

# Cardinals Urge Change in Abortion Law

From Courier-Journal Services

Washington — On the second day of a two-day hearing last

week by a Senate subcommittee on amendments to the controversial Supreme Court decision on abortion, four cardinals urged

changes in the law.

They said they had concluded after much consideration and study that amending the Constitution is "the only feasible way" to reverse the 1973 abortion decisions of the Supreme Court which "deny the basic principles of the Constitution, and refuse appropriate legal protection to the unborn child."

"Moreover, this is a legal option consistent with the democratic process," they stated. "It reflects the commitment to human rights that must be at the heart of all human law, international as well as national, and because human life is such an eminent value, the effort to pass an amendment is a moral imperative of the highest order."

Under questioning, however, they fell short of endorsing the amendment proposed by Sen. James Buckley of New York because it would permit abortion in a medical emergency when the life of the mother is threatened.

The New York Times reported that Cardinal John Cody of Chicago, in answer to question from Sen. Marlow W. Cook of Kentucky, said that as the Buckley bill "stands now I don't think it could be justified on moral grounds."

Cardinal Humberto Medeiros of Boston explained that the "prohibition against the direct and intentional taking of innocent human life should be universal and without exception."

The section of the Buckley bill in dispute reads: "This article shall not apply in an emergency when a reasonable medical certainty exists that the continuation of the pregnancy will cause the death of the mother."

The cardinals also asserted that a constitutional amendment should not be viewed as the "final product" of legislative activity but as the "constitutional base" on which to provide support and assistance to pregnant women and their unborn children — including nutritional, prenatal, childbirth and post-natal care for the mother, as well as nutritional and pediatric care for the child through the first year of life.

They said counseling services, adoption and financial assistance

## Father Hoffman Schedules March Parish Visits

Father Douglas C. Hoffman, director of the diocesan Pastoral Ministry, will visit the following parishes during March:

St. Pius the Tenth (Rochester); St. James the Apostle (Trumansburg); Pastoral Council Formation Committee (Geneva); St. Stephen's (Liberty); St. Michael's (Rochester); Blessed Sacrament (Rochester); Holy Family (Rochester); St. Mary of the Lake (Watkins Glen).

### CONFIRMATION

Wayland — The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered to 7th and 8th grade students on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:45 p.m. at St. Joseph's. Those that have not registered or attended the March 10 meeting should contact Father Baker at the rectory.

## Life, Liberty and Law

The company feels that its investment in the prostaglandins — which may well exceed \$30 million — has been well spent. Upjohn is now recognized as a world leader in prostaglandin research. (page 7 of the Upjohn Annual Report)

Though not all prostaglandins are used as abortifacients, Upjohn's F2 alpha is now in limited distribution in the United States approved by the HEW/FDA Nov. 27, 1973 as an abortifacient "sufficient to produce evacuation of the products of conception from the uterus in the majority of cases." (Emphasis added)

In a test group of 229 patients where 12.2% aborted in completely and 1.8% failed to abort at all, Upjohn advises in the package insert that Prostin F2 alpha "should be used ONLY with

strict adherence to recommended dosages, by medically trained personnel in hospital surroundings which provide immediately available intensive care and acute surgical facilities." [Emphasis by the Upjohn Company] I wonder why the language avoids use of the term "licensed physician." And why "hospital surroundings" instead of "hospitals?"

Included also in the package insert is a formidable list of three dozen adverse reactions reported in the entire group of patients studied, reactions ranging from pain (other than uterine) at 2.7% through grand mal and possible mepileptiform convulsions to uterine puncture, and 2nd degree heart block in 0.1%.

Upjohn's persistent faith, research and investment in the prostaglandins have begun to pay off. For Upjohn, Prostin F2 alpha and Prostin E2 were cleared for marketing in the United Kingdom in 1972 in specified hospitals and clinics. The admitted purpose is "termination of pregnancy." Now with the approval of the HEW and FDA who do not test new drugs as far as safety and efficacy are involved (they "check analytical methods presented in applications") the Golden Age of Non-Surgical Abortions has arrived on the American side of the Atlantic as well as the British side.

The distribution in America, according to the Ob/Gyn News, will be limited initially to those university medical centers where investigators are familiar with the deadly new drugs, and it will be available only through the Medical Affairs Department of the Upjohn Company. Although this appears to parallel the British schedule, the Ob/Gyn News refers to the limited distribution as a "unique procedure."

An "excess of \$30 million" won't return a single aborted baby to our aging world, abortion is so final for the wee patient. So if you feel that our nation should protect all human life at every stage of biological development, if you wish to help restore his constitutional rights to the unborn baby, please contact your federal legislators now. Express your support of the following Human Life Amendments now in Congress: the Buckley Amendment (S.J. Res. 119) and the Helms Amendment (S.J. Res. 130) in the Senate, and the Hogan Amendment in the House (H.J. Res. 261).

Write again and again, until you get an affirmative answer. Please let YOUR voice become the voice of the unborn.

Any federal representative can be reached with one of these addresses:

Hon. U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510



Tom Decker

## Decker to Be Emcee for 'Life' Dinner

Tom Decker, director of news and public affairs for WROC-TV, will be the master of ceremonies for the Rochester Right-to-Life annual dinner on March 23.

For almost 30 years, Decker has been involved in radio and television broadcasting in Syracuse, Worcester, Mass. In the Armed Forces Network in Germany, and since 1952, with WROC and WROC-TV in Rochester.

Decker is a director of the Rochester Day Care Center for Handicapped Children, and is trustee or member of more than a dozen local civic and social organizations. These include the Rochester Rotary Club, the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Sigma Delta Chi (the professional journalism society), and the Monroe County Human Relations Committee. He is also a director and past president of the Rochester Press-Radio Club.

The keynote speaker at the dinner will be the noted Dr. Mildred Jefferson. Folk singer Barbara Breuer-Sipple will also be featured. The event will be at the Mapledale Party House, 1020 Maple Street, on Saturday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person, and are available from:

Carol Reichert, 192 Rogers Parkway, 342-8849; Constance Salamida, 159 Burkdale Circle, 381-0595; Marie Polito, 1124 Brooktree Lane, Webster, 872-5337.

It rejected the argument that opposition to abortion is simply a Catholic concern and emphasized there is no intention to impose Catholic moral teaching regarding abortion on the country.

"We do not ask the civil law to take up our responsibility of teaching morality... we do ask the government and the law to be faithful to its own principle — that the right to life is an inalienable right given to everyone by the Creator."

The USCC testimony drew heavily on modern advances in the sciences of embryology, fetology and genetics which have dispelled "many ancient falsehoods" about the nature of life in the womb, and have confirmed that a new human individual begins at fertilization.

"The scientific evidence should form an integral part of the human assessments that any man or any government makes regarding the reality and worth of the unborn child," the testimony said.

Stating that the Supreme Court abortion decisions ignored "impressive and unchallenged scientific evidence" on the existence of human life from conception, the USCC testimony declared:

"It is difficult to pay credence to such fallacious reasoning, but it is tragically unjust to deny the most fundamental human right to all unborn children forever on such ambiguous and spurious grounds."

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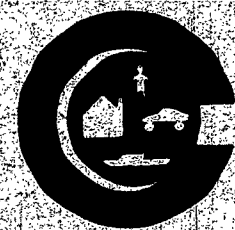
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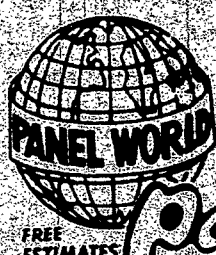
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