

Oberstar Seen Pro-Life Hope

Right-to-Life groups see a bright light in the new Congress in the person of Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.). Oberstar, with a bi-partisan group of sponsors, has introduced in the House a Human Life Amendment (H.L.A. 132) using the language developed by the National Right to Life Committee's legal advisory committee.

Rochesterian, Mrs. Thomas B. Garlick, Sr. and the late Doctor Garlick.

Oberstar, formerly administrative assistant to now retired Minnesota Congressman John Blatnik, has 12 years experience in legislative work. For the past four years he served as administrator of the House Committee on Public Works when Blatnik chaired that committee.

He is the son-in-law of

Capitol Letters

The language of the Human Life Amendment as filed by Rep. James Oberstar is as follows:

Section 1. With respect to the right to life, the word "person" as used in this article and in the Fifth and Fourteenth Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the United States applies to all human beings irrespective of age, health, function or condition of dependency, including their unborn offspring at every stage of their biological development.

Section 2. No unborn person shall be deprived of life by any person: Provided, however, that nothing in this article shall prohibit a law permitting only those medical procedures

required to prevent the death of the mother.

Section 3. The Congress and the several States shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Please write to your representatives urging them to pressure for hearings on Human Life Amendments and asking for their HLA support. **Area Congressmen: The Honorable Frank Horton [34th District], Barber Conable [35th], James F. Hastings [39th], William Walsh [33rd], Howard Robison [27th] U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.**

Compiled by Jeanne D. Sweeney

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

Third in a Series

Dr. Kenneth Edelin chose a brilliant attorney to represent him and to direct his defense from the manslaughter charges brought against him by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. William P. Homans, a man "repelled by the notion of executing condemned criminals," had publicly stated his belief that a fetus is not a person. And Homans believes further that the death of the fetus must be seen as an integral part of any abortion procedure.

He was to build Dr. Edelin's defense on these two points, with no indication that he would base his arguments on any other premise.

During the late summer pre-trial preparations of 1974 Homans contracted with the Decision Research Corporation of Wellesley, a comfortable suburb west of Boston, to poll 1,000 prospective jurors from Boston, Revere, Winthrop and Chelsea. The poll taken Sept. 9-20, cost \$10,000. And it was designed to determine the extent of possible anti-abortion sentiment in predominantly Catholic Suffolk County.

"It showed that 83 per cent felt it (abortion) was all right in at least some cases," said Homans, "and the results convinced us not to move for a change-of-venue outside of Suffolk (County) because opinion against abortion was not as deep as rumor would have it."

Dr. Edelin himself remarked, "We felt from that poll that we would go for a jury trial because it indicated that public opinion against abortion was not as strong as we thought."

The defense decided also at that early stage of preparation to "skirt the race issue rather than

complicate the case." (Dr. Edelin is black.)

During the three days of jury selection immediately prior to the opening days, many prospective jurors disqualified themselves by candidly announcing that their religious views would prevent them from having open minds on the abortion issue itself.

This, added to the patient questioning by Judge John P. McGuire, appeared to aid the defense; but no objections were raised by the Commonwealth.

In an unusual move, the defendant himself, Dr. Edelin, rose slowly to his feet sixteen times during the selection of the jury and announced his personal approval that each of the 16 candidates finally chosen would be a "fair and impartial" judge of his fate.

Once the jurors were selected, the opposing attorneys presented their opening remarks.

Newman A. Flanagan, the assistant District Attorney who would direct the Commonwealth's case against Dr. Edelin, began with an impassioned address. Indeed, a "black male child did exist who was the victim of a death caused by the hand or hands of Dr. Kenneth C. Edelin," he said. The doctor had either "prematurely separated" the infant from the uterine wall at the same time restraining him, or had "manually compressed the (umbilical) cord while the infant was intrauterine." Flanagan contended it was the commission of an overt act to restrict "after the termination of the pregnancy" the necessary flow of oxygen to an emerging human life... "a viable male infant, born or in the process of being born" which brought death.

