

Pro-Life Group Sees Lawsuit As a "Challenge"

Calling the lawsuit brought against Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) and three of its officers a "challenge for the pro-life movement," MCCL president Marjory Mecklenburg, and co-defendants Rosemarie Johnson and Darla St. Martin have asserted the validity of Minnesota's new abortion regulatory statute.

Five physicians and an unnamed pregnant woman are seeking to strike down portions of the law signed by Gov. Wendell Anderson Thursday. The governor and several other persons also

were named as defendants in the suit.

MCCL says it can see no reason to delay this important test except, possibly, that the Legislature is still in session. Two of the defendants are the law's chief sponsors, Senator Stan Thorup, and Representative Bill Quirin.

The Minnesota State Legislature recognized its obligation to protect unborn life as best it could under the guidelines of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 abortion decision," Mrs. Mecklenburg said. "The

authors of Senate File 498 studied long and hard before they wrote the law, and they are proud of it. MCCL will do all we can to assist the authors, the Governor and other defendants in proving that Minnesota has a good and constitutional law."

An MCCL statement claimed, "It seems only right that the test of a strong abortion regulatory law should come here in Minnesota, where the right to life movement started many years ago. Although MCCL has no way of knowing how many lives have been saved in the intervening years, we do know that the protection of each human life is worth any and all effort, and we are ready to continue speaking out as the voice of the unborn child."

certain that all MCCL members and all other citizens of the State will continue to exercise their constitutional right of encouraging their elected officials to enact pro-life legislation."

Plaintiffs' suit is also seen by MCCL as an attempt to prevent lawmakers from authoring controversial bills and citizens from freely supporting such bills.

"Although we accept the challenge of proving the constitutionality of the new law, we

strenuously object to plaintiffs' efforts to subvert the democratic processes by which the Legislature enacted the statute," Mrs. Mecklenburg said.

"MCCL has always accepted the challenge of protecting all human life in the past," said Mrs. Mecklenburg, "and we will continue doing so in the future, with the donation of time, talent, energy and financial support of all Minnesota citizens who share our respect and concern for human life."

Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

Antiquity is nothing new. The sequence of human embryonic development, at once old and fresh, ordered and astonishing, remains this afternoon as it has been since the dawn of humanity, unchanged by man's contemporary ignorance, or by his discoveries.

The energetic young senator from Indiana, Birch Bayh, is chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments. He is now conducting a series of hearings examining the Human Life Amendments. And he needs Pro-Life encouragement immediately.

1) Senator Bayh sees the human baby as a part of the mother. 2) He has said that the Supreme Court decision deals only with the first three months of a pregnancy. 3) He believes that the Pro-Life position is strictly a matter of personal religious conviction.

1) Leading geneticists in previous testimony before the Court have sworn that human life begins at conception. Fertilization instantly creates a new individual. Genetic charts will show that by the middle of the 13th week the unborn human being weighs the same as a first class letter. One ounce. Six weeks later he will weigh one pound. He has had life and the right to that life since the moment the living sperm united with the living ovum; he had been dependent upon his mother for protection and nourishment since the ninth day when his umbilical cord, acting as an interface, attached to her uterine wall. She nourishes him before birth as well as afterward. But he is never a part of the surface of her body.

2) The majority opinion of the Supreme Court decree was written by Mr. Justice Blackmun. During the first three months the abortion decision is the physician's; during the second three months the imperative is the mother's physical, psychological, emotional health, her age, and her familia/economic situation. And the final three months (until the very moment of birth) ditto.

All factors ignore the existence of the baby; all factors operate for the sole convenience of the mother. The state is specifically forbidden to interfere on behalf

of the new generation, if medically it can be said that continuation of the pregnancy might cause a distressful future for the mother.

