

A Vanishing Breed... by Design?

Kansas City, Mo. (RNS) — More than 25 per cent of all American Indian women have undergone sterilization, usually under duress and without any understanding of the consequences of the operation, sharply curtailing the procreative potential of Indian peoples in the U.S., according to a report in the National Catholic Reporter.

The report also charged that even when an Indian child is born, its parents "stand a one-in-four chance that they will lose their child" to a foster home, adoptive parents or institutions on the assumption

that Indian children are better off in non-Indian homes.

In the first of a seven-part series by Gail Marksjarvis appearing in the May 27 issue, it was revealed that a Los Angeles doctor, Connie Uri, a Choctaw and Cherokee Indian, found after a lengthy study that more than one quarter of all American Indian women have been sterilized, leaving only 100,000 women of childbearing age still capable of having children.

Dr. Uri also found that a four-year study by the U.S. Government Accounting

Office (GAO) indicated that between 1973 and 1976, some 3,400 Indian women were sterilized. Among them were 36 women under 21 who were sterilized despite a court-ordered moratorium on such operations.

"I began accusing the government of genocide" and insisted on a congressional investigation, she stated. Sen. James Aborezek (D, S-D) requested a study of the U.S. Indian Health Service sterilization policies and "unfortunately the study proved I was right," Dr. Uri said.

The GAO study released last November did not indicate that Indian women were forced to receive sterilizations but revealed that Indian women believed they had to agree to the operations. In violation of federal regulations, the consent forms most widely used did not inform the

women they could refuse the operation, the NCR report said.

While GAO confined its probe to IHS records, Dr. Uri and a group of Indian women conducted their own investigation and held interviews with numerous women who have been sterilized. Their investigation, coupled with the GAO report, has led them to believe that the sterilizations are prompted by "warped thinking of doctors, who think the solution to poverty is not to allow people to be born."

Dr. Uri said doctors have assumed "a God-like authority and think they are helping women by sterilizing them." She added that few Indian women ask to be sterilized and most are coerced into it because they are afraid their children will be taken away if they refuse

or because they believe welfare benefits will be taken away.

According to the Marksjarvis report, most Indians are sterilized at a

time when they are giving birth and their consent is received when they are heavily sedated. In addition, most Indian women fail to realize the permanent effects of the operation.

Legislators Seek Ban On Child Pornography

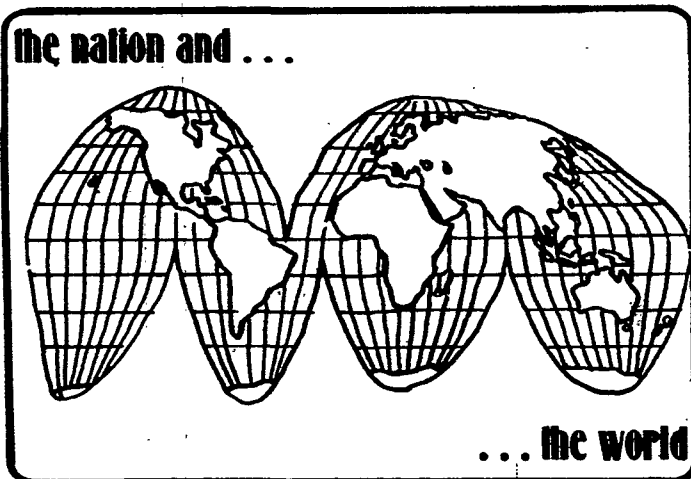
Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Bills to prevent child pornography have been introduced in both houses of the U.S. Congress and in 23 state legislatures. Investigations have been launched in several cities and three arrests have been made in Chicago.

A bill sponsored by more than a quarter of the members of the House of Representatives calls for a maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment and/or a \$50,000 fine for producing pornography involving children or knowingly permitting a child under 16 to be photographed in sexual acts, real or simulated. A sentence of 15 years and/or a \$25,000 fine could be imposed for selling or shipping such material.

Two similar measures have been introduced in the Senate, sponsored by 20 senators.

The arrests in Chicago followed reports by The Chicago Tribune that a local ring was making and selling pornographic films featuring boys and adults, was publishing a news letter listing available boys and was arranging for wealthy men to obtain boys as traveling companions. The Tribune said the Chicago group had links in New York, Los Angeles, Dallas and New Orleans.

A special Cook County grand jury has been called, and a U.S. attorney is conducting an investigation.



The Roman Catholic bishops of El Salvador have accused the military government of the small, predominantly Catholic Central American republic of "persecution of the Church" in the name of anti-Communism. The statement by the country's seven bishops, led by Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, came 10 days after a right-wing group called the White Warriors Union killed a 33-year-old Catholic priest, Father Navarro Olveido, at his parish house in retaliation for the slaying of El Salvador Foreign Minister Mauricio Borronovo by a leftist guerrilla group.

