

'Right to Life' Elects Dr. Jefferson Its New President

Denver [RNS] — Dr. Mildred Jefferson, a black physician from Boston and a Protestant, was elected president of the National Right to Life Committee at its third annual convention here.

She was chosen to succeed Kenneth Van Derhoef of Seattle, who was named to the board of directors.

Dr. Carolyn Gerster of Scottsdale, Arizona, a Methodist who had been serving as vice-president, was named chairman of the board.

Other officers elected by the convention were Robert Greene of Kentucky, vice president; Ruth Karim of South Dakota, secretary, and three additional members of the board — Thomas Dillon of New York, Jane Doyle of Florida and Dr. Albert Fortman of North Dakota. The board also includes one delegate from each state.

Dr. Jefferson, a Protestant and the first black woman graduate of the Harvard Medical School, has been an outspoken opponent of abortion.

She has testified in favor of a right-to-life amendment and has addressed right-to-life gatherings on several occasions.

In addressing the 1973 National Right to Life Committee meeting in Detroit, she called abortion a "perversion of love" which sought to replace "the sanctity of life ethic" with "the new nihilism."

"If we desert the unborn," she said, "we will have no grounds for objection when the elderly, the chronically ill, the deformed, the retarded and the politically unacceptable" come under attack.

In 1972 Senator Jacob Javits introduced a bill in the United States Senate to decriminalize marijuana. He introduced it again in 1973, and reintroduced it April 17, 1975. (Senate Bill #1450).

Marijuana smoking had become socially chic. And today America is in the grips of a major marijuana epidemic. The frequency of use, the potency and the amounts of it brought into this country are increasing. In some urban areas the median age for the first encounter with drugs is thirteen. For heroin it is fourteen.

I shall begin a series of columns on the marijuana problem with a brief account of Senator Javits' bill, which he calls the Marijuana Control Act of 1975.

It provides that any person who possesses "not more than one ounce of marijuana within a private dwelling or other residence for his own use or the use of others . . . if such marijuana is not possessed with the intent to distribute, transfer or sell . . . (any person) who possesses in a public area not more than one ounce of marijuana if (it) is incident to private use . . . and not with the intent to sell (it) for profit . . . and any person who distributes or transfers in public or private any marijuana to any person for private use . . . shall not be subject to arrest or suffer any disadvantage or disability except that specified in this section (a civil fine of not more than \$100)." (emphasis added.)

Personal use and/or public distribution to any person as long as there is no profit, would be allowed.

A copy of the full text of the bill (Senate Bill #1450) is available from the offices of Senator Jacob Javits, U.S. Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20010.

Documentation sources available on request.

Accuses Kennedy

Denver [RNS] — The president of the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) declared here that "pro-life forces have become engaged in a war for life," a fight for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to protect human life from its conception.

Dr. Mildred Jefferson challenged Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) to stop "running away" from the battle for human life.

In an inaugural speech before 800 delegates to the NRLC's third annual convention, Dr. Jefferson, a Boston surgeon who is black and Protestant, said that "we are a peaceful people and we did not declare war" on the unborn. But she noted that the NRLC will "fight for an amendment to protect the unborn."

"When it was decided that there were too many people, that we must control population, and we pick out the most defenseless for elimination; and then the Supreme Court . . . joins with the team of the woman and her doctor to destroy her child, the anti-life movement kept escalating," she observed.

"Then we had to come into the field. We fight without killing, without weapons, trying to replace the killing without violence. We seek to replace a materialistic society with one with respect for spiritual values."

Dr. Jefferson told delegates that the right-to-life forces "will win because we must. And when we do our victory will not be for ourselves, but for America and for all mankind."

Indicating that the 1976 convention will consider the voting record of Sen. Kennedy among other things, Dr. Jefferson pointed to his record in opposing attempts to limit the use of tax funds to finance abortions and his explanation that, as she put it, "since rich women could afford abortions the poor also have a right to that same service."

"We will ask Sen. Kennedy," she said, "to make a list of all the things that rich women have always had and let the poor choose for themselves what they would like to have." There are those who see in Sen. Kennedy the "great hope for the future," the NRLC president said, and who hope to ride with him to political fame.

"But I know a few who will not stand by quietly, those who expect our leaders to represent the highest moral standards," she stated.

