

### Editorials

## Hatch Survey

Normally speaking, a return of 17 out of 39 does not constitute a weighty response. But it should be pointed out that there are some definitely extenuating circumstances concerning our survey of congressmen from our state in this issue concerning the Hatch Amendment.

First, the measure has not even come up for Senate debate, which it must do first before it gets to the House of Representatives. The language may change and thus it could be a difficult matter for members of the House to state definitively their individual stands.

So those congressmen who answered that they are at this point undecided should not be adjudged as ducking the issue.

It also is possible that some of the 22 who did not respond also felt the same way. Instead of declaring themselves undecided in public print they chose not to answer at all. Fine. But it also likely that some did not answer because they do not want to face up to this

complicated matter until they absolutely have to do so. No one can say for sure what was the individual reason for each. It should be mentioned, however, that any reader who wants to know how his or her representative feels about Hatch should write to the congressman.

The fact that only 17 responded precludes any strong assessment, although given the 10 opposing votes, it may indicate a tough road ahead for the amendment in the House. As time draws nearer for debate in the Congress, again it will be incumbent for all of us to find out where the votes will go.

Sympathy may be due many lawmakers as they try to assess their own feelings as well as those of their constituency. Short of those who assume rigid stands on any issue concerning abortion, the Hatch amendment demands a great deal of sensitive consideration.

Witness the fact that opposition to the amendment comes from those who think it is too liberal and also from those who think it is too conservative. Aside from that is the question of constitutionality which is

distinct from the merits of the bill itself. Let us be patient with those who find it difficult to support Hatch because they view it as a compromise — but let us try to persuade them that in the interest of providing some curb to abortion it should be enacted.

Let us also be empathetic with the sincere lawmakers who are trying to reach a sensitive and sensible decision on the amendment. But let us at the same time write to them and let them know that they must also consider the weight of the opinion of their constituencies.

The time to act is now. Even though much debate lies ahead, it is very possible that when the ball of discussion rolls around it will move quickly. The issue is hot, it is difficult. With elections facing them in the Fall, members of the House of Representatives will want to dispose of it quickly so that the matter may cool by November.

That is one reason behind the early survey. That is reason for all interested to contact their lawmakers now.

### and Opinions

## A Warning For Prelates

Editor:

As a lifelong Catholic, I take issue with the stand of Catholic prelates who want our government to stop supporting the El Salvador government.

They do not tackle head-on the question of whether we can afford to allow Central America to become Marxist. These are probably the same prelates who supported the Sandinistas in Nicaragua which is now a heavily armed Marxist state infiltrated — even controlled — by Cubans and Russians. It is now trying to overthrow the government of its neighbor El Salvador.

A former, high-ranking Sandinista official has said, "The revolution is a myth. The Russians are giving orders through Fidel Castro." What do these prelates think will happen to the Church when Marxists take over — or won't they face up to this? This is now an old story.

These are probably the same prelates who were activist anti-Vietnam War types, and helped force the U.S. to retreat from Southeast Asia. The results of this retreat are well known, but are not emphasized by the liberal media which bragged it

had forced us to leave Vietnam. The horrors of the Cambodian holocaust are unimaginable.

Religious who are politically activist must understand that many in the Church do not have the same political slant and will react in various ways to this activism. That's a warning.

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## Offer Love, Not Bombs

Editor:

I read with interest the letter of Mrs. Dorothy Polzinetti of Seneca Falls in the Opinion column of the March 10 Courier-Journal. Although Mrs. Polzinetti sounds like a person committed to her Christian beliefs, I would encourage her, and all people, to expand their horizons and try to understand the many, many aspects involved in the Respect Life issue. We must be aware that Respect Life does involve issues besides the protection of the unborn.

One of our basic beliefs as Catholics and Christians is that we are made in the image and likeness of our heavenly Father. His son, Jesus, has commanded us to love one another as we ourselves would

be loved. Keeping these two beliefs in mind, I feel it is important to give respect to all people; the gays, the feminists, the pacifists, the untold innocent millions who could be destroyed by nuclear war, the thousands of runaway kids, who are being exploited by the sex industry in our country, those who could be killed by the law of the land under capital punishment, as well as all the unborn who are never given a chance to live. They all deserve our care and consideration as well as our prayers.

I am indeed proud of the record St. Patrick's Parish family in Seneca Falls has in relationship to the Respect Life issues and I can assure you our prayers do storm the gates of heaven on behalf of all life. I can proudly say that over 3,000 signatures were collected at St. Pat's at the time the Taylor-Brown Hospital abortion issue came to a head in the summer of 1980. We recently had the privilege of having Father Ned Murphy, associate director of Covenant House (the agency for runaway kids recently featured in the Courier-Journal) speak at our weekend Masses. Our people responded with overwhelming love and concern to this very special ministry with a special collection of \$3,400 sent to Covenant House. We are trying to help all people come to the understanding that Respect Life is a multi-faceted issue. Articles such as "Converting to Peace" (Jan. issue of Sojourners Magazine) have been enclosed in our bulletins and our homilies often speak of issues that call us to love others as we ourselves would be loved.

