

Capitol Letters

Sen. Dewey F. Bartlett (R-Okla.) sponsored an amendment to the H.E.W. Appropriations Bill passed by the Senate last month which forbids the use of H.E.B. funds for abortions. The bill is still before the Joint Conference Committee which will iron out the differences between the Senate and House versions. H.E.W. has protested the Bartlett Amendment on the grounds that live births are more costly than human abortions.

It is vitally important that the Bartlett Amendment which does not interfere with existing family planning programs, be passed by the Joint Committee. H.E.W. has estimated that it financed as many as 278,000 abortions in 1973 through Medicaid funds. The 28 members of the Joint Conference Committee are (HOUSE MEMBERS) Daniel Flood, William Natcher, Neal Smith, Robert Casey, Edward Patten, David Obey, Edith Green, George Mahon, Robert Michel, Garner Shriver, Silvio Conte, J. Kenneth Robinson, Elford Cederberg. Any House member may be reached: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

(SENATE MEMBERS) Warren Magnuson, Ted Stevens, Alan Bible, Harry Byrd, William Proxmire, Joseph Montoya, Ernest Hollings, Thomas Eagleton, Norris Cotton, Clifford Case, Hiram Fong, Edward Brooke, Richard Schweiker, John McClellan, Milton Young. Any Senate member may be reached: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

(Compiled by Jeanne D. Sweeney, American Citizens Concerned for Life)

Life, Liberty and Law

Kenny Murphy

A what?

Scientific American, August 1971: "About 50% of the protein in corn is zein, which cannot be digested by a nonruminant animal. Corns most serious deficiency in terms of nutritional value is its low content of lysine, an essential amino acid that a nonruminant animal does not synthesize and (therefore) must obtain from its food."

Man is a nonruminant animal. The word simply means a single stomach.

For decades, plant nutritionists and agricultural geneticists of the world have struggled to produce a new breed of high lysine corn, rich in usable protein. For corn is one of the dietary mainstays in man's life, outranked only by wheat and rice. In the tropics and subtropics, it is the principle staple. Too, corn is essential to pork and poultry producers as it is a major component of animal feeds.

Thirty years ago, researchers knew of course that the first step toward such a high lysine corn would be to isolate a new gene. Then, because corn has many varieties grown in many localities, with each genetically adapted to its specific environment, the new gene would have to be introduced on an individual basis to the parent stock bred in each area. The protein pattern would have to be modified, a procedure they knew would prove to be lengthy, consuming probably five or six grainal generations.

However in the 1950's, research conducted by a team of three men at Purdue University in Indiana paid off handsomely. Edwin T. Mertz, Ricardo Brazzani and Oliver E. Nelson came upon a gene which they dubbed Opaque 2. With the introduction of Opaque 2, ordinary corn displayed a 69 per cent increase in the lysine content. The Purdue researchers found too that the grain modified by Opaque 2 had a reduced zein content in direct ratio to the increase of both lysine and usable protein. And they knew then that they had made an incredible discovery.

Dr. Dale D. Harpstead, chairman of the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at the Michigan State University wrote of these bright beginnings, "The possibility that corn might become an agent for relief of the world hunger for protein appeared to be as important a find as the historic discovery that pellagra could be prevented by niacin."

The 1960's saw large scale trials using the new gene. Extensive research was conducted into its effects on farm animals, their

growth patterns and rates, their general health and disease resistance, and their impact finally on the national economy. In all facets, the research in the United States and Columbia South America indicated that the high lysine corn was superior to the standard grain. And before the research on this level was completed, the scientists were sufficiently convinced of the value of the gene to launch new studies into the value of high lysine corn as a food for man himself.

The work of Dr. Alberto G. Pradilla of the University of Val in Cali, northern Columbia, began to parallel the work done for farm animals, and soon produced very exciting results in the treatment of severely malnourished children. Dr. Pradilla's team discovered that the new corn would serve not only as a preventative of malnutrition, but a successful treatment of it as well. Children so severely afflicted with malnutrition as to require residence in the Intensive Care units of hospitals were treated with diets consisting mainly of high lysine corn with small supplements of milk or vegetables. And the results were eminently successful. Thus the high lysine corn, now being used in South America as an ingredient in baby food, proved it has therapeutic value as well as nutritional.

Indeed, as Dr. Harpstead concluded, "the historic wonders wrought in the breeding of corn constitute an additional breakthrough in man's continuing search for a solution to the world's starvation horrors."

I do not know who controls the American news media, both secular and religious. But in my estimation, they have neglected many items of global concern. When a research scientist the stature of Michigan State's Dr. Harpstead refers twice to high lysine corn as an "historic wonder," and such superlatives do not come cheaply to his typewriter, I am forced to question the wisdom of the American news media when they arrogantly choose to ignore him.

