

More Opinions

Right to Lifers Unjust

Editor:

I am afraid that the local Right-to-Life group may not be able to help pass a Right-to-Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and will be unable to get repeal of New York's liberal abortion law. In addition they may do positive injustice to the Democratic nominee for governor, Hugh Carey.

Further, in my opinion, they will be morally responsible for the failure and injustice. Although it would be unfair to blame the present Right-to-Life group for our existing laws, since these were passed before the group was formed, the group seems to manifest the same mentality which allowed the laws to be passed in the first place.

In America for Feb. 4, 1967, the Rev. Robert Drinan, SJ Dean of the Boston College Law School, wrote an article entitled "Strategy on Abortion." Father Drinan points out that contraceptives might not now be so readily available, and divorces might not be granted for such trivial reasons, if Catholics had adopted a less rigid stance on these matters.

The efforts of the local Right-to-Life group have been made ineffective by two errors, one intellectual, the other psychological. The intellectual error consists in not knowing that morality and political science are distinct. The psychological error consists in not realizing that a minority can best get its viewpoint across winning friends.

One result of distinguishing morality from politics is that a person like myself, who regards deliberate, induced abortion as a serious moral wrong, may in perfectly good conscience support a law which would allow abortion in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, and for a high probability of the birth of a badly deformed child.

Detailed reasons for this have been given by Father Drinan. Briefly, a Catholic may support this position for two reasons. First, politics is the art of the possible, especially in our pluralistic society. Second, we are here faced not with a choice of good or bad, but with a choice of two evils.

By not opting for a law which would allow abortion in the three cases mentioned earlier, we have now on our books a perfectly horrible law which has led to the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of innocent beings. Clearly, when forced to make a choice between allowing a few hundred to be killed or a few hundred thousand we should have chosen the former.

Another result of not distinguishing morality and law is that one can readily be duped by unscrupulous politicians. Ignoring the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, for example, they promise something which is politically unattainable.

On the other hand, it is unwise to attack a candidate, such as Hugh Carey, who has been in the vanguard of the fight for parents rights in education for over 12 years, because he refuses to vote for discharging from committee a measure which he clearly sees will get nowhere. This is particularly true when his track record for writing education legislation which is constitutional is unusually good.

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Doesn't Want Pulpit 'Opinions'

Editor:

There was a recent appeal for support of our seminaries and I am sure many parishioners thought deeply about the quality of priest the seminaries are turning out. Should they or shouldn't they be supported?

My wife and I are past the point of being shocked by what we hear from the pulpit. A recent Sunday we endured a tirade, by a guest speaker, on the oppression of big business. When asked why, the priest said that this was his "opinion". Even after reminding this priest that the very church he preached in was indirectly the beneficiary of big business, he remained adamant. Then we brought to his attention that everyone he saw from the pulpit enjoyed the benefits of big business in the way of salaries, job opportunities, big business capital expenditures in the form of buildings and very expensive equipment. When asked if he knew of another country that had it better, he couldn't answer. This priest stressed that there were evils in big business but he completely overlooked the 90% good.

To be sure there are evils in big business but there are evils in any institution run by man including the Catholic Church. This priest blamed inflation on big business. He knew nothing about Government deficit spending and its direct correlation to inflation. He knew nothing about the multitude of restrictions placed on industry that reflected in higher prices.

To sum it up, this priest was giving his "opinion" from the pulpit. This would be tantamount to me giving my "opinion" on

religion from that same pulpit. I am sure the religious would find my "opinion" just as repulsive and unresearched as we found the socio/economic issues of the layman.

To further compound this blind zeal, this same priest informed us he felt it imperative to preach a spiritual/social doctrine. At this point we reminded him that even I could mix the two and sell communism. I could look to heaven and in most sincere tones make communism sound like a blueprint from the Bible. Yet, we instinctively know communism is evil, degrading and socially a bust.

Now back to do we or don't we support the seminaries. I would like to think they are turning out priests taught in the concepts of St. Thomas Aquinas and not Angela Davis. I can only judge by what they advocate from the pulpit. And judged they will be just as soon as the subject slips from religion to politics.

Carl E. Burrows
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The Dangers In Inflation

Editor:

I certainly agree that the "extra-heavy burden" of inflation rests on the poor and disadvantaged (Courier-Journal 10-16-74). However, there seems to be some confusion as to what inflation really is. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines it as, "disproportionate and relatively sharp and sudden increase in the quantity of money or credit, or both, relative to the amount of exchange business."

