

World & Nation

Bush and Dukakis on the issues: The USCC survey

EDITOR'S NOTE: The U.S. Catholic Conference released the text of its "Presidential Candidate Questionnaire Response" on October 6.

In releasing the text, the USCC explained: "In the summer of 1988, the U.S. Catholic Conference asked the presidential candidates, George Bush and Michael Dukakis, to complete a comprehensive questionnaire based upon the 14 basic issues found in the bishops' statement, "Political Responsibility: Choices for the 1980s." The candidates were asked to check "support," "no position" or "oppose" in response to each question, and to make any comments.

The following is Part I of the candidates' responses. Parts II and III will follow in the editions of October 27 and November 3.

Abortion:

Would you support the passage of a constitutional amendment that would:

● Restore the right to life to unborn children (Human Life Amendment)?

DUKAKIS: Oppose.

BUSH: Support. I support a human life amendment with an exception for the life of the mother, rape or incest.

● Overturn the Roe vs. Wade decision and restore to the federal and state legislatures the power to restrict and prohibit abortion (Human Life Federalism Amendment)?

DUKAKIS: Oppose.

BUSH: (No answer checked.) I support a constitutional amendment that would reverse the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision on abortion.

● Would you support legislation to prohibit the use of federal funds for abortions; and to prohibit requiring that public or private entities, as a condition for receiving federal funds, provide abortions with non-federal funds?

DUKAKIS: Oppose. I believe that it is the woman, in the exercise of her own conscience and religious convictions, who must make the decision on abortion. Without federal funding, poor women cannot make that choice.

BUSH: (No answer checked.) I oppose the use of federal funds to pay for abortion except when the life of the mother is threatened.

Arms control and disarmament:

Do you support efforts to halve the nuclear arms race through mutual and verifiable agreements to make deep cuts in the world's nuclear arsenals?

DUKAKIS: (No answer checked.) President Reagan has set the stage for deep reductions in the number of nuclear weapons on both sides. As president, I will seek to arrive at an agreement with the Soviets that would cut by half the number of nuclear weapons in each nation's arsenal while maintaining strategic stability.

BUSH: Support. (It was our idea!)

Do you support or oppose the following initiatives? Please comment.

● A comprehensive test ban treaty?

DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: Oppose.

● Continued observance of limits contained in the ABM (SALT I) and SALT II Treaties?

DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: Support. I am convinced that all the research the U.S. has done, and plans to do, can be done within the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972. The United States has steadfastly adhered to the treaty. We have interpreted the treaty in what the technicians call a "narrow interpretation." This means that as a matter of policy we have voluntarily



UPI/NC News
Vice President George Bush, left, and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis shake hands before the start of their October 13 debate.

limited what we can do. However, the treaty's language is ambiguous. The Soviets specifically wanted it that way during the treaty's negotiations. We continue to press the Soviets to explain why their strategic defense research programs and other activities violate the ABM Treaty.

● The recently negotiated INF treaty?

DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: Support. The INF treaty President Reagan signed in December was a major step forward in our relations with the Soviet Union. It is not the millennium. But it is something we can build on, and it is a victory of will and determination. The president first proposed the so-called "zero option" six years ago, when the Soviets had a monopoly on these intermediate-range missiles in Europe. They said no to our offer — and so we countered their missiles with our missiles. Then they changed their mind.

● A treaty abolishing chemical weapons?

DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: Support. In the year ahead, I want to work toward a verifiable agreement to eliminate all chemical and biological weapons. These terrible weapons have no place in a civilized world. They should be banned from the face of the Earth. As president, I will propose, and work toward, a treaty to do exactly that. In April 1984, I presented a U.S. treaty to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to ban the possession, production, acquisition, retention or transfer of chemical weapons. Ingredients for chemical weapons are easy to produce and production facilities are easy to conceal. The treaty I presented contains tough, on-site on-demand verification stipulations.

Capital punishment:

Would you support efforts to end the use of the death penalty or to defeat its reintroduction at the federal level?

DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: Oppose. I support increased jail

sentences for certain criminals, particularly repeat offenders. Unfortunately, there are instances in our society of exceptionally terrible crimes and there must be a credible penalty on the federal books to respond to these cases. Therefore, I strongly support capital punishment for crimes involving murder, treason, espionage and for drug kingpins and drug-related murders.

Civil Rights:

Would you support legislation that would give normal due process rights to "excludable aliens" in the United States, e.g., Haitian boat people and Mariel Cuban detainees?

