

Has the Pro-Life Movement Peaked?

By Jim Lackey

Washington (NC) — Has the pro-life movement peaked? Or is it continuing to make slow but measurable progress in its efforts to limit abortion on demand?

Special Report

Those are the major questions being asked in the wake of the double defeat pro-lifers suffered on the Senate floor in mid-September. Despite the fact that this Congress — particularly the Senate — was supposed to be more receptive than ever to anti-abortion initiatives, much of the pro-life legislative agenda for the current year died Sept. 15 when the Helms bill was defeated and the Hatch amendment withdrawn.

Pro-life leaders in Washington are putting the best face possible on the Senate defeat by pointing to the closeness of the Senate vote on the Helms bill and to the promise of a full debate on the Hatch amendment next year.

To Peter B. Gemma Jr., executive director of the National Pro-Life Political Action Committee, the mere fact that the Senate was forced, in the middle of an election year, to vote on a substantive piece of abortion legislation was an achievement in itself. Others have pointed to the fact that the Hatch measure marked the first time in the decade since the Supreme Court's abortion decisions that a constitutional amendment has been cleared by a committee and sent to the floor of either house of Congress for a vote.

But past achievements do not assure future victories. And so there are still a number of issues to be resolved before anyone can say with certainty what the future of the abortion debate will be.

One indicator could be the outcome of the November elections. One reason the pro-life movement has arrived where it is today is the series of political upsets in 1978 and 1980 that brought to Washington a new breed of legislators who, among other things, had views more in line with those of the pro-life movement. Whether those same sorts of victories can be scored in 1982 remains to be seen.

Republican control of the Senate in the 97th Congress also contributed to the progress of anti-abortion legislation in the past two years. Hardly anyone expects the Democrats to regain control of the Senate in 1983. But one Republican committee chairman up for re-election this fall is none other than Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), architect of the Hatch amendment. Though Hatch is expected to win in a close

Knowing How to Lead

Nazareth Academy's student leaders received their annual "shot in the arm" at the recent Nazareth Student Leadership Day. Student Council and class officers gathered with their moderators and the school administration on Conesus Lake for an all-day workshop conducted by Sister Kathleen Clary, the school's youth minister.

After discussing different styles of leadership, the students worked together on a definition of a leader and the qualities she must possess. Then, Chris Gerbino, Student

Council president, conducted a goal-setting session which was followed by a role-playing program in which the girls tackled problems frequently encountered by student leaders.

"The day really went fast," said Joann Casey, senior class president. "It gave us an opportunity to try out a lot of things. I think this is the key to a successful year."

To help along this success, the officers, throughout the school year, will continue to share what they learned with their respective groups.

election battle, his defeat could spoil the agreement made between himself and Senate Majority Leader Howard H. Baker, Jr. (R-Tenn.) to hold a Senate debate on his amendment next Spring.

Another key to next year's abortion debate might be the revisions Hatch may make in the current wording of his amendment. Hatch, who maintained his amendment has "substantial majority" support in the Senate although not the needed two-thirds, could get a few more votes by making changes that could sway some undecided senators to support his initiative. Such modifications are permitted under the agreement between Hatch and Baker to bring the Hatch amendment to the Senate floor for debate next Spring.

What Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) might propose next year in a human life bill is yet another question. The final version of the bill — which would have permanently cut off most federal funding of abortions and provided for speedy Supreme Court review of lower court abortion decisions — was tabled by only a one-vote margin, meaning that a similar

measure by Helms or someone else might be able to gain a majority vote in the Senate.

Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, said the pro-life movement's "over-optimism" after the 1980 elections might have led to the current assessment that it has peaked. He noted that many thought the Helms human life bill was a shoo-in, although as it turned out several pro-life senators, such as Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.), were unable to support it because of its constitutional implications.


Johnson added that an unusually high level of grassroots activity in the pro-life movement during the 97th Congress also points to the movement's continued strength.

Thus pro-life leaders remain fairly optimistic that they can continue to build on the progress they made this year. But only time will tell whether the 97th Congress, now in its final weeks, was the last best hope for pro-lifers or whether there really will be more victories in the years ahead.

FIRST NATIONAL BANKS

CHARITY MATCH

YOUR + **F.N.B.R.** = **\$40**

 = **FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY**

First National Bank will pay you \$20 for opening your \$10,000 6 month C.D. or \$7,500 KEOGH Account, or \$10 for opening your 30 month \$5,000 C.D. or \$2,000 IRA Account. Donate the Cash Bonus to the charity of your choice and...

FIRST NATIONAL BANK WILL MATCH YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

Earn The Highest Interest On Your Money And Help Your Favorite Charity! Only at...



First National Bank of Rochester



The Little Bank With The Big Heart!

MAIN OFFICE 20 STATE STREET 423-3000
ROCHESTER OFFICE 1000 E. HURON ROAD 544-2240
LYELL OFFICE 870 LYELL AVENUE 254-0005
PITTSFORD OFFICE 3140 HUNTER AVENUE 395-1140

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Those who wish to have arrangements carried out in accordance with the ideals of their faith can rely upon the funeral directors listed to perform their duties with sympathetic care and attention.



ARNDT FUNERAL HOME
1118 Long Pond Road
(near Maiden Lane)
Ronald John Arndt
225-6350
Personal and Dignified Service
Parking for Over 70 Cars

BURNS - HANNA FUNERAL HOME
1795 Ridge Rd. E. 467-5745

Michael R. Yackiw Funeral Home
1270 Norton St.
544-5000