He announced his intention to call as prosecution witnesses "several persons" who had been born prematurely (conceivably including information of a recent birth of an infant who survived after only 24 weeks, 6 months, gestation.) The defense objected, not without reason, that this evidence did not relate directly to the Edelin case. "Inflammatory," said Homans. Judge John P. McGuire agreed and the evidence was denied.

But Flanagan was to prove a worthy opponent for William Homans and Kenneth Edelin. The battle was crucial, for a doctor's fate would hang in the balance.

Seminary Links with Audenshaw

Mark Gibbs, director of the Audenshaw Foundation in England, will present a talk on "New Trends in Laity Formation" at St. Bernard's Seminary on Tuesday, May 20 at 8 p.m. Gibbs, an Anglican layman, is visiting St. Bernard's to mark the official affiliation of the seminary with the Audenshaw Project in Laity Education. This project is meant to help clergy learn how to enable the laity to be partners and ministers with them.

St. Bernard's is the first Roman Catholic seminary in the United States to become an affiliated member of this project.

OFFICERS INSTALLED

Coming — Mrs. Leo Schaller Jr. was installed May 4 as president of the Catholic Action Society of St. Vincent de Paul parish. The ceremony was conducted by Father Joseph Hogan, pastor, at the annual communion breakfast, in the Corning Hilton.

Other officers inducted are Mrs. Ralph H. Champlain Jr., vice president; Mrs. Richard Aker, secretary, and Mrs. Leroy Wilson, treasurer. Sister Mary Anne, RSM, spoke on the Eucharist and on the dedication of the month May to the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. Angelo Costello was chairman.

LEGION POST TO FETE RETIRED POLICE

Law enforcement officers who retired between Jan. 1, 1974 and last April 1, will be honored by Monroe County Law Enforcement Post 1182, American Legion, at a dinner Monday night, May 19. Sheriff William M. Lombard, post commander, announced. The dinner will be at 7 p.m. at VFW Patchen-Briggs Post, 54 S. Union St.

Sheriff Lombard said each retired officer would be awarded the distinctive American Legion Certificate of Commendation.



IN THIS CORNER

George Beahon

This is the season in which turf writers — meaning sports reporters who specialize in thoroughbred horse racing — and columnists who can tell the front end from the back of a 3-year-old colt, converge on the Triple Crown circuit.

It all starts with Derby Week in Louisville, climaxed by a rough riding cavalry charge that lasts only two minutes and change. The press box citizens make their next stop a couple of weeks later in Baltimore for the Preakness, which attracts a few strange animals to challenge the better finishers from Churchill Downs.

These survivors plus a few other animals who've been hiding in the weeds all show up at Belmont Park in June for the last whirl. It is tougher on the writers than on the horses.

The Belmont week includes parties and free Broadway show tickets and a night on a boat in the Hudson River — underlined, in the advance reservation notice, by a FREE BAR ALL WEEK, hotel and press box.

As in Baltimore and Louisville, there is transportation to and from the race track at any hour — for a pre-dawn workout, for lunch, or whenever.

In Louisville you are eligible to get gouged by some hotels and restaurants, but the people in charge of press coverage make it pretty easy. There are breeders and owners and trainers and turf writers banquets. And the press box at Churchill is A-1 First Class Super Deluxe. You can eat breakfast and lunch without leaving your assigned seat, which comes

equipped with closed circuit TV, telephone, desk typewriter and waiter and secretarial service. Also, the bar is open early and late, and it's a total free load. Got the picture?

The service includes quotes delivered from every Derby stall on the backstretch, from owners, trainers, jocks, whomever. Lots of fiction must be written during the week before they spend 122 seconds of race running.

It also should be mentioned that the press box contains private mutual machines for the convenience of the writers. Long before Saturday's Derby, most of the racing addicts are broke.

To beat the hotel hassle and the overabundance of partying one Derby week, three sports columnists arranged to rent an apartment for the week. The price was right, it was casual and convenient and there was the fun of cooking in once in a while instead of wearing out the town.

There also was the possibility of beating the hotel gouge, leaving a little extra for betting purposes.

