

Life, Liberty and Law

Rosey Murphy

Eugenic of or pertaining to improvement in the type of offspring produced.

In America, life and liberty are based upon law. Consequently if genetic manipulation were to experience a rebirth in our time, it would have to begin in law. In the courts.

Unnecessary exaggeration?

In Boulder, Montana, 110 mental patients scheduled for release from the Boulder River Hospital and School between 1969 and 1972 were enrolled in the Family Living courses offered by the institution. Sterilization was discussed. For those whose ability to give consent was in doubt, the State Eugenics Board made the decision. Sixty four of the patients, not severely retarded, were sterilized for eugenic reasons before being given their freedom to lead independent lives in the community.

The Ob. Gyn. News (May 15, 1974) reporting the story, describes the Montana practice as contrary to the national trend concerning eugenic sterilization. I do not entirely agree. During the past two sessions, 30 bills have been introduced in 18 states across the nation, dealing with sterilization. In Georgia for instance, a proposed bill requires sterilization for the mentally retarded and/or the incompetent prior to marriage.

In an Ohio bill sterilization is required of any unmarried female receiving state aid, who has three or more children. Also in the Buckeye State, one bill has been

Aid Poor, Pope Asks

Quito, Ecuador [RNS] — Pope Paul, in a radio message transmitted here from Rome via satellite, urged participants of the third Bolivarian Eucharistic Congress to be especially concerned with "the poor, the sick, and those who are suffering from injustice."

The week-long congress, called Bolivarian after Simon Bolivar (1793-1830), revered leader of revolt of South American colonies from Spanish rule, ended here June 16. It was attended by delegates and faithful from Bolivia, Colombia, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela, as well as from Ecuador.

The papal message broadcast on the closing day expressed the hope that the Congress, which was a public demonstration of faith in the Holy Eucharist, would produce in the lives of the participants a viable bond of community and fraternity as signified by the Eucharist.

Recalling the double goal of the 1975 Holy Year, "renewal and reconciliation," the pontiff said that pursuit of these goals should "bring us to God and to our brothers, especially to those who are in need: the poor, the sick, those who are suffering from injustice, those on the margins of society, and those who do not have the consolation of friendship and understanding."

introduced which required sterilization of fathers who do not support minor children, and another proposes to increase state aid to dependent children if the mother consents to temporary sterilization.

In Tennessee a proposed bill would stop welfare payments to any mother with two illegitimate youngsters unless she submits to sterilization.

We have allowed the Supreme Court to interpret our Constitution in such a manner as to define one class of Americans out of legal existence. As less than whole persons. The unborn are expendable merchandise. Now the opportunities are limitless. The welfare recipients are next. They may be classed as less than desirable persons who must be coerced into limiting the size of their families as dictated by state budgets. Then the mentally retarded as degrading to the quality of the new American breed. The beginnings of genetic manipulation.

Exaggerated?

In Florida, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia new bills would provide eugenic sterilization for the mentally retarded. The bills in these states make no distinction as to the degrees of retardation. In fact many use the term "mental deficient" which has a wider meaning than retarded.

In New York as well as Michigan, South Carolina, and Washington, proposed laws would provide state funds for sterilization, especially for welfare recipients. New York, California, Montana and Virginia have seen bills making sterilization available to minors without parental consent.

Granted, these bills have not passed. Yet there is a trend. Many of them have been proposed for the second time. August 1974 will bring the United Nations World Population Year Conference to Bucharest. And next year sterilization bills will be resurrected. Euthanasia will come on strong.

With professionally prepared educational messages already appearing in our local media, I suggest the American people will become the targets of a massive propaganda campaign, designed to sell, although never mentioning, the economics of abortion, the marvels of family planning, the necessity of population control and the expediency of sterilization. All of course for the benefit of mankind in general and the underdeveloped nations or welfare recipients in particular. We will see films of famine and starvation; we will hear jingles and in depth reports; shortages will become apparent and charts will flourish. We will be taught family planning by bankers.

The anti-life exponents sold abortion on the wings of rape and incest; they are selling euthanasia as the answer to cancer; they will package eugenic sterilization as the final solution to welfare costs and human starvation.

I believe that indifference is akin to moral deafness. And moral deafness is terminal.

Lutheran Urges New Look At Abortion

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — A Lutheran clergyman has called for a re-examination of the morality of abortion, saying that Americans have a right to a "fuller weighing" of the intricate issue than that given by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"At this point in time, the most obvious stimulus to a more profound weighing of all the involved issues seems to be a constitutional amendment protecting unborn humans," Dr. Harry E. Yeide Jr., professor of

Bank Announces New Program

Community Savings Bank recently announced its participation in a new program designed to help retired persons reduce problems with their Social Security checks.

Under the Treasury Department's new direct deposit system, a retiree can authorize a savings bank to be the recipient of his or her check, which is immediately credited to the individual's savings account.

The system is expected to help eliminate lost checks, forgeries and frauds.

Community noted that the direct deposit system is free of charge to the retiree and provides for interest to be earned on Social Security money for any period in which it is on deposit at the bank.

FIRE FUND

Naples — \$266 was collected at St. Januarius Church for the benefit of St. Mary's, Canandaigua.

religion at George Washington University and a Lutheran Church in America clergyman.

Dr. Yeide's testimony was published in the Capital Baptist, publication of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. It was originally prepared to support the U.S. House and Senate resolutions on a constitutional amendment to protect the unborn.

Dr. Yeide said that "in the process of seeking such an amendment, we can anticipate additional contributions and insights from the medical and legal professions."

"But just as significantly, the door will be opened to other groups who should be heard before trying to resolve this vital social and personal issue," he said.

The Lutheran minister held that

the U.S. Supreme Court decision "side-steps" such vital issues as the nature of life and the care that society owes to helpless forms of life. He asserted that because there is historically no consensus on controversial questions such as "when life begins," the court is not justified in refusing to try some consensus now.

Its refusal to confront the basic issues "ignores the responsibility to work through the data that is available" and to discover where, if anywhere, there are areas of significant agreement," Dr. Yeide testified.

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