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'Hatch' Defeated in Senate after Historic Debate

By Jim Lackey

Washington (NC) — The Senate, after what Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) called "a very historic debate," defeated a proposed constitutional amendment June 28 to reverse the Supreme Court's abortion decisions.

The vote, 49 in favor to 50 against, was hailed as a major victory by abortion rights groups. But pro-life groups claimed victories of their own, particularly in getting a full Senate debate on a constitutional amendment.

The debate and vote "sends a message to the country that this is an issue that has to be resolved," said Hatch, chief sponsor of the

amendment, at a news conference shortly after the vote.

"Much has been accomplished here from a pro-life standpoint," he added.

Sen. Bob Packwood (R-Ore.), who led opposition to the amendment, agreed in a separate news conference that a vote on a constitutional amendment was "important." But he said he hoped the vote would remove the abortion issue from the Senate agenda for the remainder of the 98th Congress and beyond.

The amendment, co-sponsored by Hatch and Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.), would have declared that "a right to abortion is not

secured by this Constitution."

The 49 votes in favor of the amendment left it 18 short of the two-thirds vote necessary for passage of a constitutional amendment in Congress.

The vote came after about 10 hours of debate spread over two days. About 20 senators took the Senate floor during the debate to speak in favor of the amendment, while about 10 spoke against it.

Even before the vote Hatch said that the amendment did not have the two-thirds vote needed for passage. He told another news conference an hour before the debate began June 27 that "what is im-

portant is that the debate take place."

The director of the U.S. bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities, Father Edward Bryce, said in a statement issued after the vote that while the outcome of the debate was disappointing in the short run, "the fact that the Senate has finally begun to address this issue head-on marks a distinct step forward in the process of reversing the abortion decisions."

He said the roll call on the amendment marked the Senate's "first clear vote in 10 years on the substance of the abortion decisions." The published record of the debate, he added, will provide a

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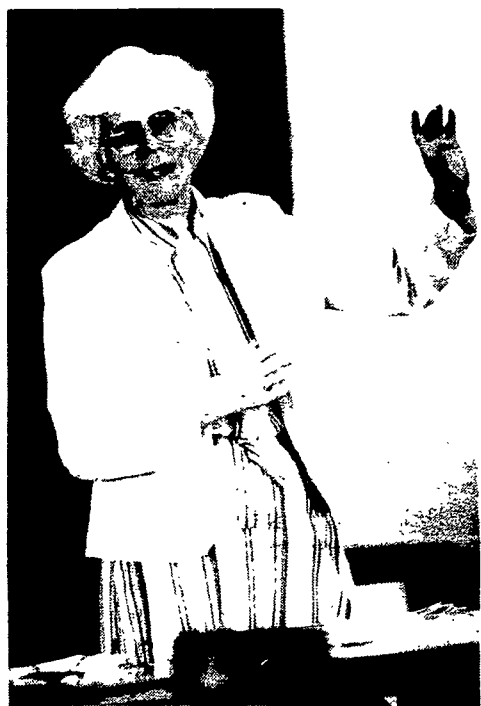
— Father Edward Bryce

"valuable resource" for the future.

The debate displayed not only the national split over abortion policy since the 1973 Supreme Court decisions but also the split within the pro-life movement itself over legislative tactics.

Immediately before the roll call began, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) took the Senate floor to announce that despite his strong opposition to abortion he could not support the Hatch amendment and therefore would vote

Continued on Page 4



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Cushing Dolbeare, left, executive director of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, spoke at the Sheen Foundation's annual meeting at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Above, some of the 40 that attended.

Make Housing an Issue, National Lobbyist Urges

"Please make housing an issue for everyone running for office in 1984," Cushing Dolbeare asked members of the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation at their annual meeting last week.

Ms. Dolbeare is executive director of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a Washington lobbyist and promoter of legislation which supports housing for low income families.

Delivering the keynote address "Political Perspective in Housing for the 80s," Ms. Dolbeare asserted "There has not been an adequate piece of legislation presented since I have been involved in housing advocacy."

One of the messages she wants to deliver Congress is, "You have to realize that if you're going to provide low income housing, it's going to cost you a lot of money."

The Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation is a non-for-profit organization

which provides grants and loans to low and moderate income families.

Ms. Dolbeare hailed such organizations saying, "When the Catholics and Episcopalians and Protestants came forward to support us, that, in essence, was the genesis of the Low Income Housing Coalition."