Therefore I again ask you to contact your congressman, your clergy and your editors, your senators, and your American representatives to the World Food Conference to be convened this November in Rome, Italy. Abortion, benign neglect, accommodation, waste, weapons of war and euthanasia are foolish tools indeed to fight world hunger.

High lysine corn is one valid answer. Triticale, wheat is another. The grasses of earth are not depleted. Mankind can feed mankind. If we will only try.

Special Mass Notes Church Redecoration

Rexville — Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was the celebrant of a Mass of Thanksgiving and Blessing Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. during special ceremonies observing the redecoration of St. Mary's Church. Father Otto Vogt, pastor and Father William Cosgrove, chaplain of St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, assisted the bishop.

Priests from Auburn, Corning, Hornell, Addison, Caledonia, Naples, Henrietta, Rochester, Fairport, Elmira, Aurora, Montezuma and Seneca Falls were in attendance for the Liturgy of the High Mass.

The celebration culminates efforts that began in December, 1971. The exterior of the church was painted in 1972 and plans were made later for interior redecoration. Painting began in March, 1973, of the sacristies, vestibule and Stations of the Cross. Pews were obtained from St. Mary our Mother Church, Horseheads, July, 1973. The oak pews were positioned on top of reconditioned flooring in the church, which was installed with the help of members of the congregation.

Carpeting, painting and varnishing work continued throughout 1973 and into 1974.

Walter O'Brien of Canandaigua, a painter, used oil-base colors to detail each of the 14 Stations of the Cross. During the Christmas season of 1973, a painting of Our Lady was placed over the door of the church. The colorful painting, also done by O'Brien, was one of the final touches of the project. In a church bulletin to parishioners last Christmas, Father Vogt said, "Visitors to St. Mary's will know why the people of this beautiful, almost 100 year-old church are proud. The light blue arches and ceiling, the repainted Stations against the walls of off-white color, the altar of the Last Supper near the people, the white altar of Our Lady and St. Joseph and the Blessed Sacrament, the newly painted Baptismal Font, the gold tweed rugs in the aisles, red rugs leading to the altar and the more comfortable pews — all these made St. Mary's very special at Christmas. All of us are glad and grateful. Special recognition has been given to Isabel O'Hagen and her family for their generous bequest to the church, which made the major part of the redecoration possible."

A folk group "Up With People," from St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls, provided music during the Mass. Joanne Cooney was the organist.

During the redecoration period, Father Vogt said, donors have provided many new items for the church. Among them are altar cloths and vases, a vigil light stand, a lectern, Christmas crib figures, sacramental small altar candlesticks for the Blessed Sacrament Altar, a ceramic chalice and paten and ceramic cruets. Repainting of the statues of Our Lady and St. Joseph were gifts from Frank C. Vogt and Peter Shults. The statue of St. Michael was a gift in memory of Michael J. Kieff by his parents. The painting of Our Lady of Grace was a gift in memory of the James McCormick family and repainting of the Sacred Vessels was a gift in memory of Robert Johnson. Draperies behind the altar were made by one of the women parishioners and painting of the altars was done by one of the women, Father Vogt said.

Bread for the Oct. 6 Eucharist was made in the home of a parishioner. Bringing gifts to the altar were James Ahearn and Helen Harkenrider. Ushers were Paul Harkenrider, Paul Dempsey, John Leonard and John Kramarik. Readers for the Mass were Thomas Harkenrider and Herbert



Father Vogt, Bishop Hogan and Father Cosgrove

Zuschin. East Station of the Cross was donated in memory of former parishioners by family members of friends.

According to church history furnished by Father Vogt, the first church in the territory now served by St. Mary's was built in 1845 on a site in Greenwood donated by Patrick Flinn. In 1869 the parochial jurisdictions were transferred from Greenwood to the Village of Rexville.

Increasing population resulted in the need for a larger church and one was built on a site donated by Alphonzo and J. J. McCormick. The church was dedicated in 1875, on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, by Bishop Stephen V. Ryan of the Buffalo Diocese, of which the Rexville church was then a part. Two years later, in Feb., 1877, the church burned to the ground. The parishioners immediately began building a new church and brought materials from Wellsville, utilizing 225 teams of horses to haul the necessary supplies. Seven months after the fire, a new church was built and was dedicated Sept. 14, 1877, on the Feast of the Exaltation of the

Holy Cross. At the time, there were 750 parishioners. In 1889, St. Mary's Parochial School was established, which was staffed by the Sisters of Mercy. It was used as a community hall until Sept. 14, 1943, when it was destroyed by fire. In 1951, Father John D. Malley, then pastor of St. Mary's initiated a redecoration program for the church interior which has now been completely redone by Father Vogt and the parishioners.

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