

Filibuster, Rules Stall Abortion Debate

Washington — Amid filibusters and parliamentary jockeying, votes on both anti-abortion measures before the Senate was put off last week despite a strong effort by President Reagan for action on one of the two bills.

After stating before Labor

Day that debate and even a vote on the Hatch amendment on abortion would take place last week, Sen. Majority Leader Howard H. Baker instead announced that he had decided to put the measure aside until a time agreement for the Hatch debate could be reached.

The constitutional amendment, sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah and supported by the U.S. bishops, had been scheduled for vote on Sept. 9. The time agreement mentioned by Sen. Baker would limit the debate to a specific number of hours and would prevent a fili-

buster by senators opposed to the measure.

The second anti-abortion bill, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina would restrict most federal funding of abortions. The Senate conservatives tried to cut off filibustering on the

measure but fell 19 votes short, despite a burst of support from President Reagan.

In the vote on Sept. 9, 47 senators voted against cloture, the term for limiting debate to 100 hours, with only 41 favoring it. Sixty

votes are needed to curb a filibuster.

As of Courier-Journal presstime, other attempts were imminent to cut off filibustering and get both measures to a floor vote in the Senate.

Helms Switches Tactics New Bill Only Shadow of Original Measure

By Jim Lackey

Washington — Before arriving at its latest wording, the human life bill proposed by Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina



went through at least three revisions in its 19-month history. It also turned from a direct attempt to reverse the Supreme Court's abortion decisions into a proposal to do little more than permanently restrict federal funding of abortions.

The Helms measure introduced Aug. 18 during the opening of the Senate's abortion debate bore only modest resemblance to the original human life bill proposed in January 1981. Gone was a critical section in which Congress would have legislated that for purposes of enforcing the Constitution life begins at contraception. Also gone was another section attempting to remove lower federal court jurisdiction in abortion cases.

Instead, the latest proposal would attempt to force early Supreme Court review of its abortion precedents by giving any party to an abortion case the right to a direct appeal to the high court.

Helms also linked his abortion proposal to the school prayer issue by offering his new wording on abortion as an amendment to a school prayer amendment offered only moments before.

In looking at the various versions of the Helms bill a key distinction is the existence in each of two basic sections: a section of congressional "findings" and a section of actual legislation. For instance, Helms' original bill, introduced in the first days of the 97th Congress as S158, included

findings that life exists at conception and that the Constitution was intended to protect all human beings.

From there, the bill went on to attempt to legislate personhood for the unborn. It said the word "person" in the Constitution shall include all human life and, in effect, reminded the states that they have an obligation under the Constitution not to deprive persons of life without due process of law.

The original bill, which was the subject of eight days of hearings spread over three months last year, also included a section blocking lower federal courts from restraining orders, injunctions or declaratory judgments on any state law or local ordinance that restricts abortion.

After the hearings, a Senate subcommittee approved a slightly altered version of Helms' bill. Included were the two key legislative sections on personhood and on lower court jurisdiction, plus two new sections. One gave recognition to the "compelling interest" of states to protect the lives of whom ever the state "rationally regards as human beings." The other added language providing direct appeal to the Supreme Court.

The bill was modified slightly but was substantially the same until August when Helms offered his latest version dropping the personhood sections that had been in all three previous proposals plus the court jurisdiction section that would ban lower federal courts from issuing abortion rulings.

Helms admitted that a head count in the Senate prompted his decision to drop the provisions. And so what started out as a direct legislative attempt to reverse the Supreme Court ended up merely as an effort to limit the government's support for abortion.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Book Titles Come Easy

One of the games we play at our house is coming up with book titles. They are as we've discovered a lot easier to write than books (and thus far a lot more rewarding.)

Book titles do not have

Judge Pine To Address Jail Group

Judge Elizabeth Pine of the state Supreme Court will speak on "A view from the Bench: Violent Crime in Rochester," as the featured speaker for the 12th annual meeting of the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, noon, Sept. 24, at Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St.

Luncheon will be catered by Cephas Catering. Persons wishing to attend are asked to call the ministry office, 325 1942, Admission to the luncheon is \$5.25.

to make sense, be grammatical or give any indication of the contents. All they have to do is sell books. Therefore anyone can play.

Like other parents we've collected our kids' comments and many of these form the basis of our favorite titles.

For example, one of our long standing (and lengthier) titles came from the oldest who, when she was five or six, detached herself from the babysitter and stopped us with: "Don't Kiss ME Goodbye, I'm Going With You."

Her brother, at age two, began a family vacation of a thousand miles by standing on the hump behind the front seat chanting "Ah Fur" which translated meant, "I Was Here First" — a war cry he kept up all the way to Asateague Island.

I unwittingly comed another one last week telling my mother-in-law about some judge the youngest and her cousin

Carol had made for me. Describing its mouthwatering caloric properties, I explained to Grandma Helen, "It Was So Good, I Had To Throw It Out."

Sometimes the inspiration is somebody else's saying. I've long promised myself to write about blue Mondays under the title, "I Shouldda Stood in Bed."

Other times rhymes inspire. "Please Pass the Cheese, Louise" (dedicated to my aunt, of course), would serve nicely as a cookbook heading.

Variations on best-sellers, new and old, may be the best fun of all. There's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Beyer?" (bio of my sister's friend); "Real Women Don't Eat Much" (diet manual); "Everything You Wanted to Know About Sox But Were Afraid to Ask" (laundry hints) and "Days of Wine and Moss" (popular vintages of the Old Testament).

Book titles can pop up when you least expect them. After filling the bird feeder this morning, the head of the house announced that one of the more colorful regulars nearly side-swiped him on its way to the seed. "Almost Hit by a Cardinal" has a lot of potential; a book on birds, a sports tome or maybe a speed-happy Prince of the Church.

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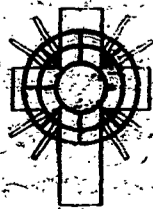
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