

Editorials

Chance to Reverse Jan. 22, 1973

The Hatch Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which would have the effect of reducing abortions has been picking up support, including that of the nation's bishops. Nevertheless, it faces stern opposition, not only from hardline abortion advocates, but also from pro-lifers who regard it as a sellout.

We certainly empathize with pro-lifers who in conscience cannot endorse any legislation which does not erase entirely abortion on demand in this country. They sincerely believe that no deals can be made on such life-and-death issues.

However, we believe along with the U.S. bishops that some movement off dead center must be made on this sore problem.

Edmund Burke, the British statesman, in trying to bring about conciliation with the recalcitrant colonies in America, said, "All government — indeed, every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue and every prudent act — is founded on compromise and barter."

Obviously, no compromise is satisfactory to all concerned; otherwise it wouldn't be necessary in the

first place. But, in this case, is not an end-all but a start-all. That is the opinion of our bishops, who constitute as strong an anti-abortion bloc as exists in the United States.

The exact language of the Hatch Amendment:

"A right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution. The Congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to restrict and prohibit abortion; provided that a provision of a law of a state which is more restrictive than a conflicting provision of a law of Congress shall govern."

What the amendment would do is establish that there is no right to an abortion guaranteed by the Constitution; reverse the heinous 1973 Supreme Court decision which liberalized abortion, and specifically give the Congress and the states power to prohibit abortions. It also would allow the states to establish even more restrictive standards of protection for the unborn than set by an Act of Congress (but not less restrictive).

Cardinal Terence Cooke, the bishops' pro-life leader, obviously would prefer to see abortions banned altogether. But such a development is no closer in reality than it was nine long years ago when the highest court permitted liberalized-abortion. He says the Hatch Amendment should be supported "as a realistic step which makes possible to restore legal protection to the unborn."

In short, it would, at least, reduce the number of

unborn children being lost in the present carnage. Not perfect, to be sure, but a step in the right direction.

Pragmatic advantages also exist. Its sponsor, Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, believes — and the U.S. bishops concur — that other human life amendments stand little or no chance in Congress. Hatch supporters feel his amendment has a reasonable chance — provided it receives strong public support.

Amendments, Hatch cautioned in an exclusive interview with this newspaper, are always difficult to enact. They need the support of two thirds in each house of the Congress. After passage there, it must then go to the states where three quarters, or 38 of them, must ratify before it returns to Congress and becomes law.

Peg Turiano of the diocesan Human Life Commission says that currently 28 states have already expressed the wish for some sort of restrictions on abortion. So the job ahead would be to secure ratification from 10 more states, including New York.

Plain to see, the road will be long and tortuous. The amendment will be up for discussion in the months ahead. Its supporters feel the goal of reducing abortions is attainable — but only with strong and consistent public support.

In the words of Sen. Hatch to the Courier-Journal:

"If we all stand up and fight and express ourselves, we might very well get it through (the Congress) this year."

and Opinions

Students Face Problem

Editor:

I have been reading many articles on evolution and the greatest tragedy of teaching evolution to students in schools today is that it is destroying the self-image of many of them.

In today's world far too many students don't know who they are or what they are supposed to do with their lives. To these students there is no real God, and their God, if any, will only be a token one who brought the world into existence through a long series of trial and error. The students are totally out of touch with God and what he truly has to offer them in this life, but most of all in their future years and eternity.

On the other hand, children who were brought up to believe in divine creation know that they are the children of a loving and caring God. A God that created the heavens and the earth and

holds the universe in his hands. He is a God who commands the very stars in the sky and has a vast organization of heavenly angels standing ready to obey his many requests. He just merely spoke some words and created a simple world such as ours in only six days and everything happened just as he wished it all to be.

The children of God know that he dearly loves them and that he sincerely cares for each of them individually, as if they were the only ones on this earth. He has a reason for each of his children and his plans for each one of them will be revealed to them in time.

I can only wonder how long must our students be taught that they are the unwanted children of some theory of evolution instead of being the beloved children of the greatest God that ever was.

Anthony Liccione 77c342 Box 149 Attica, N.Y. 14011

Pro-Life Suggestion

Editor:

Re: Suggestion for pro-life causes.

We wish to share the following with your readers:

Recently at St. Charles Borromeo in Greece we have been praying for pro-life causes and other intentions at our Holy Hour in the convent chapel the first Sunday of each month. We at St. Charles feel there has to be an increased prayer effort for success in the pro-life area.

Why not join us by beginning a pro-life Holy Hour in your parish?

Mary Studier, Josephine Coy Human Development Committee St. Charles Borromeo Parish 3003 Dewey Avenue Rochester, N.Y. 14616

City Parish Commended

Editor:

There is a pleasant church on Pleasant Street, in the heart of downtown Rochester, where one can spend a pleasant hour worshipping and adoring the Lord. This church has daily exposition, Wednesday novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, daily rosary recitation, angelus and holy hours.

The staff of priests numbers five, like the five virgins whose lamps are always lit awaiting the coming of the Lord. From the zealous, humble pastor, Father Healy, who is fearless, following God's precepts rather than being a respecter of persons; to Father Magnier, a reincarnated St. Patrick, whose homilies are always edifying, instructive, given with Irish wit and peppered with the gospel truth; to Father Lavin's extreme sincerity when he prays the Mass; and Father Rosenkranz's desire to greet people with his typical Redemptorist touch; to last, but not least, Father Tracy, whose charm and underlying fire to save souls is inspirational.

