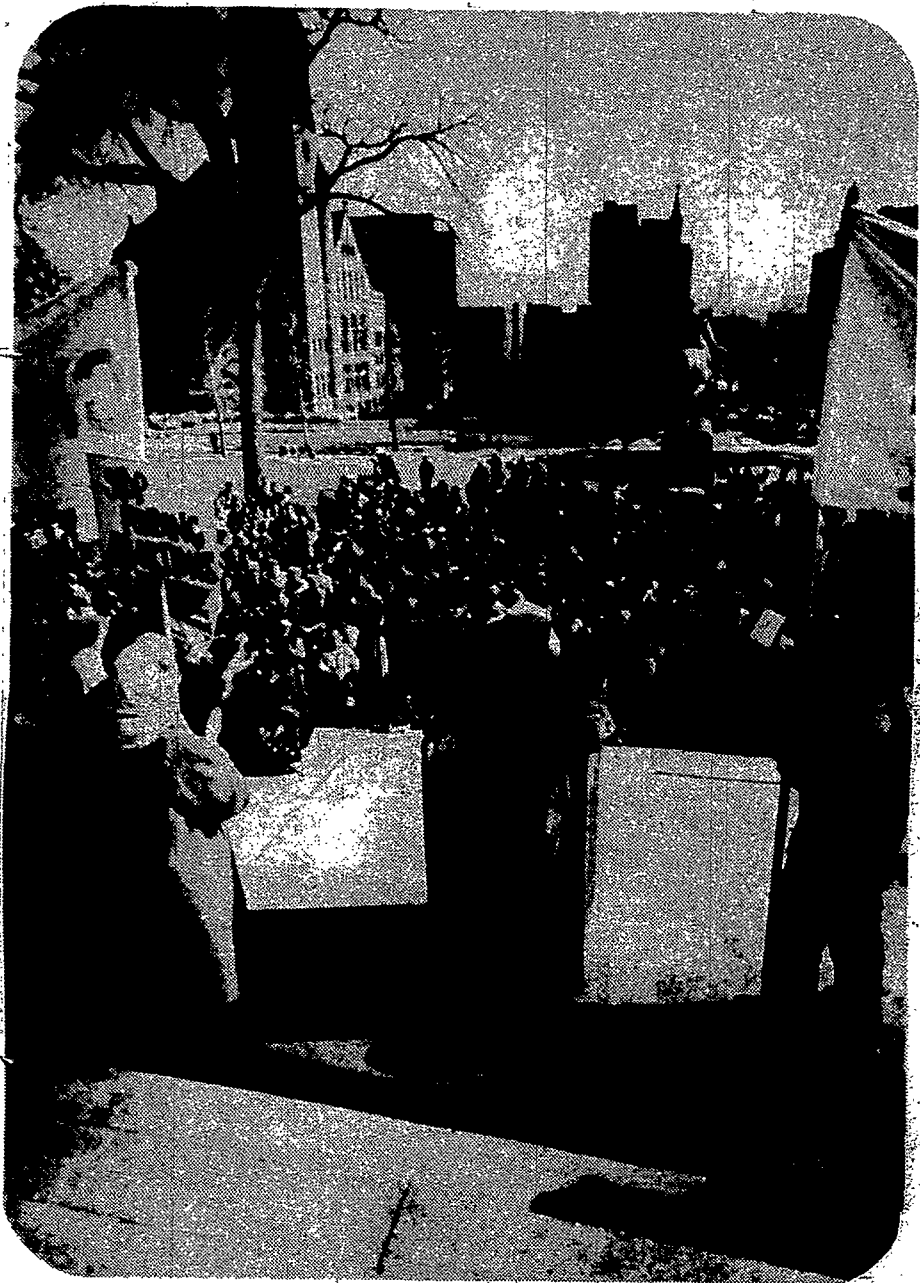


Demonstrators from across the state display their feelings on the steps of the capitol.

