



"NICE TRY, MR. MULHOLLAND!"

Editorial

Albany Bumpers

Whether by design or because of fumbling bureaucracy, the State Assembly has managed to "defeat" a bill that would require parental consent before doctors could perform abortions on women under 18.

The Senate had already passed the measure and observers felt that the Assembly would follow suit when it came to the floor. Instead the Assembly Codes Committee aborted the bill by making changes which will require re-printing, thus delaying it long enough that it probably won't make it to the floor this session.

The Codes Committee cannot kill a bill already passed by another committee (Health, in this case) but apparently members of the Codes Committee have found a way to accomplish virtually the same thing. The scenario raises questions. First of all, Herbert J. Miller of Queens, as chairman of the Health Committee, referred the bill to Codes, which, it is said, is proper procedure because penalties are involved in the measure. Fine. But then the same Miller introduced the amendment in codes (removing penalties) which has stalled the bill.

The State Catholic Committee has urged passage of this bill as a "family support" bill, which is putting it very mildly. We urge all our readers who feel that it is proper for parents to counsel their daughters under 18 before they have abortions to write their assembly representatives at the Legislative Office Building, Albany, N.Y. 12224. The matter is urgent; the Assembly will be adjourning, probably in June.

One more point should be made in regard to this bill. News accounts unwittingly refer to "right to life pressure" as coercing assemblymen into voting for the bill. We resent the implication, whether made purposely or not, that the right to life movement is some dark, sinister force wielding improper power. Many more citizens, both in and out of official Right to Life circles, support this bill for obvious reasons. It should not be obscured by prejudiced generalizations.

Services Needed

Kudos to Msgr. Charles Fahey, executive vice president of Catholic Charities in neighboring Syracuse, for his recent strong plea in behalf of the nation's aging. Msgr. Fahey, writing in a journal of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, called on experts in health and social services to promote recognition of the elderly's ability to begin a "new phase" of life after 65.

That people become "old" at 65 is a "legal fiction" which society uses for its own convenience rather than for the well-being of the individual, Msgr. Fahey points out.

We agree. Society has overbought the premise that "youth must be served." It has forgotten that wisdom, experience and the philosophical benefits of having lived through it all must not be discarded. Most older persons are not asking to "be served" rather they look for the opportunity to serve.

Opinion

CAP BOOK Sends Thanks

Editor:

THE CAP BOOK, Inc. would like to extend our deep appreciation to the Courier-Journal for its service to the waiting children. As we conclude the feature on The Children Who Wait which has been presented weekly since August 1975, we would like to share with you some of the results.

Thirty-seven waiting children have been featured. Seven of these children have been placed in permanent adoptive homes, with another five children in the process of being placed. We are aware of several families who have begun to work with local agencies toward adoption. Positive responses from both the lay and religious communities have been received indicating their awareness of the needs of the waiting children through the series.

The Courier-Journal is to be commended highly for its genuine concern and commitment to portraying the children with much sensitivity to their particular needs. Not only has the community become aware of the children and the changing adoption scene, the children themselves, have had the opportunity to participate in helping to find homes.

Most of the children who have been listed in THE CAP BOOK are now featured in the newly created New York State Adoption Service Books. These books and other picture listings from Illinois, Massachusetts, and Indiana are available to the public at THE CAP BOOK Office. THE CAP BOOK hopes to obtain private funding to continue its service to the waiting children through a nationwide picture listing service. There remains much work to be done. It is estimated that over 100,000 children in the United States remain unnecessarily in foster care who are in dire need of adoption planning.

We look forward to the possibility of working cooperatively with the Courier-Journal again in the future, for it is only through the generous contribution of the media that the public can become acquainted with and respond to the needs of The Children Who Wait.

Thank you all and best wishes.

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Close Window For a While

Editor:

The answers given in the May 19 edition "The Open Window" were, to say the least, unsatisfactory. I refer especially to the second part of the second question. The "Answer Man" knows (or he should) that our Holy Father gave the only answer: the Vicar of Christ could give regarding artificial birth control, just because the world expected him to give the worldly and "demonic" answer, so-called Catholics were "turned off."