Yes, all these priests are true sons of St. Alphonsus de Liguori in that their burning desire to save souls, their devotion to Mary and their love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, are a blessing to his diocese of Rochester. In a city of Baals and Babels what a pleasant surprise!

Anne B. Christoff 154 Crittenden Way Rochester, N.Y. 14623

Pregnancies Tax Burden

Editor:

Nearly 20 adults spoke at one of the recent hearings on teenage pregnancy. Twenty interested people is an insult to the issue. The federal government is phasing out teenage pregnancy programs because the cure was causing worse problems than the programs could cope with. If they are fed up with school, eager to get away from parental control, having a baby out of wedlock can give them temporary satisfaction while opening up a Pandora's Box of lasting roadblocks that seem trivial to immature and sexually irresponsible teens.

The crisis in teenage pregnancies shows two out of ten teenage girls will become pregnant, having at least one child by the age of 18, making public assistance a way of life. Ninety-six percent of these teenagers choose to keep their babies. Half of these girls remain unmarried, raising their babies as single parents.

Under federal budget cuts that will increase due to pressure from taxpayer organizations, this state will lose \$4.1 million. This state will also lose around \$60 million or 25 percent of its Title 20 funds.

Taxpayers will no longer tolerate supporting teenage pregnancies. These unmarried teenagers have several alternatives to public assistance. The most important one is using domestic law to force support of the teenage mother by both her parents and the parents of the father of the child. Parents and the father of the

Educational Programs On Hatch Amendment

Jan. 20 — St. Ann's Hornell, 7 p.m.

Jan. 21 — St. Louis, Pittsford, manse, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 22 — St. Mary's, 95 N. Main St., Canandaigua, 8 p.m.

Jan. 24 — St. Paul of the Cross, 29 Monroe St., Honeoye Falls, 1 p.m.

Jan. 25 — St. Joseph, 6105 Rush Line Road, Rush, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 25 — St. Rita, East Ridge Road and Maple, West Webster, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 26 — St. Michael's, 104 Franklin St., Newark, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 27 — St. Ambrose, 25 Empire Blvd., Rochester (school), 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 27 — St. Cecelia, 2732 Culver Road, Rochester, 7:30 p.m.

unborn child must be obligated to pay for services for the pregnant girl. Using public assistance has further split the family unit, allowing immature, uneducated, unskilled girls to make welfare a way of life. Tooth decay, braces, corrective glasses are expenses routinely paid by major medical programs. Pregnancy isn't a terminal disease. It is so routine and accepted that medical insurance carriers should be obligated to pay the cost of single parent births, regardless of the age of the pregnant female.

sure; and how gratifying it would be for law enforcement to have the assistance of its able citizenry in such an endeavor.

Mark H. Tuohy Jr. 106 Dunbarton Drive Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Guidelines

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writer's signature, full address and telephone number. They should be sent to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, no longer than 1 1/2 pages.

We routinely condense letters, edit offensive words and libelous statements, and reserve the right to reject letters. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and the letters will reflect the writer's own style.

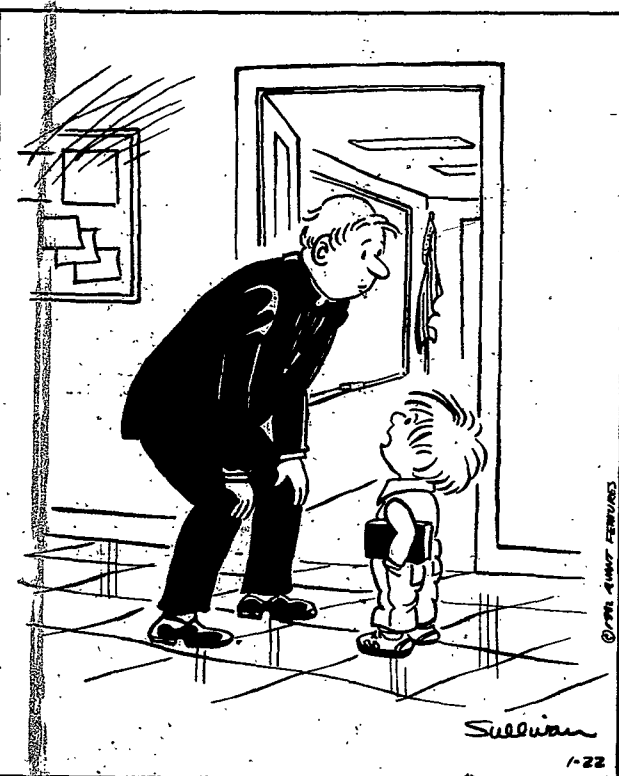
Because submitted opinions exceed the space for letters, we publish only original letters addressed to us. We will not use poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent elsewhere. To ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one letter per month.

Mafia 'Rat-Hunt' Endorsed

Editor:

Your editorial "Mafia Low-Lifes," Jan. 6, 1982, was excellent. You very nicely displayed why organized crime is one of the three top investigative priorities of the FBI.

"An untiring and unyielding rat-hunt" is exactly what is needed for



"MY FATHER WORKS ALL NIGHT AND MY MOTHER WORKS ALL DAY. DOES THAT MAKE ME A PART TIME KID?"