

More Opinions

Bill's Critics Questioned

Editor:

Recently the pro-abortion Women's Political Caucus published a strongly emotional letter criticizing Assembly Bill 17043 providing aid to a live aborted child on the basis that the bill had been quietly prepared and submitted to violate women's constitutional right to abort.

The strong emotional response couched in terms of women's rights is striking when one notes that this bill does not prevent or prohibit safe and effective abortions. The bill merely prohibits the experimentation upon, and destruction of, a child who is alive outside the womb. (Fetus is not a proper medical term after the baby leaves the womb.) The bill not only allows the mother to complete her abortion safely, but relieves her of an apparent unwanted responsibility. The duty of the protection and care of the thus abandoned child would devolve upon society just as it does in a "battered or abused child" case to insure its health and safety. The bill provides the child with the same "immediate legal protection under the laws of New York" afforded to other persons in the state.

The history of this bill discloses that there was nothing surreptitious about its preparation or submission. On Feb. 28, 1974, the bill entitled "Rights of a Live Aborted Child" was reported to the full New York Assembly. It was then referred to the Health Committee which has such pro-abortion legislators as Constance Cook and William Steinfeldt, who must have known of these bills in their own committee. The Health Committee then fully considered the bill and even amended it. On April 9, the amended bill went to the Rules Committee where it likely received the critical eye of such pro-abortion committee members as Assemblymen Blumenthal, Levy, and Donald Cook. After full consideration there and another amendment by the Rules Committee, it was reported out on April 30, 1974, for action.

The New York State Right to Life Committee, Inc., printed a full page ad in the largest Albany newspaper on April 30, 1974, asking for support of this humane bill along with five other bills such as Prohibition of Live Fetal Experimentation, Aid to Adoptive Parents for Handicapped Children, and Assistance to Unwed Mothers, the latter being co-sponsored by Constance Cook.

The strident opposition of the Women's Political Caucus to a bill which would prevent experimentation on an aborted child or its destruction when it is capable of life after the abortion is completed compels the conclusion that they seek population control rather than women's rights.

Steve Wiktorski
122 Rocmar St.
Rochester, N.Y.

On Socialism And Justice

Editor:

The letter by Mr. Carl Burrows in the Courier-Journal's May 1 issue displays a lack of appreciation (to say the least) of what Christian socialism is all about. Quite obviously, it has nothing to do with Marxist socialism, or communism. Essentially, Christian socialism refers to what Pope John XXIII called socialization, and what all recent Popes have either advocated or sanctioned. A reading of *Mater et Magistra* by John XXIII

or *Populorum Progressio* by Paul VI, for example, should make it clear that the papacy in its concern for social justice, is just as much opposed to oppression from the right as from the left — just as much opposed to capitalistic exploitation as to communism.

The historic point to keep in mind about Latin America is that it has always, since the European conquest, been a land of conquerors and conquered, of masters and slaves, of immensely rich plantation and industry owners and the huge masses of poor people, and it has been characterized by terrible internal oppression and injustice between classes.

In a country that started out basically egalitarian, at least in theory, such as the United States, industrial capitalism could work by having its excesses restrained by the power of the citizenry. (Even so, as astute an observer as G.K. Chesterton, who was no socialist, remarked about the United States that "The ideal (of equality) is besieged by inequalities of the most towering and insane description in the industrial and economic field. It may be devoured by modern capitalism, perhaps the worst inequality that ever existed among men.")

But in Latin America, capitalistic structures can easily exacerbate the enormous class divisions, creating a few millionaires and a populace ready for revolt. Socialization of some kind is apparently the only viable policy. Most Latin American bishops realize this situation. In a letter to me, Thomas Quigley, Assistant Director of the USCC Latin American Bureau, stated that "To most Latin American thinkers, and this clearly includes the more serious churchmen, the only options are between one or another form of socialism."

Mr. Burrows advocates reading Solzhenitsyn, which is about the only point on which I agree with him. Solzhenitsyn cannot be praised too highly; he is opposed to social injustice and oppression in any form. I'd also like to recommend a book, *Why Is the Third World Poor?* by Piero Gheddo.

This prize-winning analysis by a brilliant priest is the best explanation of the entire area that I have come across.

Robert Knille
102 Lynnwood Dr.
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Rites Series Appreciated

Editor:

Thank you for the three-part series by Father Albert Shamon on the revised rites for the Sacrament of the Sick. It was very informative. (Courier-Journal April 10, 17, 24, 1974.)

I depend on the Courier for keeping me up to date on religious news. Keep up the good work!