3) David L. McKay, Mormon leader, noted that his own appearance in support of the Human Life Amendments was highly significant because of the Mormon policy not to bring the Church into political activities. "This is a fundamental moral issue," he said, "and that's why I was asked to come here today," the first high Mormon official to testify as such before a Congressional committee in 40 years. Rev. Robert Holbrook, coordinator for the Baptists for Life, commented to the Senators that they should "grant to the American people their right to a full and complete hearing." He urged the Subcommittee to give special credence to the testimonies of the Pro-Life spokesmen from the United Presbyterian, Methodist, Orthodox Presbyterian, Greek Orthodox, United Church of Christ, American Association of Evangelicals, Lutheran Missouri Synod Churches, and the Rabbinical Council of America. The March hearings were confined by Senator Bayh to religious testimonies.

I do not believe Senator Bayh to be an unreasonable man. But he is a politician. And he is up for reelection this year. Rev. Holbrook reminded the Senator that the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights is seeking to support Bayh, and their avowed position is to defeat the Human Life Amendments. As chairman of the powerful subcommittee, Birch Bayh speaks for more than his Indiana constituency. His decisions will directly affect each of the millions of human beings alive today who may never be born, as well as succeeding generations. If he makes misinformed judgements now, based on 18th century thought [the true nature of the ovum was not understood by man until 1827] this nation, indeed this civilization will fall prey to the anti-life mentality so loudly evident in our curdled headlines the country over.

The hearings, whether by design or by fate, have been strung out like laundry on a sagging line. March, April, May. Time is running out. 2,200 babies are aborted each day.

Please contact Senator Birch Bayh. Death was not meant to come before birth.

Senator Birch Bayh, U.S. Senate Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510.

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Mrs. Mecklenburg called the suit "a blatant attempt to silence through intimidation, the thousands of Minnesotans who wrote to their elected representatives and requested passage of a strong regulatory statute." Mrs. Mecklenburg declared "MCCL will not be intimidated. Moreover, we are

Youth Cares Vote Ends April 19

Teenagers who help others without any thought of reward will be rewarded anyway in the Gannett Rochester Newspapers Youth Cares program.

Anyone who would like to nominate high school juniors and seniors has until April 19 to do so. Forms are printed in the Democrat and Chronicle and the Times-Union, and are available also at participating high schools. A committee at each school will elect a number of winners proportionate to the school's enrollment. Each winner will receive a plaque and a savings bond and will be invited to a day of activities and entertainment.

In the past two years, more than 300 students have been recognized through this program, which includes a Gannett gift to charities selected by the young people.

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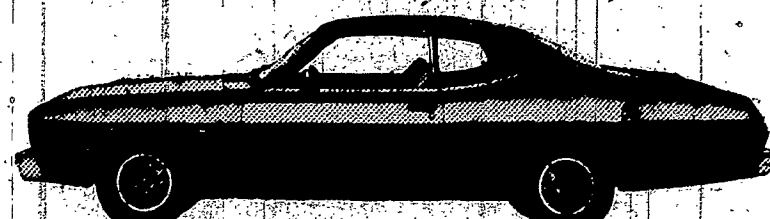
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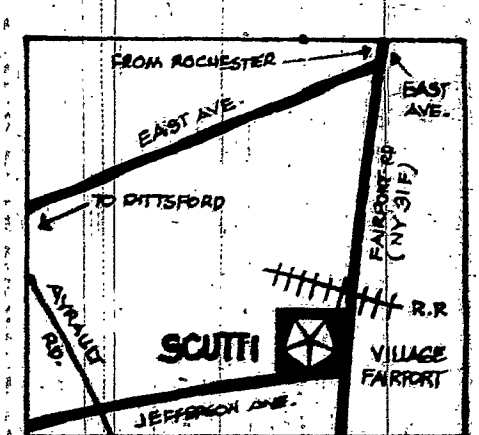


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Hillside Center Names Aide

Mrs. Jacqueline Deck of 37 Andony Lane in Chili was recently named to be director of education at Hillside Children's Center on Monroe Avenue.

In her new position, Mrs. Deck will be responsible for a six classroom school with an enrollment of some 65 children, and will supervise the teachers in Hillside's Resource Rooms at School #35 and at Monroe High School. In addition, she will plan an education program for the 100 children who are residents of Hillside Children Center.