

# Abortion Costs Ruling Praised and Deplored

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions relieving states from paying the costs of abortion for indigent women varied in predictable ways, from encouragement to discouragement, among groups contacted here for comment.

Dr. Mildred F. Jefferson of Boston, who is in her third term as president of the National Right To Life Committee, called the decision "a victory for the poor people of this country."

"Our opponents insist that they want federal funds for abortion so that poor women will have the same access to abortion that rich women have. That is a cruel trick," the black physician said. "They are using the money intended to help the poor for the purpose of getting rid of the poor and making them think that they are receiving a benefit."

The Court's decision is "encouraging also," Dr. Jefferson continued, "because it indicates that the judiciary must respect the constitutional authority of the Congress to appropriate federal funds. The decision on government funding should clear up the constitutional issues in some minds and enable Sen. (Edward) Brooke (R-Mass.), Sen. (Edward) Kennedy (D-Mass.) and others to vote for the Health, Education and Welfare appropriations bill with the restrictive language that prohibits the use of

federal funds to pay for abortion."

Rabbi Richard Sternberger, chairman of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, noted that "in Jewish/Christian tradition, law has always been tempered by love and compassion."

"The effect of this decision," he said, "is to deny to poor women the right established by this very Court in 1973 to follow their own consciences when making a decision regarding an abortion. We're shocked that the Court, whose sacred responsibility is to uphold the Bill of Rights, denies equal protection to poor women."

John Mackey, director of the Washington Office of the Ad Hoc Committee in Defense of Life, Inc., a non-sectarian organization, disagreed with Rabbi Sternberger's comment on equal protection.

"The argument that those who oppose the Hyde Amendment (to the labor-HEW appropriations bill prohibiting use of federal funds for abortion) as being in violation of the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution has been answered by the Supreme Court's decision," he said.

"The idea that the American taxpayers do not have to underwrite the 1973 Supreme Court abortion-on-demand decisions is quite clear now," Mr. Mackey concluded.

Dr. Harold O.J. (Joe) Brown, chairman of the Christian Action Council, a mainly protestant anti-abortion group, said that "although the Supreme Court's decisions do not change the legalized abortion situation in our country which is unparalleled in the modern world, they do at least relieve Americans of being forced to pay for what is an odious crime."

Ruth Segal, director of field service for the National Abortion Rights League, said, "I see it as a real step backwards from the Supreme Court decision of 1973 which made the decision concerning abortion between the woman and her doctor. This will make it a great deal more difficult for a poor woman to obtain an abortion now."

Msgr. James McHugh, director of the U.S. bishops Committee for Pro-Life Activities, said the court ruling was "to the advantage of the family unit" and respected "the dignity of the poor, inasmuch as it provides assistance to poor women who otherwise might experience pressures to obtain abortions."

"These decisions," he added, "should be a source of encouragement to those hospital and health care workers who have resisted becoming involved in providing abortion services against their ethical and moral convictions."



## Bomber Demonstrators Arrested

Police are shown dragging away one of the demonstrators during a protest staged June 20 in Washington. Twenty-two of the group were arrested for blocking the White House driveway during the demonstration sponsored by Clergy and Laity Concerned, held to protest possible construction of the B1 bomber. (RNS)

## Communion In-the-Hand Data Ready

St. Louis (RNS) — Instruction materials on Communion-in-the-hand, which is likely to be authorized soon by the Vatican for U.S. Roman Catholics, have been prepared by the National Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions.

A 12-page booklet explaining the background of the practice to priests, eucharistic ministers and other parish leaders, and a four-page leaflet which can

be distributed to parishioners will be available within three or four weeks, a spokesman said.

No exact date for official introduction of the practice has been set for U.S. dioceses, pending Vatican approval. The instruction material emphasizes the optional nature of the practice of receiving Communion in the hand, restates the doctrine of the Real Presence, and expresses concern for respect of the Holy Eucharist.



Father Robert Dalton, an Auburn native who is a member of the Glenmary Home Missioners, has been appointed full-time to Glenmary's education department. He will serve as associate director of Special Year (novitiate) and will also assist with the Glenmary theologate in Washington, D.C.

## CORPUS CHRISTI

Corpus Christi School will accept registrations throughout the Summer until all places are filled. The school has eight grades plus a full-day kindergarten. Further information can be obtained through 325-5850.

## U.S. Bishops Vote To Extend CHD Term

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — The nation's Catholic bishops, in a vote by mail, overwhelmingly approved the extension of the Campaign for Human Development (CHD) for a one-year period.

Although it was recommended by the bishops' ad hoc committee for the CHD that the extension be for five years, the bishops approved an amendment limiting the extension to one year. The limitation was requested by another bishops' committee studying national church collections.

The bishops termed the CHD "an effective manifestation of our Church's concern for and identification with poor people." Of the 162 heads of U.S. dioceses voting on the motion to extend the

CHD, 139 bishops voted for approval, 23 voted against the motion and two abstained.

The main motion which the bishops approved called for the CHD ad hoc committee to retain its present status "so as to reinforce the campaign's identity as a separate entity under the sponsorship of the bishops' conference."

The motion added that funds resulting from the CHD collection at Thanksgiving time will continue to be applied to the specific campaign works which were initiated in the original resolution establishing the CHD in 1969. These works include "education about poverty and justice, and the funding of self-help projects for poor and low income people."

## Greeley Attacks 'Modern Man'

Toronto (RNS) — Father Andrew Greeley, noted sociologist and columnist attacked the "modern man" syndrome which he said is popular with theologians today, declaring that "outside of university faculties, the national elite media and midtown New York, modern man does not exist."

He told some 225 participants in the annual convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America here that "if you are theologizing for modern man... you are theologizing for an empty church."

The priest (whose column appears weekly in the Courier-Journal) told the scholars that theologians must take the social sciences seriously, but when they use them they should follow their methods strictly. He also said he is baffled why some theologians turn to politics and social action as a substitute for theological reflection.

Father Greeley's address came during three days of theological discussion and reflection on Christology, spirituality, ethics philosophy and the sacraments.

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