Mary Ann Palermo
741 Mt. Vista Lane
Webster, N.Y. 14580

M. L. ALLEN & SON
Corning, N.Y.
Quality Furniture
62 Bridge St.
Phone 936-8431

OUR PARISH COUNCIL

Board Opinions

[C] 1974, Voice Publications. Bernard Lyons is editor of COUNCIL Newsletter. For a free copy of COUNCIL, write: P.O. Box 3455, Chicago, Ill. 60654.

Do you remember seeing "The Hucksters" with Clark Gable and Sydney Greenstreet? Some of the most vivid scenes from that movie were the audio-visual tricks that Greenstreet pulled, such as sailing his hat in the air and dumping a pitcher of water onto the conference table.

It's not necessary to spit on the table (as Greenstreet did in one scene) to get attention of your council members, but most meetings could use a bit of audio-visual showmanship to bring them to life and to make the points of the meeting stick in the minds of the members past the adjournment.

Here are some ideas that I have used over the years to get people's attention and to make a point at meetings. You may be able to adapt some of them to your own uses.

Ask the group to do something together. I've asked them to do everything from screaming to taking off their coats ("Let's make this a real shirt-sleeve session.")

Use role-playing. If your council is talking about fundraising, a census or some other large project, invite some of the council members to role-play relevant situations, whether asking for volunteers, calling on a parishioner for the census or funds, etc.

Get committee members who are going to give reports to bring in a prop that helps to visualize their report.

If the social committee is having a bake sale, ask the reporter to bring in a cake that he or she holds while making the report, and then use the cake for the social or refreshment period.

If the nominating committee is having problems recruiting candidates, ask a member to bring in a fish pole and tell how he persuaded someone to stand

for office — or even, how someone got away!

* Dramatize issues in your community. If you are going to talk about poverty in your community, have a supper meeting, in which the menu consists of a plain soup and bread. If you are going to talk about drugs, invite a drug-user to the meeting, along with a policeman and a display of drugs.

* Handcuff a council member and place a sign around his neck, calling him "Apathetic Parishioner" or whatever problem you wish to discuss. Pass the key around. Each person gives at least one idea on what he would do to "free" the parishioner. Record the ideas on a black board. Vote for the best idea by applause, and let the winner free the handcuffed parishioner.

You will get many more ideas like this if you will become more aware at your meetings, study your meetings' minutes, and visit trick shops, other meetings, and organizations.

FESTIVAL PLANNED

Ithaca — Plans are being made by St. Catherine of Siena for its annual parish festival. The date this year is September 7.

Family Services To Relocate

Elmira — Family Services of Chemung County, Inc., will be moving to new quarters on May 16. The new address will be 709 John St., corner of Sullivan.

The move is primarily dictated by a tripling of the caseload since September. In the new facility, parking will be free, and bus service will be available to within one block of the agency.

The agency hopes that combined staffs from the two previous agencies, Catholic Family Service and Elmira Child and Family Service, will be able to function more adequately.

The agency will continue to provide individual casework, joint counseling, group therapy and family therapy. Several new programs are being implemented in the areas of financial counseling, the aging and alcoholism.

"One of the Great Resort Motels"
★★★★★
Castaways
On the Ocean at 163rd St.
MIAMI BEACH
Chairs & Mass Information
DIAL DIRECT FREE
1-800-327-5272

NEUTROX®

HIGH CAPACITY ANTACID

This is a special offer. Now, for a limited time only you can get an 8 fl. oz. bottle of NEUTROX High Capacity Antacid for only 50¢. This 50¢ value is substantially lower than the suggested retail price for this product. For the present time, this product may be purchased only through the mail.

Send your 50¢ now.

Please send package of NEUTROX High Capacity Antacid to:

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Send coupon and 50¢ in coin to:
Vick Manufacturing Div.,
P.O. Box H Hatboro, Pa. 19040

*** Financial Worries?**
*** Not Eating?**
*** Lonely & Afraid?**

S.S.I. will enable you to live in a MODERN "CONGREGATE CARE" HOME like the Mariner House

where services include:

- Three Meals Each Day
- Supervision of Medications
- Planned Activity Program
- Modern Furnished Rooms
- 24 Hr. Supervision & Security
- Housekeeping & Laundry Services
- Recreational Trips in Private Bus

Here's Your Answer to a Happy Voyage thru your retirement years!

It's called S.S.I. Seniors eligible for S.S.I. will receive up to **\$375** each month while living at the Mariner House.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS, CALL 546-6000 OR FILL OUT COUPON

COUPON
Please send me information about S.S.I. & Mariner House.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____
MAIL TO: MARINER HOUSE, 95 W. Main St., Roch. 14614