The local foundation was formed in 1980 with the merger of housing foundations run in the Catholic and Episcopal dioceses.

Last year the foundation approved 12 loans and grants totalling \$20,720, providing housing for 12 families, 65 individuals. In addition \$5,500 was allocated by the foundation's board of directors for emergency grants. A total of \$24,500 in loans was allocated to housing organizations throughout a 13-county area and \$30,000 was used to rehabilitate a two-family house for refugee housing.

In addition, the founda-

tion tries "to bring to the attention of the public the need for adequate housing for low and moderate income families and individuals," a foundation release stated.

Ms. Dolbeare listed a number of aspects of the housing problems which she said are worsening:

Among those aspects are affordability, which she said has gotten worse as quality has improved; and availability, citing discrimination as the cause of keeping people from decent housing.

Speaking at what is likely to be his last foundation annual meeting, Bishop Robert Spears, retiring Episcopal Bishop of Rochester, said, "We must put coalitions like this together at a faster rate than the government can tear them apart."

One of the evening's highlights was the return of \$5,000 to the foundation from the Upper South Street Housing Project in Geneseo. The foundation had made the loan to the project three years ago. Gay Greene, a former board member, now member of the Geneseo project, made the return.

Also that evening Karen Noble Hanson was elected president of the foundation, joined by Victor Hadeed, vice president; Rosemarie Horvath, secretary; and Edward Short, treasurer.

Priests Council to Probe Parish Issues, Own Role

By John Dash

The new leaders of the diocesan Priests Council are looking forward to a season of discussion of the council's role in diocesan affairs and of exploration of parish and priestly issues.

In addition, the council will act in a supportive capacity to Bishop Matthew H. Clark's administrative tasks, they said.

Father Joseph M. Jankowiak, president, and Father James Moynihan, vice president, were elected to their offices late last month.

At that time Father William Darling was elected secretary, and new priest senators, representing age groups in the diocese, were welcomed.

The new senators and their blocs are: Father Benedict Ehmann, Bloc I; Father Elmer Heindl, II; Father John Hayes, III; Father Charles Bennett, IV; Father John Rosse, V; Father James Moynihan, VI; Father James Lawlor, VII; Father Kevin Murphy, VIII; Father William Darling, IX; and Father Robert Muhnckel, X.

In his opening address, Father Jankowiak cited the feast of the day, Mary's Visitation, as a good model for the future of the council.

"As Mary went out of her way to help her cousin Elizabeth, so too, the Priests Council should be at the service of the bishop and the people of the Diocese of Rochester, ready to go out of itself to meet the needs of the coming year," he said.

Interviewed last week, Father Jankowiak expanded on his comment, saying he hopes the council will enable the presbyterate as a whole to focus more clearly on pastoral issues, and "to come up with stronger action plans and decisions."

On the consultative plane, he said, the function of the council is to advise the ordinary. Such advice is given "for the good of the local Church," he said. "The bishop listens to that and realizes it is given for the good of the Church, and the council is a group that works in harmony with the bishop."

Father Moynihan, in-



Fathers Joseph Jankowiak and James Moynihan, president and vice president of the Priests Council, respectively.

terviewed at the same time, remarked:

"The council is envisioned in law as being a group that assists the bishop in the governance of the diocese. It acts like a senate, to give advice and in some instances consent."

He clarified the point by saying that such a council does not primarily raise issues to be addressed, "but to give advice on issues to the bishop. It can raise issues on its own, but mostly its function is to give advice, not to be an adversary."

Both priests listed discussion of ministerial roles and distinctions between ordained and lay ministries, retirement homes for priests and the lives of priests in retirement, and Pastoral Office procedures as likely topics of discussion in the coming council.

Father Moynihan and Father Jankowiak would both like to see the council make

some positive contributions toward easing the increasing workload on pastors.

As Father Moynihan put it for pastors, it's getting harder and harder to make sure "all the hamburgers get cooked and none burned."

In addition, Father Jankowiak said he expects "a good healthy dialogue and interaction with other consultative bodies."

The priests will have that opportunity later this Summer at the first meeting of the Joint Executive Council, a body of officers of the three diocesan councils, during which council concerns and agenda items will be discussed.

Other members of the council are Father Richard Stanton, representing the Seneca-Cayuga region; Father John Norris, North East; Father Peter Clifford, South East; Father Walter

Continued on Page 4