

Eyewitness

Perhaps too often in the pro-life campaign we tend to rely on statistics. Cold. Inhuman. Unfathomable. Heartless. Statistics.

For even if the law of the land said that only one embryo a year could be aborted on demand in the whole country, the law would be faulty. Sometimes honing the individual tragedy makes the general disaster more vivid.

This seems to be what has happened to a young surgeon at Yale University Hospital, Dr. Richard Selzer, whose own account was in Esquire in January, and which has been the subject of an article by Nick Timmesch of the Los Angeles Times.

Dr. Selzer's awakening came while he was absorbing his first abortion, via a needle injection of prostaglandin. Without going into all the detail, a synopsis of his eyewitness account tells of when the chief surgeon inserted the needle through the woman's belly into the uterus. Until then all seemed normal. Suddenly:

"It is unexpected, utterly unexpected, like a disturbance in the earth, a tumultuous jarring... I see a movement — a small one. But I have seen it... And now I see that it is the hub of the needle in the woman's belly that has jerked. First to one side. Then to the other side. Once more it wobbles, is tagged, like a fishing-line nibbled by a sunfish.

"Again, and I know! It is the fetus that worries thus. It is the fetus struggling against the needle. Struggling? How can that be? I think: it cannot be. I think: the fetus feels no pain, cannot feel fear, has no activation."

According to Timmesch, the doctor had the impulse to pull out the needle, but that would be insane, he thinks, because everyone in the room wants it there. (Editor's note: all but one.)

His mind reflected on population control, a woman's right to decline childbirth, the question of unwanted children.

"And yet," he writes, "there is the flick of the needle. I saw it. I felt in that room a pace away, life prodded, life tending off. I saw life avulsed — swept by flood, blackening — then out."

"Routine procedure," the chief surgeon says.

But Dr. Selzer concludes, "Whatever else may be said in abortion's defense, the vision of that other defense will not vanish from my eyes. What I saw I saw as that: a defense, a motion from, an effort away. And it has happened that you cannot reason with me now. For what can language do against the truth of what I saw."

Waiting

We hate to be doomsayers, but the thought of a state bureaucracy replacing the volunteer staff of The CAP Book (photo listing of hard to place children) does not exactly send shivers of hope up our spines.

The book, assembled under the auspices of the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP), circulates photographs and backgrounds of hard-to-place children to 102 of 135 adoption agencies in the state and to 20 other states. It has been operating with a volunteer staff, headed by Margaret Dawson, with a budget of from \$12,000 to \$32,000.

The CAP Book has had proven results. It also has supplied this newspaper with the information for its series, The Children Who Wait.

Now the state is assuming the work in a new agency to be housed in the World Trade Center. We hope that this does not mean increased state expenditures, the aloofness of bureaucracy, and, most important of all, that such children will have to wait even longer.

Opinion

Bishop Article 'Refreshing'

Editor:

As a teacher in the Catholic School System I would like to say what a refreshing message Bishop Hogan related in his Pastoral Perspective on Catholic Schools.

So often we stress the semantics of education and neglect the human and Christian qualities that are so much a part of the needs of today's youth.

I share Bishop Hogan's memories of the teachers who meant most to him, the enthusiastic, giving persons who took time to listen, and to care. It was teachers as these that led me to my profession.

Any dedicated teacher can tell you that the greatest satisfaction does not come with the pay check received for services rendered, but the greatest satisfaction is knowing that your example and zeal left an impact on your students. That satisfaction is exhibited in knowing that you touched them and they reacted and in the growth process that followed, not only was knowledge transmitted, but a genuine, humanistic and Christian quality of giving and sharing.

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How to End Inflation

Editor:

Our economic depression and unemployment have a simple solution in the Constitution of the United States. Why is it never applied or even suggested in the Congress, in the administration, or in the Church? Does it never occur to us that — aside from pocket coins — our nation has no money of its own; that it must borrow its money at usury from private interests which create it out of thin air? (The Federal Reserve requires only 1% reserve against time deposits. What else but thin air?)

This kind of money passes out of existence when notes are paid, and must be borrowed again and again ad infinitum. Do you know that the \$10 with which you purchase a bag of groceries had to first be borrowed at usury (even though you have already earned it honestly)? Check the foregoing with your banker. He, too, is disturbed by these matters.

Why this unprecedented

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Courier-Journal



stampede into the stock market if not to hedge against the equally unprecedented expansion of our money supply? — to pass its burden down to the lower income brackets which are already broke. But our problem is more than financial; it is spiritual. The money changers have returned to the temple with a vengeance. How much longer can the Church remain silent?

As for full employment, God alone knows the amount of work which must be done if our nation and indeed the entire world is to survive the crises of energy, food and pollution. None of these can ever be solved with counterfeit money.

Unemployment in our country is a blanket indictment of our independent money system; of our Congress which tolerates it; and of our educational system which teaches it.

We need no make-work programs; and we can well dispense with unemployment and welfare ripoffs. Our Constitution provides for honest money in the hands of every able-bodied citizen who is willing to work for it — money that cannot be ravaged by inflation. With well paid work available to all, it would be a man's free choice whether he worked or starved; and need be no one else's concern. Such money — and such money alone — can restore honest competition — pay a man what he is worth, and no more, whether a worker at the lowest grade of menial labor or top rated industrialist. We need them both.

Simple compliance with the Constitution would eliminate the need for a multiplicity of federal agencies established in a vain attempt to conduct honest government with counterfeit money. It would release the millions so employed for much needed productive employment. Honest money alone can eliminate unemployment, provide equitable distribution of wealth, and modest luxury for all. And last but not least it would eliminate that portion of our galloping crime wave caused by dire need — the rest could then be reduced to a minimum by common sense law enforcement.

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Value Seen In Seminary

Editor:

These are turbulent times. Dynamic forces across the world are shattering many of our basic values and challenging many of our institutions and fundamental assumptions. The Church, in this time, has the extraordinary potential for helping to shape the future of both individual and social relationships.

In that context, effective ministry demands a rare combination of faith and learning. Preparation for effective ministry requires the

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strongest possible educational program and looks to serious inquiry in an atmosphere of faith and dedication.

Saint Bernard's Seminary aims to prepare students towards that kind of ministry. The student builds on the past; lives in the present, yet prepares for the future. The heritage of the faith is the springboard into the future.

Throughout the history of Saint Bernard's many distinguished priests, religious and laity have been examples of the seminary's aim. That aim is to produce ideal graduates: graduates of solid personal and social responsibility, well instructed and firm in the teachings of the faith; aware of the need for continuing study and already basically trained to deal creatively with the various problems that today's world presents.

The fostering of lay involvement has become a priority in the life of the post-Vatican II era. The Alumni Association has a number of lay members who are active Christians in their community and loyal graduates of Saint Bernard's.

As the work of ministry in our time grows more demanding and diverse, Saint Bernard's Seminary continues to prepare candidates who are capable of giving creative leadership. The seminary is dedicated to this as its primary objective.

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Disappointment Discounted

Editor:

How can Elizabeth McBride (Courier-Journal 2/11/76) state her family's "disappointment in the apparent lack of the clergy" present at the Right-to-Life March downtown? How could she possibly know how many priests there were in the crowd? Perhaps she doesn't know that a Roman collar does not a priest make.

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Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.