

People and Events Of the World and Nation

Bill Could Spur Contributions To Charities

Washington (RT) — Church leaders, who have watched a steady decline in recent years in offerings and donations, will be happy to see Sen. Daniel Moynihan's bill on charitable giving back in Congress.

Moynihan has a certain philosophy on the role government should play in the field of charitable functions:

"The national government should assume only those responsibilities that cannot satisfactorily be carried out by the states, localities and by the myriad private structures and organizations, both formal and informal, that comprise this society."

Introduced in concert with Sen. Robert Packwood, his bill would allow charitable deductions to taxpayers whether or not they itemize their personal deductions. This, Moynihan believes, will increase the incentive for people to give to private institutions and relieve government from many burdensome and impractical charitable functions.

An identical bill was introduced in the House by Richard Gephardt and Barber Conable.

'Peace' Portfolio Out-Performs Dow Jones Average

Washington (RNS) — Pax World, a mutual fund which eschews investments in the weapons, nuclear power, tobacco, liquor and gambling industries, reported that it beat inflation and out-performed the Dow Jones Industrials Average index in 1980.

Church officials and other "social responsibility" advocates helped start the fund in 1971 as a means of investing in such "life supportive" industries as health care, education, pollution control, food and leisure time activities.

Pax World realized a return of 16.2 percent in 1980 — better than the Dow Jones increase of 14.9 percent and above the 12.4 percent inflation rate.

By the end of 1980, Pax World shares were worth \$10.10 each and the total assets were listed at \$3,772,035.

Federal Judge Allows Unborn Fetus' Estate To Sue for Damages

Washington (RNS) — A Superior Court judge here has allowed a \$200,000 medical malpractice suit on behalf of an unborn fetus to go to trial despite objections that the fetus is not a person and has no standing to sue.

Lawyers for the Greater Southeast Community Hospital and an obstetrician there had moved that the case be dismissed on the grounds that the fetus, which died inside the mother's womb during its ninth month, had no legal status.

But Judge Leonard Braman said he

would rule on the right of the fetus to be awarded damages at the end of the trial if the lawyers representing the Pinckney Baby Estate win.

The case involved Diane Pinckney's 32-to-37-week-old fetus which died two years ago after the mother entered the hospital in question expecting to give birth.

Mrs. Pinckney's attorney said hospital doctors assured her husband at the time that the health and heartbeat of the fetus were normal.

But when doctors detected an infection in the womb, Mrs. Pinckney, who asked that the baby be delivered, was told "the baby is better off inside you."

Later, when the heartbeat stopped, a stillborn girl was extracted through surgery.

New Surgeon General Is Foe of Abortion, Friend of Handicapped

Philadelphia (RNS) — The Reagan administration has tapped a prominent pediatric surgeon who is an outspoken foe of abortion to become the next surgeon general.

Dr. Everett Koop, 64, chief surgeon here at Children's Hospital and professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, was named deputy assistant secretary of health. He will take office as surgeon general after Congress lifts the age limit which bars appointment of anyone older than 64 years and 29 days.

The appointment of Dr. Koop, a conservative evangelical Christian, has aroused fears among abortion rights advocates that he will use the influential post to promote his anti-abortion views.

Dr. Koop said his pro-life views coincided with those of President Reagan and Richard Schweiker, secretary of Health and Human Services. But to avoid a possible conflict of interest, he has resigned from all pro-life groups.

Dr. Koop, who has been very involved in anti-abortion pursuits, has also donated his services to the poor in the Dominican Republic through Medical Assistance Programs, an evangelical group, which offers free medical care and instruction in poor nations.

Some Other Names In the Headlines

Danny Thomas, the comedian and founder of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, will be the recipient this year of Boys Town's highest award, the Father Flanagan Award for Service to Youth. Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University, has announced that he will retire next year when he reaches 65. He will have served as president of Notre Dame for 30 years. Father Pedro Arrupe, head of the Society of Jesus, met with Pope John Paul II in private recently to discuss Father Arrupe's announced request to resign his post with the Church's largest male religious order. Jesuit sources said the lengthy meeting was devoted to the process involved in such a resignation, which would be the first such in the history of the Jesuits.

Pope Removes Archconservative

Amsterdam, Netherlands (RNS) — Pope John Paul II has provisionally removed archconservative Bishop Jan Matthijs Gijzen from the Dutch hierarchy's committee on priestly formation.

Cardinal Jan Willebrands told fellow bishops here that

the pope made the decision last month in Rome at a secret followup meeting to the special synod held there last year to discuss the problems of the highly progressive Catholic Church in the Netherlands.

Removal of Bishop Gijzen

apparently paves the way for a moderate statement from the seminary committee which was set up at the end of the synod to implement the agreements hammered out by the Dutch bishops and members of the Roman Curia.

NYSCC Publishes Goals Of Program in Spanish

The New York State Catholic Conference released a Spanish version of its 1981 program goals recently. Each year the conference prepares a document outlining its aims and programs for the coming year. "Programa Para 1981" is the first Spanish language edition of the statement for the NYSCC.

"The program emphasizes concern for the poor, the young, the needy, the frail and disabled... in short, the entire constituency that the Catholic Church addresses," said J. Alan Davitt, executive

director of the NYSCC. Copies of the Spanish document have been

distributed to the media and to numerous Church-related organizations.

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Missing Person Reports Led By Argentina

Geneva, Switzerland (RNS) — Argentina alone accounts for more than half of the 11,000 to 13,000 people reported missing and presumed victims of political terrorism, says a new United Nations report.

The U.N. Human Rights Commission also lists Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, and Uruguay.

The agency says the missing person cases it had investigated warranted "the deepest concern both for the danger to the life, liberty and physical security of the disappeared persons and for the anguish and sorrow caused to relatives."

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