"In 1976, hopefully during the first weekend of July," she continued, "we look for some 10,000 delegates . . . to join with 30,000 from the State of Massachusetts in Boston to tell Sen. Kennedy, 'Unless you strengthen your moral courage, you will never be President of the United States.'"

Organist Training To Resume in Fall

The diocese's year — old Organist Training Program which this month graduates three

organists and presents "A" certificates to five others, has given the diocese a "boost" in the musical and liturgical areas of community worship," the director of the program noted last week.

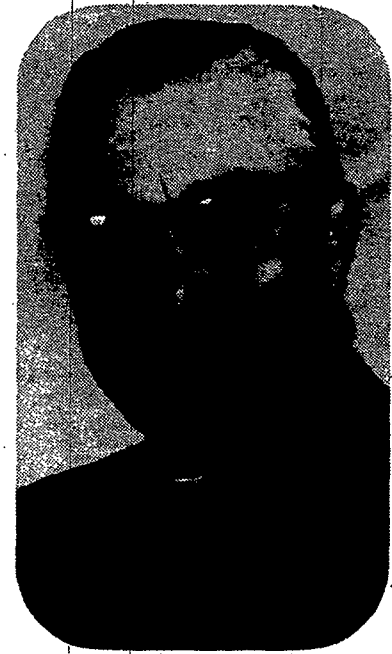
It is a "most needed and encouraging sign," said Don Meminger, who is also organist at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Graduates of the program are Mrs. Judith Costello, St. John the Evangelist, Rochester; Mrs. Mary Johnson, St. Salome's; Jean Thibodeau, Holy Spirit.

The program for 1975-76 will open with evaluations Sept. 15 and 16 around the diocese. The teaching will begin on Sept. 22. The program includes 32 half-hour organ lessons and five liturgy seminars. The program fee of \$275 is underwritten by the parish.

Prospective students and parishes were encouraged to contact Meminger at the Cathedral office within the next few weeks.

"An organist who plays well, helps the community pray well," Meminger noted.



FATHER KLEINTJES

Parish to Fete Former Pastor

Henrietta's Guardian Angels Parish will fete its founder and recently transferred pastor, Father John B. Kleintjes, with a dinner on Sunday, July 27 at 6 p.m.

Father Kleintjes founded the community in 1960. Last month he was appointed pastor of St. Pius V Parish in Cohocton.

The dinner will be held at Thunder Ridge Country Club and reservations should be made by July 20 through Phil Drexler, 334-2794.

On the day of the dinner, a public reception will be held in Guardian Angels school hall from 2 to 4 p.m.

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Nancy Murphy
[First in a series]

Marijuana and hashish. They are from the same Hemp plant, and they are not new. Nearly three thousand years before the Birth of Our Lord, in a book on pharmacology written by Shen Nung, the plant was labeled **The Liberator of Sin**.

Hymnologists trace the word hashish to the Persian-born and carefully schooled Arab leader al-Hasan-Ibn-al-Sabbah (or Hashishin, the Old Man of the Mountain) who in 1090 AD became the Grand Master of a secret cult of assassins organized to "cleanse the Moslem world of false prophets." Hashishin hypnotized 12 to 20 year old youths whom he called "the self-sacrificing ones." Then, using hashish, he trained them in groups of six or ten within a sealed garden fortress which was so beautiful as to "rival the garden of Paradise." Their craft was revolutionary assassination. And among their rewards were extended romps with comely young maidens.

In America during the violent 1960's, scientists reported marijuana smoking was a harmless pastime, a matter of trivial concern. It was a minor problem, they said, hardly deserving serious attention except for those who handled it in large amounts for mercenary purposes . . . far less serious than "is presently suggested by the harsh inflexibility of current laws."

The Congressional Record contains the following quotations, from Timothy Leary: "Drugs are the most efficient way to revolution," and from Jerry Rubin: "The slogans of the revolution are going to be Pot, Freedom and License."

By 1970 the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (financed primarily by the Playboy Foundation) had been formed to spearhead a drive to remove marijuana from the criminal codes . . . to decriminalize it. And the media began to interview experts who argued that marijuana smoking was an innocuous, casual, relaxing personal choice; non-habit forming, socially acceptable and pleasure-affording.

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