According to Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve, total federal expenditures in the last five years have increased by 50 per cent while the cumulative budget deficit of the federal

government has exceeded \$100 billion. While government spends more than it receives in taxes, it issues bonds to the (private) Federal Reserve Bank where new paper dollars are issued.

The new dollars take on value only by stealing from those already in circulation.

Inflation is a moral issue not only because it hurts human beings but also free governments may fall because of its debilitating effects. Remember, Hitler's rise to power in the 30's was due in large measure to the explosive inflation in Germany.

I would like to suggest the obvious — that the federal government balance its budget to stop inflation. Since society and Washington probably lack the virtue of self-restraint, I would recommend as the permanent solution the return to the gold standard. This would once and for all stop the printing presses from issuing "counterfeit" paper dollars. If something is not done very soon, I fear disaster looms for America and western Judaic-Christian culture.

Nicholas Hober
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Father Atwell Bright Spot

Editor:

It is good news to have Father Henry Atwell back at his typewriter.

Intelligent articles by a local columnist are so refreshing.

"Toward Tomorrow" is a Bright spot in a sometimes dull publication.

Irene McLaughlin
8 Brister Ave.
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School Needs Label Help

Editor:

St. Margaret Mary School is participating in a special program that will enable us to obtain needed audiovisual equipment. The program, Labels for Education, is a label collection plan sponsored by the Campbell Soup Co. Under this plan, our school will collect labels from Campbell products. Labels will be accepted from all Campbell's soup cans (regular, 26 ounce or 50 ounce) and Campbell's beans products. These labels will then be redeemed by our school for specific audiovisual equipment needed by the school children.

If you have any Campbell's products we would appreciate your contributing the labels. They may be brought or mailed to St. Margaret Mary's School, 400 Rogers Pkwy., or to Mrs. Charles Thomas, 106 Daley Blvd. The label collection will continue until Dec. 31, 1974.

The St. Margaret Mary
Campbell Soup Kids

Senators And Life

Editor:

People concerned with the importance of passing a Human Life Amendment realize the necessity of having pro-life legislators. Jacob Javits and Ramsey Clark do not favor a Human Life Amendment. Barbara Keating does.

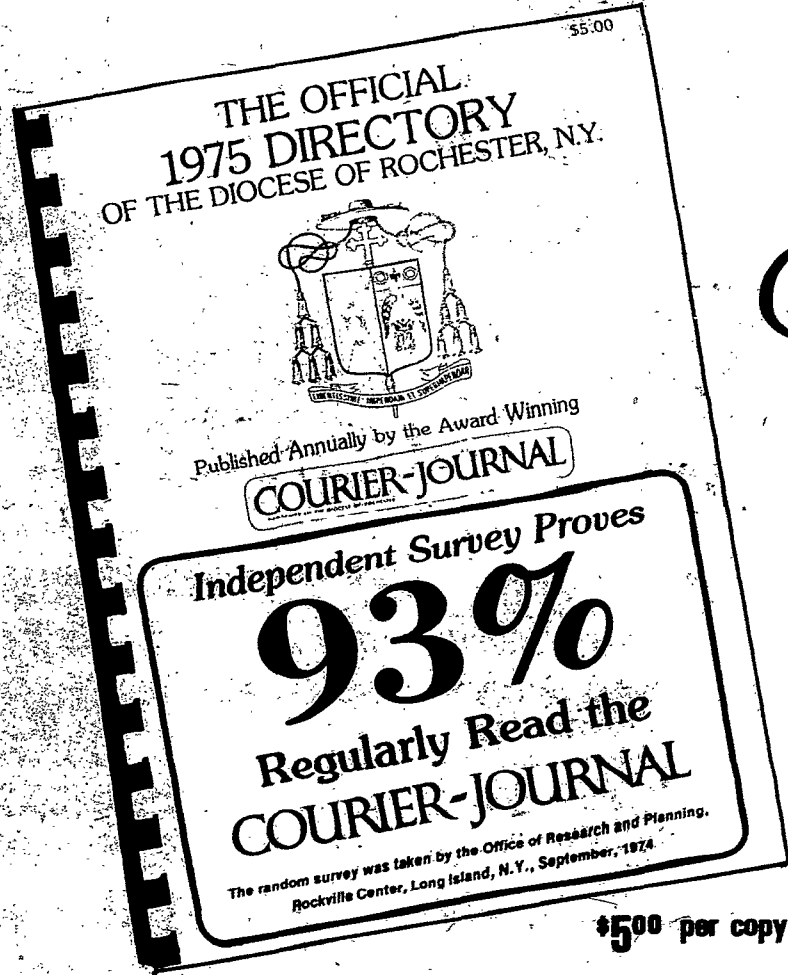
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