

Survey Report

Sister Helen Butler, OP, of the Rockville Centre Office of Research and Planning, who directed a readership survey for the Courier-Journal during the Summer, will report on it tonight to diocesan officials.

She will make her report to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, the Courier board of directors and staff, the regional coordinators, and other diocesan officials.

Beginning next week, the Courier will initiate a series of articles detailing and explaining survey results.

**Respect
Life
Section,
Pages
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48 Pages 2 Sections

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Courier-Journal Poll

Legislative Candidates Give Abortion, Marijuana Views

A survey of political candidates from across the diocese shows that more state candidates are opposed to decriminalizing the use and possession of marijuana than are opposed to liberalized abortion.

Two questions were asked in the survey:

"Would you vote for state ratification of a constitutional amendment guaranteeing legal

Congress

Of the 12 candidates for the United States Congress from districts within the diocese who answered a special Courier-Journal poll only five would take a direct affirmative stance that they "would vote for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing legal protection for all human beings regardless of development."

Three said no, four commented without taking a yes or no position and five could not be reached for comment.

A second question also was asked:

Do you favor removing all criminal penalties for possession and use of marijuana?

This question received a strong negative response with nine candidates saying no, only one yes and five not available for comment.

In the 33rd Congressional District, Republican Rep. William Walsh answered the first question yes, stating simply, "I am against abortion."

A spokesman for Bob Bockman the Democratic candidate, said he would answer no, that he supports the Supreme Court ruling and that he doesn't believe morality can be legislated.

The Conservative candidate, Francis H. Aspinwall, answered no and commented:

"I cannot regard a human egg one second after conception as a human being. I do believe a seven-month fetus capable of independent life is a human being. My true belief must lie in the gray area between — however I'm not knowledgeable enough to take a hard and fast position in this gray area. I am completely opposed to abortion on demand as now practiced in this state."

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protection for all human life regardless of development?

*Do you favor removing all criminal penalties for the possession and use of marijuana?

On the first question 19 candidates answered yes, 10 no, 16 had no comment, and 11 commented without taking a yes or no position.

On the second question, 25 candidates answered no, they do not favor removing all criminal penalties for the possession and use of marijuana. Nine said they do, one commented without indicating yes or no, and 18 did not answer.

The survey was conducted via certified mail with names provided by the State Board of

Election in Albany. Cover letters advised candidates that if they did not return the survey they would be listed as not commenting on the questions. Thus the 23 no comments.

Of the 25 candidates for the State Senate, nine said they would vote for state ratification of a constitutional amendment on abortion to overturn the Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion across the land. Only five said no but nine did not comment. Two others commented but did not make a yes or no answer.

In the Assembly races with a total of 31 candidates, ten said yes, five no, seven commented without saying yes or no, and ning did not comment.

Abortion-Senate

Would you vote for state ratification of a constitutional amendment guaranteeing legal protection for all human beings regardless of development?

In the 45th District, J. Donald Nolan, the Democratic candidate, replied affirmatively and stated, "I think God is the author of all

life and do not feel He has delegated the responsibility to any doctor or hospital or state."

Republican-Conservative H. Douglas Barclay did not respond.

In the 47th District, Donald W. Kramer, Democrat, did not ex-

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Assembly-Abortion

Would you vote for state ratification of a constitutional amendment guaranteeing legal protection for all human beings regardless of development?

In the 123rd District, Democrat James W. McCabe, said yes and added, "The word person needs precise definition in the Constitution. Reason and logic compel the conclusion that the unborn baby is a human person from the moment of conception."

McCabe's Republican-Conservative opponent, William Forster, did not reply.

Lloyd S. Riford Jr., the incumbent assemblyman from the 125th District, did not make a yes or no answer but commented:

"It is extremely difficult to answer with a yes or no, since the question does not fully outline what the vote would be on nor does it include any discussion of the ramifications."

His opponent, Democrat George J. Shaylor did not reply.

L. Richard Marshall, the Republican candidate, in the 126th District answered no, adding:

"The adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment restricting abortions to the sole purpose of saving the mother's life would not solve the problems nor resolve the issue. The abuses would return. Repeated polling of constituents indicated favoring elimination of the former law which this constitutional amendment would reinstate."

John Keefe, Democrat, did not check yes or no but said:

"I am in favor of supporting all human life regardless of development. This includes the right to life for the unborn as well as the aged. In the same respect I feel your question is far too general and broad for a flat yes or no."

In the 127th District, Republican-Conservative Charles Henderson said he would vote for such ratification "providing such

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Photo by Bruce Genut

Good Spirits

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Bishop James E. Kearney reflect the spirit of the moment at the pulpit at Sacred Heart Cathedral during the diocesan pilgrimage last Sunday. Bishop Hogan was principal concelebrant of Mass while Bishop Kearney gave the welcome address to the congregation from all over diocese. Ninetieth birthday pictures of Bishop Kearney, Page 6. Pilgrimage pictures Page 10.