It was Thursday before the first of the threesome went Tap City, so when he finished filing his story on Friday morning, he had nothing to do. He was out of credit, so he was sent back to the pad with a \$20 bill from his partners. Instructions: Buy a jar of gin and a turkey, and roast the bird for a quiet night indoors.

After the last race the two survivors, still solvent, arrived back at their hideaway looking for a cold martini and some hot turkey. No sign of any goodies.

"Where's the stuff?"

The noon dropout was glued to a radio describing the running of the last race. "Our turkey," he said, "just flattened out and died at the 16th pole."

PARADE

Marching units and other organizations interested in taking part in the St. Anthony Day parade in Charlotte may contact Lou Christopher, parade marshal, at 865-2126. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, June 14, starting at 6:45 p.m.

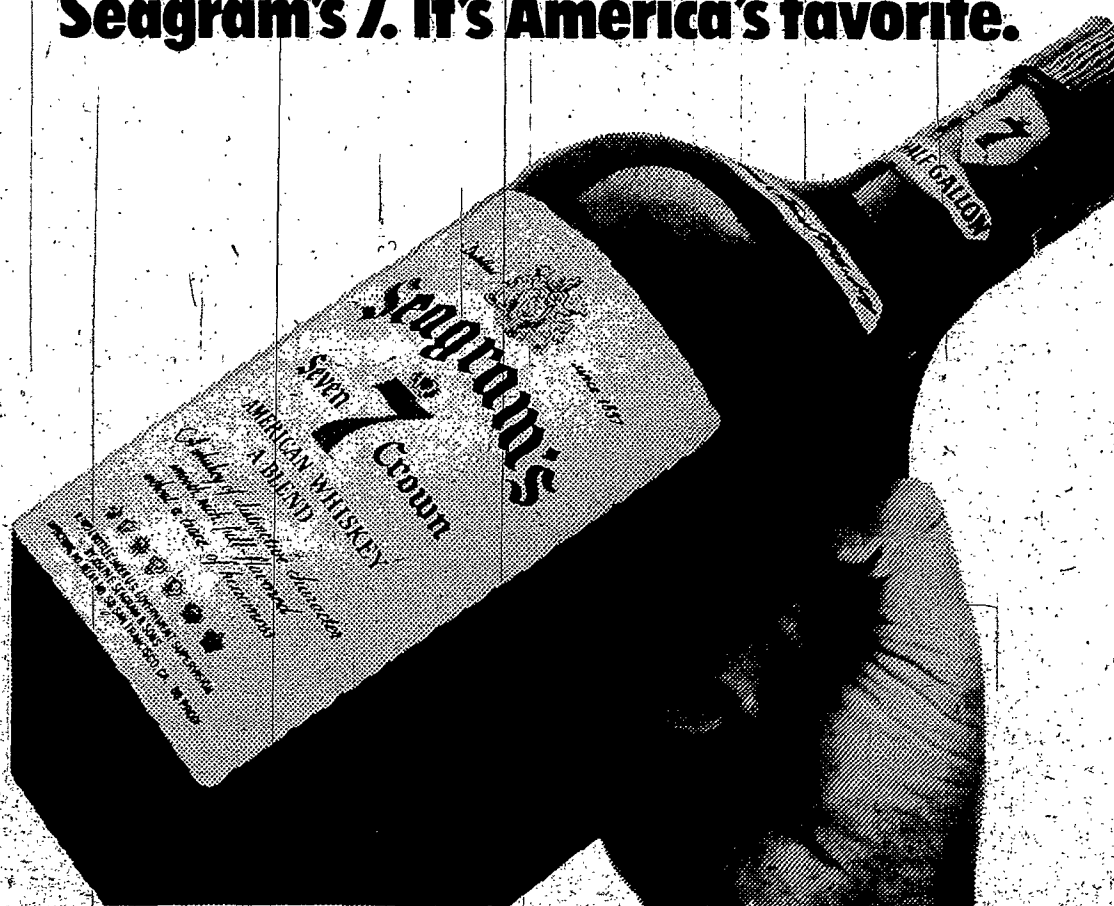
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