In relationship to the Geneva Women's Resource Center, please keep in mind they are dealing with issues that must be dealt with and doing so from a Christian perspective. Isn't this preferable to having everything in the hands of agencies that would never consider the Christian viewpoint?

In closing, let me say I do believe we should pray for the conversion of people to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Along with our prayers we must offer our love and respect to all peoples; not bombs to blow them off the face of the earth!

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## CHD Funding Explained

Editor:

This is a response to Dorothy Polzinetti's letter which appeared in the March 10 Courier-Journal.

The Geneva Women's Resource Center was awarded a Campaign for Human Development grant for \$6,100 for a bookkeeper/educator who trains staff, clients, and self-help poverty groups in money management, financial planning and budgeting. The bookkeeper/educator plans and prepares materials and conducts workshops in financial management, consumerism and budgeting with the goals of helping poor and low income women become self-sufficient. Workshops for self-help poverty and nonprofit organizations contain education and training in bookkeeping systems and methods as well as information of preparation of budgets for grants proposals.

The project which was evaluated and reviewed by the Yates/Ontario/Wayne Campaign for Human Development Task Force meets the criteria and guidelines established by the National Campaign for Human Development. The project addresses the root cause of poverty by focusing on and helping to alleviate the problems caused by poor money management by people whose financial situation is often aggravated by inexperience, and little or no knowledge of budgeting, consumer credit, paying bills, etc. The workshops for poverty organizations and groups provide information that will strengthen financial stability and internal organizational structure and enhance the organization's ability to address issues of poverty and injustice.

The project, which was partially funded for \$3,055, has been reviewed by the Yates/Ontario/Wayne CHD Task Force in light of the achieved goals and objectives of the first months of operation and plans for implementing the second half of the project. The Staff of the Office of Human Development and the Campaign for Human Development is reviewing and researching the project in response to questions, criticisms and concerns raised by Catholics in the area over the legitimacy of this project being funded by CHD.



Sister Anne Uquhart  
Father William Spilly  
Office of Human  
Development Staff  
Francine Patella  
Campaign for Human  
Development

not? If anyone cares to answer this question, first please re-read Miss Houwers' letter.

Catholics — followers of Christ — where is your backbone? It is much more acceptable in this world to compromise; less painful, less "humiliating." But it never does a complete good, especially not in this situation. Let's stand up, show our faith and strength in God and go for the protection of all unborn babies — not just a selected few, dependent on their residential situation! Let your country — and your bishop — know you won't compromise on a Human Life Amendment. Go for it, Catholics! It's great to have strength and faith in our Lord!

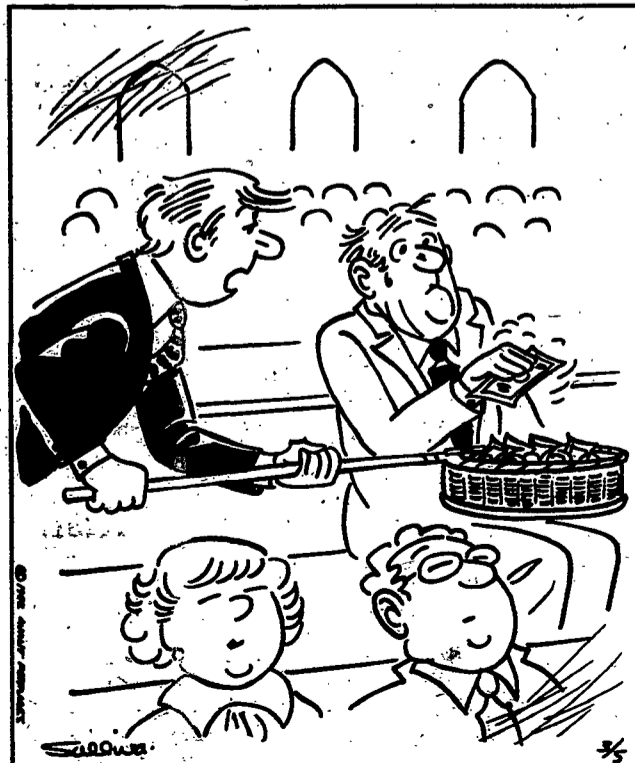
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## Grateful For Letter

Editor:

A "hooray" and "thank you" for your letter, Teresa Houwers! Professor Rice has thoroughly thought out the pros and cons of the Hatch Amendment; something many of our bishops appear not to have done.

Question: Why have they (our bishops) been silent on the HLA which is sure protection for unborn children, yet speak so loudly on one that is most definitely



"YOU CAN DO IT, FELLA... YOU CAN OPEN THOSE FINGERS AND LET THE MONEY GO. TRY IT... TRY... THAT'S IT... GREAT... THEY'RE MOVING..."

## 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 S., 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.