

Ellen McCormack:

'Abortion Is a Disqualifying Issue'

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Hornell—Those who say that abortion is not a disqualifying election issue are saying that "the killing of millions is not a deciding factor," Ellen McCormack told the Hornell Area Right to Life group here May 18.

"Abortion is a disqualifying issue," she asserted. If a candidate were found guilty of embezzlement, Mrs. McCormack noted, most voters would consider that disqualifying, even though the candidate's voting record was good. If embezzlement is disqualifying, support of abortion must be, she explained.

Mrs. McCormack, a Democratic candidate for the 1976 presidential nomination on a right-to-life platform, spoke at the third annual Right to Life banquet. Her appearance was arranged by Father Benedict Riccardo, OFM, a Hornell native who is associate pastor of Mrs. McCormack's Merrick, Long Island, parish.

Right to life activities are "an attempt to re-establish in our country" the inalienable right "to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for all, including the unborn, Mrs. McCormack told the 50 persons attending the dinner.

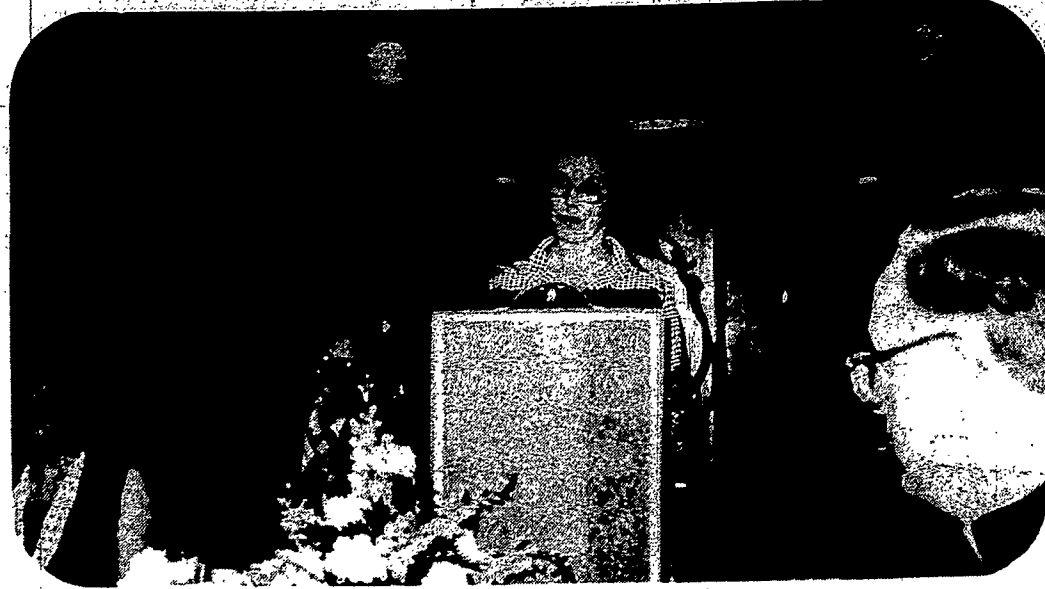
Many pro-abortionists admit that "abortion takes a human life," Mrs. McCormack said. She quoted from an editorial in the magazine "California Medicine," which stated

that "life begins at conception," and explained to doctors that abortion was part of a new ethic. The editorial noted that the old ethic placed equal value on all life, Mrs. McCormack reported, and the new "places relative value" on life. "Once our society accepts this principle, where are we going to stop?" Mrs. McCormack asked.

Those in favor of abortion measure the importance of a life by its history, she noted; an unborn child has no history and therefore no importance. Right to life advocates look at the potential of the child, she said. Only one thing is needed for the unborn to become fully human, she emphasized: "time."

Judicial decisions are the problem, Mrs. McCormack stated. The Jan. 23, 1973 Supreme Court decision approving abortion on demand was the first, she noted. Then on July 1, 1976, the court decided that it was unconstitutional to require physicians to care for an aborted fetus. She also noted the effects of court decisions requiring government payment for abortions, denying control by the father in an abortion decision, and eliminating parental control. Abortions can be performed on minors, Mrs. McCormack said, without the knowledge of the parents, although they "are responsible for the medical and financial results" of the abortion.

