

Carter's Budget Proposal Called 'Cheap Solution'

Three matters of life and death have been aired lately in government forums in Washington, D.C. Religious News Service reported on guidelines established by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to implement legislation on Medicaid abortions, and guidelines proposed for federally funded sterilization operations.

It was revealed meanwhile that the Carter Administration's new budget would allocate \$338 million to a birth control program that emphasizes the problem of pregnancies among young girls.

This budget proposal was labeled "a cheap solution" by Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, former president of the U.S. bishops' conference. It is a "formula for short-changing young people, truncating their emotional — and yes, their sexual — lives," the prelate wrote in the Jan. 22 New York Times.

The HEW guidelines on federal funding of abortions require that, in Medicaid cases based on rape or incest, the crime must have been reported to a law enforcement or public health agency within 60 days.

New legislation provides for Medicaid abortions to save the life of the mother, to prevent severe and long-lasting damage to the mother's health, and in promptly reported cases of rape and incest, RNS said. HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano Jr. was required to specify the meaning of "promptly."

The proposed sterilization guidelines would require consent forms and a 30-day waiting period. They would ban government funding of sterilization of persons under 21 or of hysterectomies performed solely for the purpose of sterilization.

Dr. Alice Rothschild, medical director of the Women's Community Health Center in Cambridge, Mass., said at a hearing that the consent requirement was not strong enough. She said it should be stipulated that consent could not be obtained while a woman was in labor, or in connection with an abortion or while under the effect of tranquilizers. The form should be co-signed by a nurse or social worker acting as the patient's advocate, Dr. Rothschild recommended.

The administration's birth

control program for teenagers would provide \$60 million to encourage alternatives to abortion, \$18 million to extend Medicaid coverage to teenagers during pregnancy and immediately after the birth and \$64 million to expand existing family planning and community health programs to focus on the teenage pregnancies.

Archbishop Bernardin wrote in his "Op-Ed" article in the Times that he doubted the efficacy of more and better information as a solution to the teenage pregnancy problem.

There is only one way to approach this problem, he said. "Instead of telling teenagers they can have sex without consequences... tell them the truth. 'There is no such thing as sex without consequences, whether these be emotional, physical, social — or all three.'"



Living in Fear

This group of Iraqi refugees, shown on their arrival in New York are among 35 who came to the U.S. seeking asylum after fleeing from religious persecution. They said they had been pressured to join the ruling Arab Socialist B'aath Party and told similar stories of beatings, of being called "Christian Dog," and living in constant fear of being imprisoned or killed.

Support Senators Backing New Treaty, McGrath Asks

See editorial, Page 4

Louisville (RNS) — A Panamanian Catholic prelate, stressing the nearly unanimous support of church bodies in the U.S. for the proposed Panama Canal treaties, has called on the American churches to support members of the Senate who are under fire for favoring endorsement of the treaties.

Archbishop Marcos McGrath of Panama City said he believes "there is a growing conviction in the Senate as to the necessity and justice of the treaties," despite popular objections. He encouraged church members and leaders to "reinforce their support" of the treaties during this crucial time of formal debate.

Speaking at Spalding College here, Archbishop McGrath commended those senators who were willing to vote according to their personal convictions of justice rather than succumb to political pressure. He stressed that the original 1903 treaty giving the U.S. permanent jurisdiction over the Canal Zone is of "dubious validity."

He said that the treaty was written in 12 hours, signed under questionable circumstances, had no Panamanian participation in the drafting or signing of the document and was "forced upon the new, unorganized Panamanian government."

In addition, he noted, changes in the international political climate during the last 65 years have spurred the growth of nationalism and the desire for self-determination among all peoples. He added that despite the "moral validity"

of Panamanian aspirations to obtain jurisdiction over their own territory "Panama has not taken a hard line in the negotiations."

He termed the treaties quite favorable to U.S. interests and warned that a second set of treaties might not be approved in a second Panamanian plebiscite, if such an eventuality is necessary. Panamanians are already disturbed about the number of concessions and would likely reject any treaties that gave more to the U.S., he said.

Archbishop McGrath, the son of an American father and a Costa Rican mother, who can claim citizenship in both the U.S. and Panama, said the money paid to Panama under the terms of the treaties is very small compared to fees paid to other nations for military bases in their territories.

Regarding the Communist threat to Panama or the possibility of Communist infiltration should the treaties be approved, the prelate observed that the

chances of a Communist takeover in Panama are slight if the new treaties are approved.

"These new treaties will cement the relationship of the U.S. and Panama during the next several decades and silence the opposition which is critical of 'imperialistic policies' in the U.S."

He suggested that the new agreements will strengthen U.S. prestige in all of Latin America and the Third World.

Bill May Force Church To Fund Abortions

Washington, D.C. (RNS)—A chief spokesman for the nation's Catholic bishops has urged Congress to amend a bill offering pregnancy disability benefits so that employers including Catholic dioceses, schools, hospitals and other institutions — will not be forced to underwrite abortions.

Bishop Thomas C. Keily, OP, General Secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC), called on Catholic officials and other concerned persons throughout the country to pressure Congress to change what he indicated is, but for the abortion provision, a good bill (H.R. 6075).

