

# State R-T-L Backs HEW Abortion Proposals

By KATHLEEN POWERS  
Capitol Correspondent

Supporting recent proposals by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to exclude abortions as a form of family planning, New York State Right to Life, this past week requested President Ford to stop funding state and local abortion efforts on the practical grounds that Congress has never authorized funding of abortion.

In a similar request to officials at the Department of HEW, NYS Right to Life urged that new HEW regulations be drafted to totally eliminate federal funding of abortion. NYS Right to Life also condemned any HEW policy that would require states to provide sterilization as a method of family planning for the poor.

"The clear intent is to corner (the poor) and, as government

policy force them either to sacrifice their right to self determination over family matters or, under abortion funding, force them to destroy their unborn offspring," said the letter to HEW.

Jack St. Leger, executive director of NYS Right to Life who signed the requests to President Ford and to HEW, explained that in new proposals issued by HEW, HEW would greatly restrict funds for abortion in family planning programs run by HEW. However, HEW would continue to provide monies for abortion in state-run programs on a matching fund basis, with the participating states.

The HEW proposals will not become effective until approved by the Secretary of HEW, Caspar Weinberger.

"HEW amounted to saying 'we

won't pay in full for abortions in federally directed programs, but if you people in the states want to continue we will help on a matching funds basis," said St. Leger.

"It's a shallow victory of sorts," he continued. "But it is a recognition that, in principal, family planning should not include abortion."

According to St. Leger, Congress has never approved funding for abortion. Therefore, President Ford could stop all federal funds used for abortions. If he did, the number of abortions would plummet, said St. Leger.

While at present the Right to Life movement is emphasizing legislative counteraction to the Supreme Court's decision on abortion, executive action could also limit abortion, St. Leger said. President Ford and other

executives including county executives have great freedom on how procedures are enforced. "No abortion payments should be approved without the procedure fulfilling every legal stipulation," noted St. Leger.

In other action, NYS Right to Life's board approved the wording of a human life amendment in December, two months after National Right to Life approved the same wording. Several wordings have been under consideration for two years. With the wording approved, hearings can begin on this specific amendment.

"We just couldn't get into a high gear without a sense of unity of instrument as well as purpose," said Johanna Jankowski, NYS Right to Life chairman. "It's like shopping. It's not enough to know you need eggs. You have to

decide what grade, price and so on."

The amendment, in three parts, defines persons as "all human beings irrespective of age, health, function or condition of dependency, including their unborn offspring at every stage of their biological development." It further states that "no person shall be deprived of life by any person" (while allowing "only those medical procedures required to prevent the death of the mother.") The amendment gives Congress and the states enforcement power.

Some legal specialists still disagree with the wording, said St. Leger, but Right to Life believes it is time to move for action. After two years all the legal experts have had an opportunity to contribute toward this final wording.

## STATEMENT OF CONDITION

DECEMBER 31, 1974

### ASSETS

Cash and Due from Banks . . . . .	\$ 11,411,962.84
U.S. Government and Federal Agency Securities . . . . .	8,247,039.48
Municipal Securities . . . . .	10,899,499.31
Other Bonds and Investments . . . . .	5,212,370.84
Federal Funds Sold . . . . .	4,500,000.00
Real Estate Mortgages . . . . .	19,414,197.55
Loans and Discounts . . . . .	41,148,834.22
Bank Premises and Equipment . . . . .	5,555,012.89
Customers' Acceptance Liability . . . . .	139,785.33
Other Assets . . . . .	952,314.15
	<u>\$107,481,016.61</u>

### LIABILITIES

Deposits . . . . .	\$ 91,491,224.89
Repurchase Agreements . . . . .	572,953.13
Acceptances Outstanding . . . . .	139,785.33
Other Liabilities . . . . .	3,173,142.25
Total Liabilities . . . . .	<u>\$ 95,377,105.60</u>
Allowance for Possible Loan Losses . . . . .	937,725.61
Capital Accounts	
Subordinated Debentures . . . . .	1,965,000.00
Capital Stock . . . . .	4,314,980.00
Surplus . . . . .	2,804,737.00
Undivided Profits . . . . .	2,081,468.40
Total Capital Accounts . . . . .	<u>11,166,185.40</u>
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