The Supreme Court is removed from public opinion by the law, she noted, as it was seen as a



Photos by Martin Toombs

Ellen McCormack speaks in Hornell.

"fact finding body," not charged with making value judgements, which are the prerogative of elected officials. But despite that, the court "has increasingly become a court of value judgement," Mrs. McCormack said, even while many assume it hasn't changed. Some legal authorities have conceded that the change has taken place, she noted. "We must somehow check the power of the Supreme Court," she emphasized.

Referring to the drive for a constitutional amendment, she noted that only five or six members of Congress would vote for or against such an amendment without regard to the politics involved. The battle is with the more than 500 "pragmatic politicians" who will consider the political implications of such a vote, she said. They will work to

stop a bill in order to prevent having to vote and alienate a portion of their constituency. As long as there is no vote, Mrs. McCormack pointed out, they can claim sympathy with both sides. Those pragmatic legislators "must become convinced that it is more important to have a vote than not to have one," she noted.

The drive for a Constitutional Convention on a right to life amendment "is a worthwhile strategy," she said, as it gives the federal legislators something to think about, while the work for a convention continues on a state level. Eight states have requested a convention to date; 35 are needed. Currently "we don't have the votes" in Congress, she noted, and the drive for a convention provides a second course of action.

Right to Life groups should continue to concentrate on abortion, she said, because it is the most important of the life issues, and "the most effective lobbies are those that concentrate on one issue."

"Politics is cold-blooded and pragmatic," she noted, but "we must become involved." As for the pro-abortion candidates elected to office, "we did it," she pointed out, and "it's gotta be us—we must be the active ones" in fighting abortion, not looking to others and asking why they don't do more.

At the conclusion of her talk, Mrs. McCormack was presented with the Zonta Award by the Hornell chapter of the Zonta Club, recognizing her as an "Outstanding Woman." The presentation was made by Mrs. Elizabeth Hornbeck.

Columnist Addresses Right to Life Group

Seneca Falls—The Gould Hotel dining room here was filled to capacity Sunday, May 23 as Nancy Murphy addressed the Seneca Falls-Waterloo Right to Life group at a communion breakfast.

Ms. Murphy presented not only facts relevant to the Respect for Life issue, but gave a lesson in research.

A danger, she said, is one of control. One needs only to lose responsibility to lose control.

Zeroing in on three organizations, UNICEF, the World Hunger Organization and Planned Parenthood, she said these programs were addressed to the suffering of the world. However, they can develop in directions not readily visible to the public.

She pointed to omissions in the image presented publicly by UNICEF. UNICEF originally dealt with only the preservation of life, but eased into abortion. Contraceptives were excluded initially to avoid unnecessary controversy, but in the later part of 1960 it began to support organizations which supplied contraceptives. By 1970, it supplied contraceptives to requesting nations. Family planning is now an integral part of all health services, Ms. Murphy said.

Ms. Murphy indicated that she was not making a judgement on the use of contraceptives. The issue is one of destruction, use of methods not necessarily safe, and control, she said.

Murphy, a columnist for the Courier-Journal, indicated her approach is to send for in-house bulletins which will reveal policy direction not apparent to the public. WHO, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, issues the bulletin "Expanded Program in Research Training in Human Reproduction" which details methods of "control" of population. UNICEF funds go into support of WHO and research centers.

Planned Parenthood, she said, existed for couples who wished to avoid children or to space children. The image is still there. Once against abortion, Planned Parenthood took the lead in promotion of the new

humanistic philosophy, according to the speaker.

Ms. Murphy said she was not painting a pretty picture, but saw the use of contraceptives develop into the liberalized abortion law, abortion on demand, and abortion on teenagers without parental consent.

She encouraged organizations to read materials, follow through to determine directions of programs.

APPRECIATION NIGHT

Elmira Heights—The Catholic War Veterans Feshoh Macekar Ukrainian Catholic Post 1178 is sponsoring a Post-Auxiliary Appreciation Night Saturday, June 4 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Refreshments will be available, along with music and dancing; admission is \$.50. Proceeds from the event will be used for Post youth activities, including little league baseball, football, and girls and boys softball.