The bishop noted that the USCC supports the measure which extends to pregnant workers health benefits for pregnancy, childbirth and post-natal care.

"Such benefits," he pointed out, "would provide an incentive for working mothers to bring their pregnancies to term."

However, the prelate said that without the adoption of a proposed amendment to the Pregnancy Disability Benefits Act employers who pay for employees' medical benefits "must also finance abortion services."

"I cannot stress strongly enough the consequences passage of this legislation, unamended, would have for the Catholic Church," Bishop Kelly said. "The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission has already stated that H.R. 6075 will require churches and church institutions to include abortion benefits in their medical care benefits package."

"Thus Catholic dioceses, schools, hospitals and other institutions of the Catholic

Church would be forced by government to underwrite abortion benefits," he declared.

Bishop Kelly said that if Catholic agencies refused to do so they would be open to a charge of violating the 1964 civil rights act, and could be subject to the cancellation of contracts under which they share in government funding and aid.

"This could possibly include funding for Catholic schools, Medicaid and other health programs for Catholic hospitals... federal assistance to the programs of Catholic Charities, and (USCC's) Migration and Refugee Services."

H.R. 6075 was approved by a House subcommittee on employment opportunities, but before reporting the bill to the full Education and Labor Committee the subcommittee rejected an amendment stating that abortions be excluded except when the mother's life is in danger. The full committee is expected to consider the amendment.

Bishop Kelly said the amendment would ensure that Congress does not "coerce employers" who have an ethical, moral or religious objection to abortion to finance elective abortions.

He added that the amendment "does not inhibit any employer from offering abortion as a health benefit," does not affect coverage of complications resulting from abortion which would remain covered in the amended legislation, and does not prevent "any such service resulting from collective bargaining."

St. Pat's Dinner

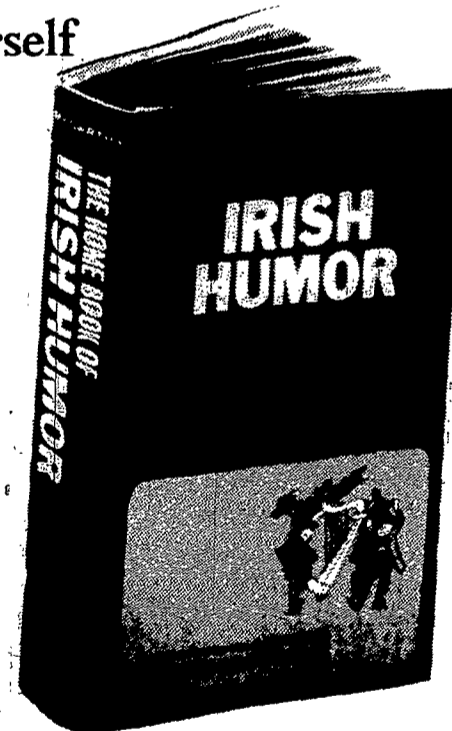
Mt. Morris-St. Patrick's Church is planning a St. Patrick's Day dinner-dance on March 18. The dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Shanahan Hall, Sonyea. Tickets for the dinner are \$7 per person and may be obtained by contacting Dominic Battaglia.

For St. PATRICK'S DAY Perfect Gift for an Irish Friend or Yourself

TODAY there are more than thirty million Americans with Irish blood in their veins. Proud, too, of every drop of it! They particularly take pleasure in keeping alive and popularizing the witty sayings and writings of those of their blood, especially of those intensely Irish Irishmen such as Swift, Sheridan, Shaw, Gogarty, Wilde, Dunne, Breslin, O'Rourke, McNulty, MacDonagh, Wibberly, O'Connor, Ervine, O'Faolain, Doyle, Callaghan and Sullivan, all of whom with others are included in this generous volume — THE HOME BOOK OF IRISH HUMOR. Here they have caught the ready wit, the quick retort, the hundred ingratiating faults, the thousand redeeming weaknesses, the sometimes bitter and usually ironic observations of the Irish which have given the race its reputation for humor and good fellowship.

The contents of THE HOME BOOK OF IRISH HUMOR are divided into twelve sections: Pubs, Publicans and Patrons; Irish Bulls and Pure Potent; Born Politicos; The Great Georgians; The Landed Gentry; Tales from the Irish Countryside; The Renaissance; For the Bend in the Road; North of the Border and Down Under; Irish Ballads, Songs and Sagas; Irish Proverbs; and Wakes and Wags.

Throughout the editor, John McCarthy, formerly Executive Editor of Catholic



Digest, has contributed a lively series of quips and jests about the Irish, humble and great.

THE HOME BOOK OF IRISH HUMOR, published by Dodd, Mead & Company, is the perfect gift for an Irish friend or yourself.

Special Price \$7.89 until Apr. 30, 1978 (Regular price of \$8.50 thereafter.)

Mail Today for Immediate Delivery of Your Irish Gift Book

COURIER-JOURNAL
67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604 FEB.

Here's my check for \$7.89 for _____ copies of
THE HOME BOOK OF IRISH HUMOR

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ALLOW 3-4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY