

Life, Liberty and Law

Individual human life begins with a single cell at fertilization. Every pertinent medical text or medical-legal brief I've read supports and confirms that. It is the instant when a new generation begins and a tiny unique person is at his most vulnerable. But in January 1974, on the anniversary of the Supreme Court abortion-on-demand decision, Planned Parenthood announced that this just isn't so. The beginning or conception, they announced, takes place at implantation some eight or nine days after fertilization, and the pregnancy cannot be determined for some weeks after that. Birch Bayh repeated the Planned Parenthood theme during the first days of the Senate Human Life hearings, which Bayh has strung out like city laundry on a sagging line.

Where did Planned Parenthood get this genetic scoop? They claim their source was the prestigious American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, an organization which filed support for abortion-on-demand in an amicus curiae brief to the Supreme Court in 1971, without sanction of their membership.

On page 8 of the November 1973 Family Planning Digest (HEW) there is a new Glossary of Family Planning Terminology, apparently intended to supersede the then existing HEW Glossary of 1963. In the 1963 version, pregnancy is referred to as "the time between the instant of fertilization and the completion of labor." But in the new Glossary, we find that conception, or beginning, has been redefined as implantation, not synonymous with fertilization; therefore in 1973 pregnancy has been redefined as the state of the female after implantation until "termination of gestation." It was also in November 1973 that the HEW/FDA granted approval to the Upjohn Company allowing them to distribute their abortifacient prostaglandins to university medical centers familiar with their use.

It was almost enough to startle even the most dedicated Pro-Life worker, and it sat like a dormant wasp in my mind . . . until

On page 8 of the 1973 Digest I noted the names of those who had created this convenient glossary, and the editing organization. Dr. Louise Tyrer, ACOG, had chaired the Committee on Terminology. Her very able assistant was Dr. Frederick S. Jaffee. Dr. Tyrer was a main speaker at the recent Planned

DOM HELDER HONORED

Cambridge, Mass. [RNS] — Archbishop Helder Pessoa-Camara of the Brazilian Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Olinda-Recife, received an honorary doctorate of laws degree from Harvard University at the school's 323d commencement.

The Catholic prelate, often nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize and known throughout the world as a spokesman for peaceful social reform, was characterized in the degree citation as:

"a tireless opponent of poverty and injustice, a stalwart Christian leader offering life and hope to the downtrodden and defeated.

Parenthood Physicians Assembly in Memphis, Tenn. where she urged the members to write to Senator Bayh for the expressed purpose of prolonging the Human Life hearings until after the Senator's re-election campaign this November . . . which everyone feels is politically necessary for him to do because if it comes out of committee and has to be voted on . . . it would hurt his re-election campaign." Dr. Frederick S. Jaffee, actively involved with preparations for the United Nations World Population Year Conference in Bucharest this August, is a prominent member of Planned Parenthood-World Population. The editing organization? Planned Parenthood.

If Planned Parenthood were to succeed with their clever piece of philological wizardry, new abortifacient techniques such as "menstrual extraction," hormonal interception, the DES (morning after pill), the IUD and the newer "non-invasive" microwave radiation could be redefined as fertility control measures; and congressional restraints could be redefined and bypassed, and American abortifacient research, fed with tax monies, could flourish.

Cornell Medical Center has announced a one hour radioreceptor assay pregnancy test which "permits the precise dating of the beginning of pregnancy . . . reliable even on the sixth day after ovulation . . . and therefore immediately before implantation." The Medical Tribune pointed out in its April 24 issue that this new biomedical test "calls into question the definition of the ACOG which holds that conception is the implantation . . . Human life does begin with a single cell before uterine implantation.

Jerome Lejeune M.D. works with disabled children at the Hospital des Enfants Malades in Paris. A professor of Fundamental Genetics, he testified before the Bayh subcommittee May 7, describing the single fertilized cell as containing all the genetic characteristics of the individual. "All these instructions giving a full description of a man (are) written in a thread one yard long . . . but the thread is so thin and so carefully packed inside the nucleus of the cell that it will stay at ease on the point of a needle."

Human life does begin with a single cell at fertilization with 46 chromosomes containing every facet and segment of the individual's unique personality and physical makeup. "When the male and the female pronucleus meet . . . life begins" (Maloy's Legal Anatomy and Surgery, page 738).

I suggest that there is no scientific criteria for the Planned Parenthood redefinitions that they have enunciated these definitions specifically to fit their theories, and that they wish to encourage and promote abortion as a family planning/population control scheme. I further suggest that many people, congressmen included, are unaware of the extent to which the abortion monster has penetrated. And I respectfully suggest that we do something about it while we still can.

regional news reports

Auburn

CEDAR CURTAILED

Auburn — The Christian Education Department, Auburn Region (CEDAR) will lose its professional staff and become an audiovisual center employing a part time secretary starting July 1.

The CEDAR board announced the decision made at its May board meeting that CEDAR would not employ a full time director/coordinator for the coming year as necessary funds were not forthcoming.

CEDAR's proposal submitted to the diocese requesting that the Pastoral Office fund the coordinator's position and the parishes fund the library resources was reviewed, but the Pastoral Office offered only partial funding.

Two committees comprised of representatives from the parishes will report at the June CEDAR board meeting. One committee is re-adjusting parish assessments and will suggest a new budget for the coming year based on the curtailed program. The second committee will establish procedures for continuing updating of the library resources and evaluating new materials.

Sister Ellen Ward, CEDAR coordinator, has served since the inception of the program in July, 1971.

PILGRIMAGE

Clyde — An annual pilgrimage to the shrines of Canada will leave Clyde by bus August 11 and return August 16. Tour includes St. Anne de Beaupre, St. Joseph's, and Our Lady of the Cape on the Feast day August 15. Interested persons may contact Mrs. Margaret Colasurdo, 172 Lock Street, Clyde. (923-3261).

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Hornell

DA AWARDS

Hornell — On Monday, June 24, Court St. Ann, Catholic Daughters of America will present awards to winners in Essay and Poetry contests which are being sponsored by Court St. Ann for students of St. Ann's School. The winners and their mothers will be guests of the Court at dinner to be held at the Sons of Italy Hall. Mrs. Pauline Holbrook and Miss Louise Janello, education co-chairmen for the Court, are directors of the contests.

PILGRIMAGE

Hornell — St. Ann's Parish Council will make a pilgrimage to

the Carmelite Monastery in Waverly, June 23, in connection with the Holy Year. Jim Donavon is in charge of arrangements. Council members should contact him at 324-6346.

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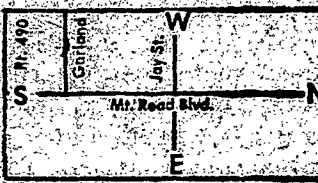
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