FIELD MASS

Elmira—Elmira Council 229 of the Knights of Columbus sponsored its annual Field Mass Memorial Day in St. Peter and Paul's Cemetery at the Priests Plot. The Mass marked the 80th anniversary of the council, and was concelebrated by Bishop John E. McCafferty, Father Gerald O'Connor and Father Henry Adamski.

Talent Show Set June 3

Horseheads—As part of its parish festival, St. Mary Our Mother is staging a talent show Friday, June 3. Acts to be presented promise to be many and varied, as the Festival Entertainment Committee has issued a call for "singing dogs, tap dancing grandmothers, and people who sing 'La Boheme' in gorilla costumes. If you have real talent or just a zany, creative sense of humor, your spotlight awaits you at the St. Mary Our Mother Parish Festival. The program will be modeled after TV's popular 'Gong Show,' except that acts will not be gonged. (Exceptionally bad acts may be tarred and feathered, however.) Prizes will be awarded for both talent and creativity."

Organizers of the event are Ray Defendorf and Don Eaton.

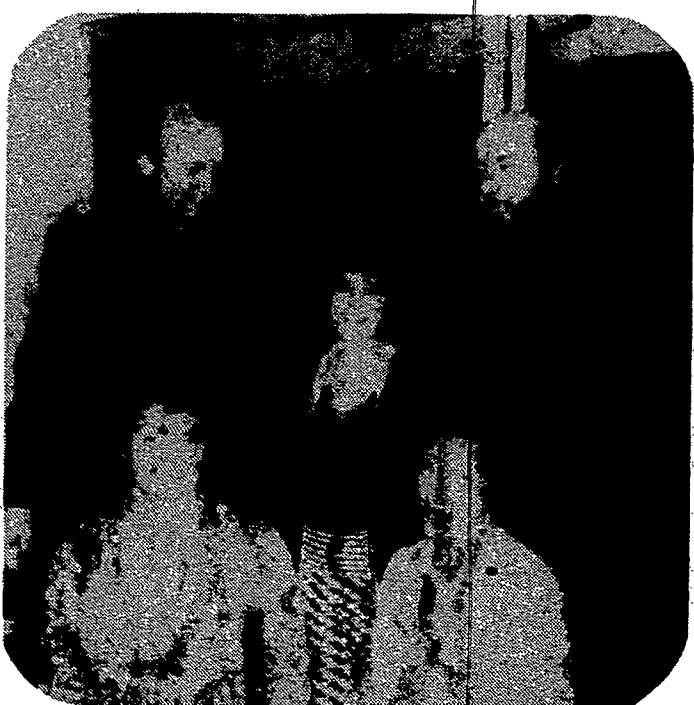
DAY CANCELED

Elmira—Religious Education Day, originally scheduled for the area on June 6 has been canceled. The Rochester Day, Monday, June 7, however, will welcome participants from the Southern Tier at Mercy High School. Registration will be taken until June 2 by the Department of Religious Education, (716) 328-3210

DAY CAMP

Camp Silver Birch, the day camp run by the Sisters of Mercy, is now accepting registrations for its summer program. Information and registration forms are available through Sister Sheila Stevenson or Sister Mary Ann Kosakoski, Queen of Peace Convent, 601 Edgewood Ave. 14618.

SOUTHERN TIER
AUBURN-GENEVA



Officers Thanked

The Rosary Altar Society at St. Mary's, Canandaigua thanked their outgoing officers "for the splendid job they did" and installed new officers for the coming year recently at their annual banquet at Notre Dame Retreat House. Pictured above are, standing from left Father David Gaesser, associate pastor and the society's moderator, Mrs. Virginia Saur, hospitality chairperson, and Father Ronald Gaesser, pastor of St. Joseph's, Cayuga and guest speaker. Seated from left are retiring president Mrs. Martha Meise and new president Mrs. Joanne Veronica.

PLEASE HELP

See Page 20

A. W. BEILBY & SON
Funeral Home
139 Walnut St.
Dial 936-9121
Corning, N.Y.

M. L. ALLEN & SON
Corning, N.Y.
Quality Furniture
62 Bridge St.
Phone 936-8431