

Mrs. McCormack to Enter Rhode Island Primary

Newport, R.I. (RNS) — Mrs. Ellen McCormack of Bellmore, N.Y., has declared her intention to enter the Rhode Island Democratic presidential primary in June as part of an anti-abortion campaign.

Mrs. McCormack told about 40 persons at a gathering here that she is running for president and mounting campaigns in 20 states to mobilize support for an anti-abortion amendment to the Constitution.

While she said she is "seriously running for the presidency, her campaign actually is an effort to qualify for \$100,000 in federal campaign funds to pay for television broadcasting of three commercials opposing abortion. TV stations and networks, she said, have refused to air the commercials unless she is a candidate for public office because the issue is controversial.

Mrs. McCormack just reported to the Courier-Journal that her campaign has gone over the \$100,000 mark and "is very near to qualifying for federal matching funds."

Mrs. McCormack added that if she can raise \$5,000 in each of 20 states the federal government will match whatever she raises. She is hoping for \$300,000 and already has \$100,000 — including the \$5,000 minimum in 12 primary states, she said.

The mother of four children, Mrs. McCormack spoke here at the invitation of three anti-abortion groups, including Catholics for Life.

Choirs Festival Needs Singers

The Diocesan Music Commission will again sponsor a Catholic Choirs Festival, to be held this year on Sunday, April 4, under the direction of Sister Virginia Hogan.

The major work to be performed is the Faure Requiem. In this Bicentennial year, to emphasize the important place choirs have had in the history of our diocese, the concert will open with a choral number especially commissioned by the Diocese of Rochester in 1923 for a similar Catholic Choirs Festival.

It is the hope of the music commission that as many parish choirs as possible will send representatives to the festival. Singers not belonging to parish choirs are also welcome, as well as instrumentalists for the orchestra that will accompany the work.

Further information and application forms are available from Sister Virginia at 377-5475.

Prayers Urged For Seminarians

They've launched a new program for men attending St. Bernard's Seminary called a "Desert Experience."

According to Father William Trott, spiritual director at the school, the second-year students of St. Bernard's are spending this entire month of January away from the seminary for a prolonged period of solitude, silence, meditation and prayer.

The program follows recent recommendations issued by the U.S. Catholic bishops, who have encouraged a prolonged period of spiritual preparation for the priesthood.

Father Trott urged prayers for the participants in the program which is taking place at St. Michael's Retreat Center on Hemlock Lake.

"I urge you to pray for these students during this month so that they will truly come to know intimately the Lord who has shown his love for them by calling them aside for these days in the wilderness. As you pray for them, you are really praying that your future priests will be able to continue to lead you and your children closer to your Lord because they have experienced an intimacy with him that they want you also to enjoy," he said.

MANHATTAN COLLEGE GETS KODAK GRANT

Manhattan College in Riverdale has received a \$5,000 direct grant under Eastman Kodak Company's 1975 Educational Aid Program, according to Brother J. Stephen Sullivan, FSC, president.

Manhattan is among 113 four-year privately supported colleges and universities receiving direct grants from the company this academic year. The grants are based on the number of graduates who joined Kodak within five years of graduation and are currently in their fifth year of employment. Kodak contributes \$750 for each undergraduate or graduate year completed at a privately supported school.

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

(Second in a series)

I quote from the Humanist Manifesto I, written in 1933:

"The time has come for widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the modern world. Science and economic change have disrupted the old beliefs. Religions the world over are under the necessity of coming to terms with new conditions. In every field of human activity, the vital movement is now in the direction of a candid and explicit humanism.

Today man's larger understanding of the universe, his scientific achievements, and his deeper appreciation of brotherhood, have created a situation which requires a new statement of the means and purposes of religion — a vital, fearless, and frank religion capable of furnishing adequate social goals and personal satisfaction (which) may appear to many people as a complete break with the past.

It is obvious that any religion that can hope to be a synthesizing and dynamic force for today (1933) must be shaped for the needs of this age. To establish such a religion is a major necessity of the present.

Thus, with the accent on social goals, personal satisfactions and man's intellectual powers, with an aggressive and total dismissal of traditional religious restraint and Christian beliefs, Humanist Manifesto I sets the prelude to its 15 specific directives:

- 1) The universe is self-existing. It was not created by a supernatural power.
- 2) Man is a part of nature, not a specific creation. Man has emerged as the result of a continuous process.

3) "The traditional dualism between mind and body must be rejected."

4) Man's religious culture is the product of a development due to his inter-action with his environment and social heritage. Religion is not premised on the existence of a supernatural being.

5) The nature of the universe as described by science "makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values. (Humanism) insists that the way to determine the existence of any and all realities is by means of intelligent inquiry. Religion must formulate its hopes and plans in the light of the scientific spirit and method."

6) The time has passed for theism (the belief in one God as creator and ruler of the universe), deism (the belief in one God, who having created the universe, thereafter remains indifferent to it), and modernism (liberal theology).

7) "Religion consists of those actions, purposes, and experiences which are humanly significant. Nothing human is alien to the religious. The distinction between the sacred and the secular can no longer be maintained."

When one thinks of the immortal soul, the control of the mind over the body, and the power of the consecration when one ponders the sacraments of Holy Orders, matrimony, penance, and Communion when one thinks of the crucifixion, the salvific resurrection, and the Magisterium of the Church, one begins to understand the total incompatibility between religious humanism and Roman Catholicism.

Further, as this point becomes increasingly visible, one begins to understand that abortion is not the tip of an iceberg; it is the warning cry of numerous icebergs. For, once we have based man's very existence on the ever-changing premise of human intellect alone, and subject all values and behavior modification to the will of man, once we have abandoned the traditional absolutes and have discarded the existence of the supernatural God, we will justify anything.

Including, and extending far beyond, abortion.

NEXT WEEK: Humanist Manifesto I continued.

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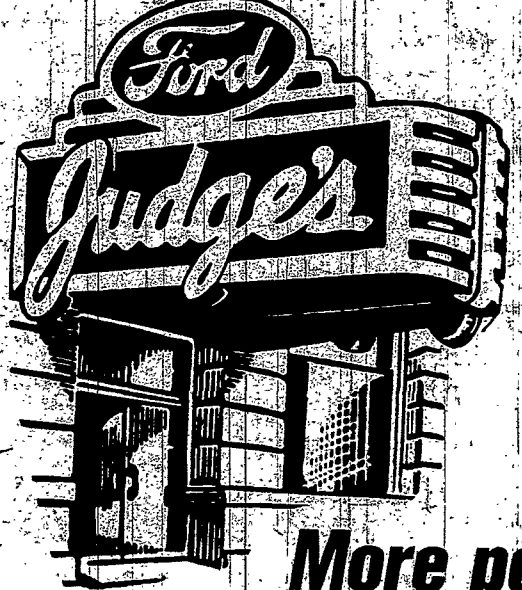
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