Virginia Hogan will provide the music for the ceremonies, and a dancer will

Continued on Page 3



FATHER MOYNIHAN

Fr. Moynihan To Be Ordained

"May the Lord hold you in the palm of his hand" will be the theme for the evening ordination of Father Jeremiah Patrick Moynihan in Geneva's St. Stephen Church, Friday, March 15 at 7:30.

Bishop John E. McCafferty will ordain the son of Mrs. Harriett

Continued on Page 3