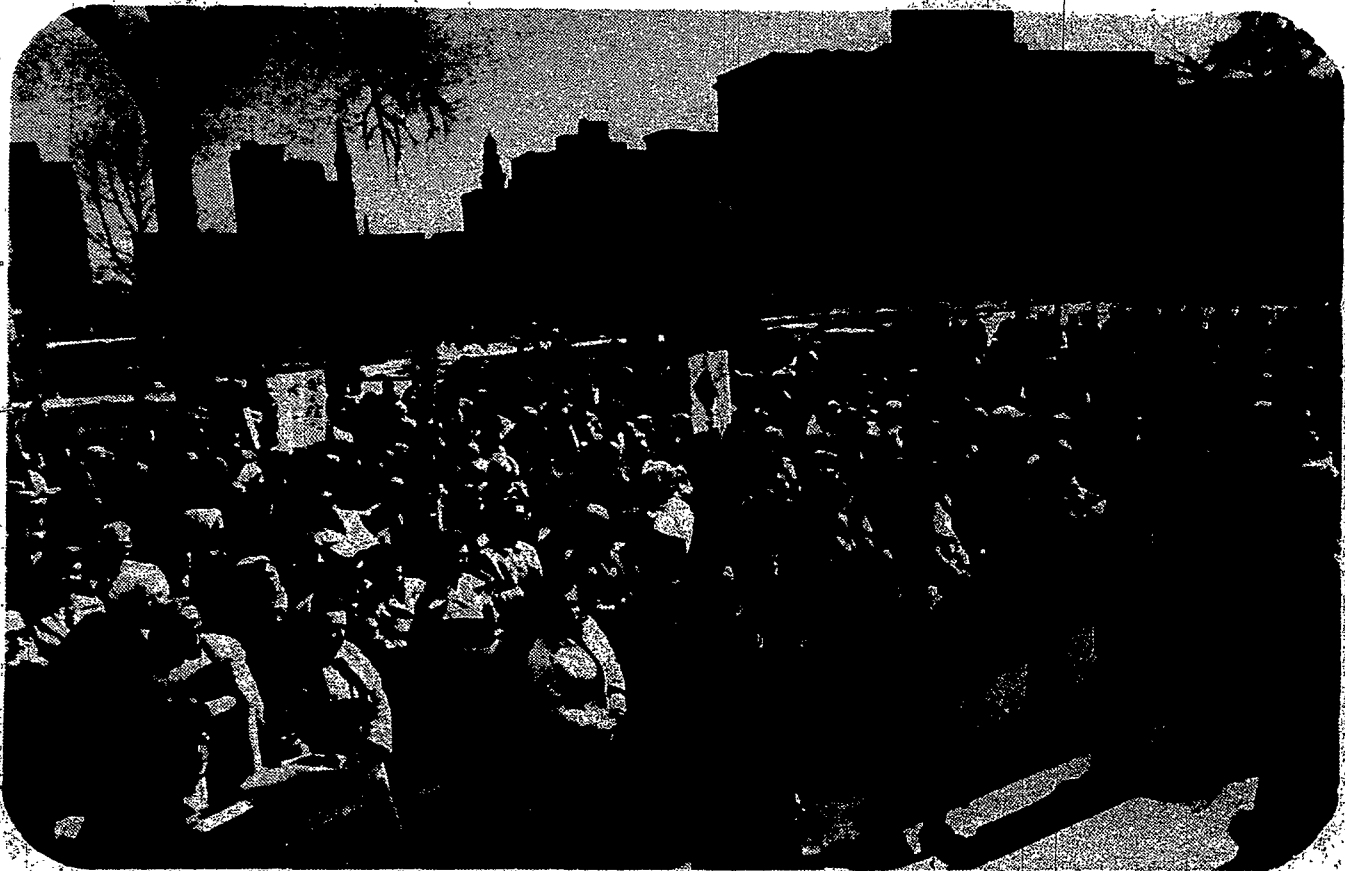


Dr. Mildred A. Jefferson, president of National Right To Life.



Dr. Jefferson addresses the crowd at the rally.

Text and Photos  
by  
Terrance J. Brennan



A view of the crowd.

# Pro-Lifers

Albany — Some 1,000 pro-life adherents from around the state gathered here last week to rally on the capitol steps and to impress upon their legislators their opposition to medicaid funds being used for abortions in New York State.

The crowd included some 60 from the Rochester area who spent the day buttonholing local legislators and joining in the demonstrations by Right To Life. They made the one-day trip via bus.

Highlight of the rally was a talk by Dr. Mildred A. Jefferson, president of national Right To Life, who drew cheers when she declared, "We cannot and will not allow the money set aside to aid the poor to be used to get rid of the poor."

Dr. Jefferson also noted that "the fight against government spending on abortion will continue until not one single dollar of our tax money will be spent to destroy human life."

Sen. James Donovan (R-46th) and Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly (D-61st) are two major sponsors of abortion funding cutoff bills now pending before the state legislature. If passed into law, they will limit medicaid reimbursement for abortions to cases where the pregnant woman's life is endangered.

"The poor aren't asking for state-funded elimination," said Sen. Donovan, "they want life, not death; they want jobs, not welfare; they want decent housing, not ghettos; they want law and order, not muggings and murder. They want a state where opportunity awaits all, including their babies."

After the rally, Rochesterians broke into smaller groups to visit their local representatives.

A group of about 25 visited Sen. John Perry and in a somewhat heated exchange, he informed them that he would not vote for the Donovan Bill.

"I don't think that bill is going to do anything, one way or another, to change the pattern, necessarily, of abortions," said Sen. Perry.

Also visited were Sens. Fred Eckert and Fred Warder, and members of the assembly, including James Nagle, Pinny Cooke, and Thomas Hanna who reaffirmed his stand as co-sponsor of the Connelly Bill.

"I have every intention to support the bill to its fullest. I feel that abortion is wrong. It is killing human life and I don't think the state should be in a position where they are paying for such murder."