

# Contraceptives Decision: May Affect Other States, Draws Criticism

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the decision of a lower court which declared unconstitutional a state law making it a crime to sell or distribute contraceptives to anyone under age 16.

In a seven-to-two decision, the justices also upheld the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in ruling unconstitutional the New York State education law which prohibits distribution of contraceptives to persons over 16 by anyone other than a licensed pharmacist.

A third part of the state law proscribing anyone, including licensed pharmacists, from advertising or

displaying contraceptives, was also declared unconstitutional by the lower court, and its decision was affirmed by the High Court.

The Court's decision, observers said, could nullify laws in a number of other states. According to an attorney for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, 13 states restrict advertising and display of non-prescription contraceptives. At least 14 states also place restrictions on who may sell non-prescription contraceptives.

In related action, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York charges that the U.S. Supreme Court decision has undercut the role of parents and encouraged "direct invitations" to teenagers to become involved in promiscuity.

The Catholic see issued the following statement on the court's action:

"The Archdiocese of New York deeply regrets the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the sale of contraceptives to minors."

"Once more, the court has limited the right and ability of parents to guide their minor children in decisions of morality, personal life and health. The decision also encourages direct invitations to teenagers to promiscuity which no decent person in this country wants."

"We also hope this decision is not one more example of the Supreme Court's usurping the right of legislators to pass laws that reflect the will of the people."



### Pope and Future Pope?

A 1972 photo captures Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Giovanni Benelli, rumored in the Vatican to now be in a strong position for election to the papacy. On June 2, Pope Paul named Archbishop Benelli Archbishop of Florence and at the same time announced his elevation to the cardinalate. The former deputy secretary of state, Archbishop Benelli is 56 years old.

## Human Rights Week

The National Council of Catholic Laity (NCCL) will sponsor a nationwide "Human Rights and Justice Week" from October 16-22 in an effort to increase public awareness of the injustices and violations to human rights at home and abroad, according to an NCCL news release.

Using recent U.S. Bishops' statements on human rights as guidelines, the observance will include educational programs at various school and adult levels, a special Liturgy on Human Rights and many other features. The week of October 16-22 was chosen because it precedes United Nations Week.


Additional information may be obtained from Ferd Niehaus, NCCL Global Affairs Chairman, 5664 Midforest Lane, Cincinnati, Oh. 45238, (513)421-6262.

## M.D. to Speak On Laetrile

James C. Arseneau, M.D., head of the medical oncology unit at Rochester General Hospital, will address the Monroe County Chapter of Make Today Count on "Laetrile - A Cancer Specialist's Point of View," Tuesday, June 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Monroe Developmental Center, 620 Westphal Rd.

Dr. Arseneau specializes in treating cancer with drugs and will speak about some of the experiences he has had with patients who have taken laetrile, a drug which has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. All are welcome.

**Life, Liberty and Law**



**Nancy Murphy**

The name of the gentleman who wrote the letter will not be divulged. As a member of Planned Parenthood's Business Advisory Board, he wrote on behalf of the PP campaign. It was a form letter.

"If I were to tell you about a management group that helped save the City of New York \$17,000,000 you'd want to know more. This organization has cut the need for welfare, and (helped) stem the need to build new costly public schools. These gains are dramatic. With a decrease of 34,000 births in New York City in just over two years, this means \$17,000,000 less must go for subsidized maternal care. Public schools, until recently horribly overcrowded and bursting at the cornerstones, now have manageable teachable enrollments and 112,000 vacant school desks! For the first time, there is no need for huge capital expenditures on costly school buildings. The organization is Planned Parenthood.

"(However) in New York City alone, there are 140,000

sexually active teenagers who remain without contraceptive services. Nationally, over 2,000 unwanted children are born each day. Private organizations like Planned Parenthood must continue to prevent unwanted births which squander human potential, needlessly mire the marketplace, and imperil the economy." End quote.

It is inconceivable to me how Catholics, rededicated since the Second Vatican Council to the service of those among us who are 'unwanted' and starving in soul and body, can ever support Planned Parenthood in any measure. Yet each year, each Spring, Catholics do support this "management group" by simply underestimating (or refusing to acknowledge) PP's leadership in the human control marketplace. Many of these Catholics rely on local PP offices for educational materials and lectures, while at the same time ignoring Catholic sources and Catholic materials. Such reliance is, in my considered judgement, an act of carelessness with the moral-intellectual fiber of our youth.

At no point in the history of the Church has she ever referred to children as "unwanted." Nor does she equate birth with squandered humanity. She has never waxed ecstatic over 112,000 vacant school desks in a single school system. She has never resented money spent to build schools. And she does not include abortion-related

declining birthrates in her miracles.

I suggest to Catholic parents that we look very closely at PP. I suggest we reveal to our youth and to our teachers the full, unvarnished truths about PP's activities, their methods, their power and their membership.

Next: Catholic educational sources.

## CFC Elects Officers

The Catholic Family Center of the Diocese of Rochester, at their recent annual meeting, welcomed their new board members and thanked outgoing members for their services. New members are: Mrs. Martha Terrance, Mrs. Pilar Vilar, Mrs. Nathaniel Hurst and Arthur Mauer. Outgoing members are Miss Marion C. Leaty, Mrs. Clara French and Kenneth J. Mangan.

Members elected for a second term were: Mrs. Barbara Stokes, Robert J. Betterton and Anthony J. Mordaci. This year's officers will be: Harry P. Messina, Jr., president; Mrs. Patricia Geraci, vice-president; and Edward J. Lynd, secretary.

### PORN FREE

In a documentary film to be aired at 9 p.m. July 6 by WXXI-TV, Portable Channel takes a look at Rochester's "cultural overlay district" in the Eastman Theatre and School of Music area. The show is entitled Porn Free: Where Does the Buck Stop? It includes interviews on questions of morality, economics, first amendment rights and land use.


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For Further Information:  
Mr. John Dealy, 442-1770  
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