If the truth were known, they would realize the light was a long time out! Our Holy Father does not have to answer to anyone (only Almighty God) about any statement regarding His flock's faith and morals. If the good Sisters taught me correctly, 10 these many years ago, we have absolutely nothing to worry about on that score as Christ's visible head has someone far wiser than we, in the driver's seat, so to speak!

One could wonder, I suppose, why I get my "dander up" about a seemingly insignificant detail such as this. His Holiness and his office, are attacked every day in a much more blatant and obvious manner. God love him, he's an old, tired priest, DOING HIS GOD-GIVEN DUTY and I am tired of anyone who claims to be a Catholic besmirch his dignity in any style.

Someone, please, shut the windows for a little while at least. Too much pollution has entered His house and it's long overdue for Spring cleaning!

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Arena to Help Geneva RTL

Editor:

John Arena is coming! On June 10, 1976, a Thursday evening, he will be at St. Francis de Sales Hall, Geneva. He has devoted amazing time and energy to the advancement of Right to Life in New York State, from leading new and young groups through the stages of growth, to reaching countless people with pro-life messages by radio and TV. He is the head of Organization and Development for State Right to Life.

If your area, as ours, has an existing RTL group in need of revitalization and help in becoming more effective, please join us. Or, if you would be interested in how to begin this worthy endeavor, our meeting is for you, also.

If abortion seems to be a lost cause or not your concern, let me recall the words of Edmund Burke, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

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Some 'Rich Soil' in CCD

Editor:

If CCD "looks like a waste of time, money, and energy," to quote Father Greeley, perhaps we Christians should just ignore spreading the Gospel of Christ except where we are fairly confident it will fall on rich soil. The ground in a CCD program is often rocky and overtopped with thorns. For a child, going to a CCD class on Saturday or after school is not always appealing and often there is little spiritual reinforcement at home. It is truly a challenge to the conscientious CCD teacher.

But are we to wish the return of the parochial education of the first half of this century when children were brainwashed with guilt? It was not guilt about ignoring your neighbor, not guilt about ignoring

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your Protestant and Jewish neighbors because of their beliefs, (indeed, during World War II some "good sisters" told us that the Jews were being persecuted because of what they did to Christ, as if it were their just due) and not guilty about refusing to share what you have with those who were less fortunate. Oh, no! We were made to feel guilty and ashamed because we did not have a hat on in church, because we went to Communion after accidentally swallowing a bit of water while brushing our teeth, and because we dared to peek into a "Protestant" Bible!

Shaking the shackles of parochialism of the '40s takes great spiritual fortitude. Many have left the Church because their consciences are still consciences of the past.

Let us thank God that the parochial schools now teach the Catholic children to be Christians! We should certainly keep the Catholic schools we have now, but why deny the rest of the Catholic children an opportunity to learn about Christ?

Let us open the Bible, read the words of Christ, listen to what He is telling us. Pray each day that Christ will guide us through the Holy Spirit to love God and to love one another. And let us spread the words of Christ to all, not just the few youngsters whose parents choose parochial education.

Surely Christ will see to it that some of the seeds fall upon rich soil. There REALLY is such soil out there in CCD land!!

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'Hail Mary' Praised

Editor:

I cannot say amen to Father Ehmann's allegation that gatherings not saying the Hail Mary after the Lord's Prayer is a sign of "purification" in the Church; further it's an anomaly to correlate this to Vatican II. In its Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Vatican Council II exhorts, "Let the entire body of the faithful pour forth insistent supplications to the mother of God and the mother of men." Significantly, Vatican Council II devoted nearly a quarter of the monumental and most inspiring Dogmatic Constitution on the Church to the Blessed Virgin Mary (the whole of Chapter 8).

Pope Paul VI in concluding his beautiful exhortation on "Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary" writes, "The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is an intrinsic element of Christian worship."

Cued by tradition and Vatican Council II, the American bishops recent pastoral urged Catholics to pray the rosary and the angelus (both Hail Mary prayers) as well as wearing the scapular and miraculous medal.

Mother Theresa of India told Joey Lomangino, the Blessed Mother's blind apostle on his just completed Indian tour, "Mary has brought joy to the world, you do what you can to bring joy to Mary."

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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.