

Classified

Ruling Rekindles Controversy

By RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

The U.S. Supreme Court, which in 1973 opened an ongoing and often bitter controversy by legalizing elective abortions, has again stirred up a political, social and religious hornets' nest by deciding that government need not fund abortions for the poor.

The rulings have produced considerable confusion and debate on the legal, political and moral implications of government regulation of abortion.

Among those directly embroiled in the current dispute over welfare abortions are President Carter, the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, various governors and state legislatures, the U.S. Attorney General and the Congress.

One of the early effects of the recent Supreme Court rulings on welfare abortions — affecting both state and federal law — has been to overshadow efforts by "pro-life" forces to influence Congressional approval of a human life amendment to the Constitution, which would in effect overturn the 1973 Supreme Court ruling.

Yet, voices in the pro-life circles claim the recent rulings will add impetus to the drive for an amendment that will protect unborn human life and establish the right to life as the first priority of society.

Another effect of the rulings has been the indication to advocates on both sides of the question that the High Court may be backtracking from its earlier, more liberal, position on abortion, and that states are retrieving their rights to regulate abortions.

Although the welfare abortion controversy is still far from resolved and the source of confusion to many, the High Court rulings did open the way for both the federal government and the states to make their own decisions on whether public funds may be used for abortions.

In less than two months since the Court's rulings, more than a dozen states have passed laws prohibiting abortion funding, and the U.S. House of Representatives voted to renew an amendment to a HEW and Labor Department appropriations bill, which cuts off Medicaid funds for abortions, except to save the life of the mother.

The Hyde Amendment, first passed by the Congress in 1976, was not implemented because a federal judge in Brooklyn, N.Y., issued an injunction against it. Following the recent Supreme Court rulings, the injunction was lifted.

In its June 20 decision, which held that states were not required to pay for welfare abortions, the High Court expressed sympathy for indigent women who desire abortions. But it pointed out that the Constitution "does not provide judicial remedies for every social and economic ill." The subsequent June 30 ruling, which held that the federal government could bar funding of abortions through Medicaid, placed a Court stamp of approval on the Hyde Amendment.

In an early reaction to the Court rulings, Dr. Mildred Jefferson of Boston, president of the National Right to Life Committee, called the decision on state funding "a victory for poor people of this country." She claimed government funds had been used for "getting rid of the poor and making them think they are receiving a benefit."

Rabbi Richard Sternberger, however, chairman of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, charged that the effect of the rulings was to "deny to poor women the right established by this very court regarding an abortion. We're shocked that the court denies equal protection to poor women."

A spokesman for the U.S. Catholic bishops, Msgr. James McHugh, welcomed the Supreme Court stance, noting that the rulings are to the advantage of the family unit and respect the dignity of the poor by removing pressures to obtain abortions. However, he stressed that a human life amendment to the Constitution is still needed to protect unborn human life and to abrogate the 1973 High Court ruling.

As more and more states moved to consider laws barring abortion funding, controversies between Catholic leaders and government officials broke out in two states, while in a third a governor's "pro-life" stand won Vatican Radio's explicit approval.

On the heels of religious wrangling over the Supreme Court rulings, President Carter jumped into the debate by voicing support for the Supreme Court ruling and stating that the decisions should be interpreted "very strictly." At the same time, the Carter Administration offered a plan to provide federal subsidies for the adoption of hard-to-place foster children, which was termed by HEW Secretary Joseph Califano "an alternative to abortion."



Carter said he did not believe either the states or the federal government should be required to finance abortion. Asked about the fairness of depriving poor women of abortions, he said "there are many things in life that are not fair, that wealthy people can afford and poor people cannot. But I don't believe the federal government should try to make these opportunities exactly equal, particularly when there is a moral factor involved."

Opposition to the Carter stand was hot and heavy. Even 40 top level members of his Administration expressed outrage over his stand, including Midge Costanza of Rochester, N.Y., special assistant to the President; Patricia Wald, an assistant Attorney General; Patricia Derian, a State Department coordinator for human rights, and Carol Foreman, an assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Rabbi Sternberger, speaking for 25 member bodies of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights ranging from the American Ethical Union to the United Presbyterian Church, described the President's stand as one "lacking compassion." He said the coalition believes "every woman should have the option of following her own religious convictions" on the matter of abortion.

The American Jewish Congress, in a telegram to President Carter, urged him "to examine your conscience and to have the courage to change your mind" on the abortion funding question. The Jewish agency called the President's position "inconsistent with the compassion you have demonstrated for victims of economic and racial injustice" and termed the government's denial of funds "a cruel act of discrimination against the weakest segment of society."

President Carter's position appeared to be politically sage. A New York Times-CBS poll showed that 55 percent of Americans opposed state funding of abortions for poor women. The poll has included a wide-ranging list of questions aimed at measuring public confidence in the President's administration.

HEW Secretary Califano ordered the federal funding of most abortions for poor women under Medicaid cut off. Shortly before that, U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell ruled that the federal law barring Medicaid abortions applies to victims of rape and incest and that federal funds may be used only when the life of the mother is endangered by pregnancy.

Concerned about the impact of the recent Court rulings on the overall abortion situation, spokespersons for pro-abortion "pro-choice" forces have expressed the fear that the trend toward liberalized abortion may be reversed.

Ruth Segal, director of the field services for the National Abortion Rights League, said the rulings were "a real step backwards from the Supreme Court decision of 1973" which made abortion available to all, rich and poor.

Dr. Jefferson happily agreed when she stated that the recent Court rulings restored to the states the right to regulate abortion that was "usurped" by the Supreme Court in 1973. She added her belief that state legislatures better reflect the people's will which, she claimed, is counter to abortion on demand, more so than either the Congress or the High Court.