Two U.S. Senators are urging their colleagues to retain the ban on the use of federal funds for abortions. Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R, Pa.) and Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D, Mo.) have addressed their comments to the Senate through a letter to Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D, Wash.), chairman of the Senate Labor-HEW Appropriations Subcommittee, which is expected to consider such a bill in the near future. "There is a strong feeling among our constituents opposed to abortions," the Senators wrote, "that they do not want their tax dollars used for what they strongly believe is the killing of innocent human beings. We respect that belief."

Pope Paul has urged Roman Catholic bishops in Scandinavian countries to form ties of "sincere friendship in the name of our one Savior and Lord Jesus Christ" with the Lutherans in their countries. But the pontiff warned the bishops against adopting "an ambiguous ecumenism which renounces its own original context and is passively ready to let itself be absorbed." The Pope addressed the members of the Scandinavian Catholic Bishops' Conference, who were in Rome for their regular "ad limina" visit.

An unwed mother in Pontiac, Mich. who used heroin during her pregnancy has been charged with the "child abuse" of her 7-week-old baby, born as a heroin addict. Probate Judge John J. O'Brien of Oakland County said "this is a precedent-setting case. It raises questions about the rights of the mother, the state and the unborn child—something like the abortion issue."



Dear Father Hohman,

My daughter is going to be married soon, and for one reason or another does not particularly wish to be married in our parish church. She would prefer to go to another parish not far away. We don't really know how to go about this and we just wondered if it was permitted and under what circumstances. It could be a rather tacky situation with our pastor whom we have known for quite some time. What is the rule on this matter and what do you think would be the best course of procedure?

Signed, C.H.

Dear C.H.,

It is a general rule that the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, First Eucharist and Matrimony are received in the parish where one lives. However, as you must be well aware, there are numerous exceptions to the rule. A priest does have the jurisdiction to marry someone within the diocese wherever the marriage may take place, but it is a matter of courtesy and diocesan rule that

permission be obtained from the pastor of the parish where the person lives. So it would be advisable to have your daughter go to the pastor and explain to him as best she can why she wishes to be married elsewhere. I realize that could be a little tacky if the reason is that she doesn't particularly care about the way that her own pastor celebrates.

It is also the obligation of the pastor of the other parish where she wishes to be married to investigate why she is there instead of in her home parish. Sometimes young couples try to avoid problems, such as being required to take intensive Pre-Cana for minors, or some such thing that would be required in their home parish and, sadly enough, not in the parish to which they were going. In those particular matters, I think it is important that priests exhibit solidarity with one another in requiring the same things for the same reasons, and that there not be shopping around for someone who is very loose about regulations as opposed to someone who wants to observe them carefully.

On the other hand, I realize that there are different strokes for different folks, that some young people like a certain style of celebration rather than another. Priests should not be over jealous of their domains, but should recognize this difference in taste and go along with young couples unless there are serious reasons for not going along.

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'Make Today Count' Founder to Speak

Orville Kelly, a cancer patient and the founder of Make Today Count, will return to Rochester for a seminar "Emotional Problems of the Seriously Ill." The seminar begins at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, June 4, at the Rochester Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Ave.

The program will provide a "forum for cancer patients, persons with chronic illnesses, their families and health professionals to informally discuss mutual concerns," according to a Monroe County Cancer and Leukemia Association (CCLA) release.

Mr. Kelly formally launched Rochester's Make Today Count Program in 1975.

Accompanying Kelly will be singer Deanna Edwards, a music therapist with "a great deal of experience with acutely ill hospital patients."

The seminar is sponsored

SIDS GOLF

The Genesee Valley Chapter of the National SIDS Foundation is arranging a charity golf tournament for June 13 at Marvin's Country Club in Macedon. Proceeds will go to a local program of research into the causes of the so-called sudden infant death syndrome. Tournament details may be obtained by calling 654-9035 or Marvin's Pro Shop, 223-2171.

Archbishop Lefebvre, a foe of Vatican II reforms, has set up a priory in the town of Onex, a suburb of Geneva, in open defiance of Bishop Mamie's explicit injunction.

Noting that the archbishop has been under Vatican suspension since June 1976, and that consequently "he has no right to exercise his priestly or episcopal powers," Bishop Mamie said the archbishop's "institution of the priory" constituted "an authentic gesture of a break."

By taking part in the ceremony inaugurating the priory, the bishop warned Catholics in his diocese, "you will be making yourselves the accomplices to a challenge and taking part in the birth of a counter-Church."

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