CASSIDY PLUMBING HEATING
24 HR. EMERGENCY SERVICE
• Sewer Cleaning
• Water Heaters
• Complete Service & Installation
• Low Rates
• Licensed & Bonded
381-3136

RADIO-TV
SERVICING... TV-Stereo-Transistor: Foreign and U.S. Free estimates. "COMMERCIAL" 288-2371.
FREE ESTIMATES with this ad JG TV, 1280 N. Clinton. 338-7030. Bring in your set.

COLOR & BW repair specialists. Big savings on used TV sets. PRIMAR, 688 Portland Ave. 338-3064.

REAL ESTATE
Buying or Selling a Home
Call Joseph S. Vetromile
254-2590
Rochester Real Estate
461-5040

ROOFING
ROOFING — Emergency repairs, insurance claims, new roof, high quality materials. Gutters, chimneys. 28 years experience. Free estimates. Check our reputation. DINAPOLI Bros. 227-4635. Call Anytime. 225-7881.

ROOFING and SIDING
New, Repairs, Insurance Cases, Replace Missing Roofing, Shingles. Expert Applicator, Insured, Free Estimates
288-4747 or 328-2627

NEW ROOFS — REPAIRS —
Aluminum Gutters Insurance Claims
A. L. MacDONALD
328-4496

SEWING MACHINES
SEWING MACHINES Oiled and adjusted in your home, \$2.99. 544-8583.

SITUATION WANTED
CLEANING DONE well — \$5.00 an hr. (May need transportation) 342-7941.

SPECIAL MISCELLANEOUS
KRAZIEST FLEA MARKET in Town! Main and Goodman, Rochester. Sat. & Sun. 10-5. 288-9648.

MAPLEWOOD AREA: Girl to share spacious 2 bedroom apt. with same. Call 647-1053 or 546-8000 ext. 237.

STEREOS
WANTED: Quality used vintage Tube and Transistor Components, I.E. Marantz Model 9's, 7C, 8B, 2's, 5's and Dyna and Citation, Tube Components and McIntosh 240, 275's, C11, C20, C22's, C4's, C-8's and what have you. 461-3417, 271-8294.

TILE & CERAMIC
3-WALLS over tub, \$160. Regrouting, Repairs. Floors. Dan, 342-8067.
CERAMIC TILE MAN. New, repairs, regroups, shower-tub enclosures. Fully insured. 268-4156

BATHROOM REMODELING — Reliable, experienced, very reasonable. Free Estimates. Call DAVE, 621-3876.

COME VISIT OUR NEW **Ceramic Tile SHOW ROOM**
• Also QUARRY-SLATE-MARBLE
• VINETTE TILE DISPLAYS
• COMFORTABLE LOUNGE AREA
• 2 FIREPLACES
• ULTRA-MODERN TO FILL YOUR EVERY TILE NEED
• FREE DECORATING LITERATURE
• WHOLESALE-RETAIL
American TILE DISTRIBUTORS
Clean 212 WEBSTER AVE
288-1630
DAILY 9-5:30 — Sat. 9-1 • MASTER CHARGE

TRAVEL BUREAU
ABC's FROM Toronto to Miami or Tampa, from \$99.00; Los Angeles, from \$199.00; Barbados, from \$219.00; Las Vegas Special, 5-days, from \$229. (\$300. value, free vouchers) PREMIER CHARTERS, Americana Hotel Lobby, 70 State Street, 454-7320, 454-7340.

UPHOLSTERY
UPHOLSTERING DICK Kilton's Recovery Room. Free estimates. 286-7373.

WANTED TO BUY
ANTIQUES, entire or partial contents of old homes, attic accumulations. Marie Wallner 663-5573, 663-0288.
PRIVATE Coin collector will buy gold & silver coins. Call 247-7999.

ELECTRIC TRAINS — All kinds. Catalogs. Cast iron toys — also trade. 342-2608.

USED FURNITURE, FARM ITEMS. Antiques, Crocks & Jugs, very old stoves, Old Kegs, Barrels, etc. 621-8920, after 5 p.m.

ON the Charlotte, Lake Avenue, and Ontario Beach Areas: Old photographs, post cards, clippings, maps of building & park areas. 621-8920 after 5 p.m.

CLOTHING — NEW and Used. Bought and Sold, on consignment. All sizes. CONNIE'S WEARHOUSE, 1690 St. Paul, 544-3331.

VIOLINS, VIOLA, Mandolin or Cello wanted. Any condition. Cash. 385-2339.

48 INCH ROUND pedestal table for kitchen. Reasonable priced. 361-8746.

BRAZIL MISSIONER: Needs used Nikon camera body for work in Sao Paulo, Contact Box 30, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

STAMP COLLECTIONS — foreign & U.S. FLOWER CITY stamps & coins, 1575 Dewey Ave., Call 647-9320.

ORIENTAL RUGS — any size, any condition. Cash, call PEGGY, 865-1053.

WANTED!
OLD COINS OLD STAMPS
Free Appraisals
Bauer Coins
Annu Philatelics
337 E. Main St. Cor. Stillson
546-2763

WINDOW CLEANING
SPECIALIZING in residential homes. Reliable. 288-0531, 482-1729.

Subscriber Special
\$1.50 for a 10 WORD WANT AD
Only with this Coupon
PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER
15c Each Additional Word — Deadline Friday Noon
PLEASE PRINT
Enclosed Find \$ _____ Please run my Want Ad for _____ Weeks
Name _____ Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____
MAIL TO: COURIER JOURNAL WANT AD DEPT.
67 Chestnut St., Rochester, New York 14604
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO COURIER JOURNAL
Valuable Coupon