DUKAKIS: (No answer checked.) I support the Moakley-DeConcini bill, and a Dukakis administration will implement a compassionate and fair refugee policy. However, granting full due-process rights to non-citizens would present insurmountable logistical and financial obstacles and add to an already intolerable backlog of cases.

BUSH: No position.

Would you support legislation that strengthens remedies for housing discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities, women, handicapped persons and families with children?

DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: (No answer checked.) I was instrumental in helping Congress reach agreement on the recent amendments to the Fair Housing Law. I acted as a "fair broker" between the parties and got the legislation over some crucial hurdles. Over two decades ago, as a young Texas congressman, I was one of few Southerners to vote for the Open Housing Act. I will continue to pursue equal housing opportunity by vigorously enforcing the federal fair housing laws. We will also look to develop innovative methods for providing housing to low-income and elderly Americans as well.

The Economy:

Do you support federal action to provide

significant new resources and creative partnerships to effectively combat hunger, homelessness and poverty in the United States?

DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: Support. In 1988, the federal government will spend directly about \$400 million in assistance to the homeless on such things as emergency shelter and medical care. More importantly, the federal government is making about \$10 billion in block grants to the states in homeless-related aid, such as shelter, low-income support, mental health clinics and other community services. We must do more to enforce existing laws benefiting the homeless, and to make sure the federal government meets its obligations. For example, there is an often ignored law on the books that requires the Defense Department to allow the use of vacant space in military bases as emergency shelter.

Do you support the development of national policy which would provide decent jobs for those who can work and adequate assistance for those who cannot (e.g., children, disabled, aged and mothers of young children), including increased resources for job creation, job training and child care for the unemployed and increased financial and nutritional assistance to poor families?

DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: Support. We must bring economic growth to the areas of our country and the segments of our population that have not yet participated in this, the longest peacetime expansion in our history. A job is the best anti-poverty program ever invented. One way the federal government can help is through Job Retraining — my running mate, Dan Quayle, co-sponsored legislation creating a very successful retraining program. The American economy has created more than 17 million new jobs in the last five years — more than Europe and Japan combined. The Europeans call it the "American miracle." The percentage of working-age men and women who are employed is now the highest in our history.

Would you support a substantial increase in the federal minimum wage with regular adjustments to reflect inflation?

DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: Oppose. A higher minimum wage would hurt those it seeks to help the most — in particular, young, entry-level workers — by snuffing out jobs that would have been created otherwise. If the past six years of America's spectacular success in job creation — the envy of Japan, Europe, and the world — have proven anything, it is that less government interference in the labor market is the answer, not more. And entry-level jobs, which minimum wage laws hinder, create more high-pay jobs down the line.

Education:

Would you support legislation with a constitutionally acceptable provision to assist parents financially to choose among public and private elementary and secondary schools for education of their children? (Examples: tax deductions; tax credits; scholarships; grants; vouchers, etc.)

DUKAKIS: Oppose. Americans who choose to send their children to private school do so for deeply felt reasons. They deserve our understanding. However, at a time when funding for public schools grows scarcer, we must use our resources to improve the quality of the public schools.

BUSH: (No answer checked.) My detailed education proposal encourages both parental choice and accountability, by: setting standards for and regarding excellence, supporting magnet schools, and fostering local control and experimentation.

Tests reveal Shroud of Turin material to be medieval in origin

By Greg Erlanson

Vatican City (NC) — Scientific tests conducted on the Shroud of Turin, long venerated as Christ's burial cloth, show the material to be of medieval origin, Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero of Turin announced.

But in an October 13 statement at a Turin press conference, the cardinal said the Church "reaffirms its respect" for the 14-foot strip of linen containing what appears to be the image of a badly beaten, crucified man.

There has been no determination of the origin of the image. The tests were aimed at determining the age of the cloth.

The cardinal's statement was released the same day at the Vatican.

The shroud was subjected to carbon 14 testing at three laboratories last summer: at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Oxford

University in England and the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland.

The cardinal said the tests reported with 95 percent accuracy that the cloth was made between 1260 and 1390.

"While leaving to science the evaluation of these results, the Church reaffirms its respect and its veneration for this venerable icon of Christ, which remains an object of veneration for the faithful," Cardinal Ballestrero said.

The Church believes that the "value of the image" of the shroud is "more important than its eventual value as a historical exhibit," the cardinal added.

The cardinal also said that the test results do not answer all the questions about the shroud.

"The problems of the origin of the image

and of its conservation remain largely unsolved and they will need further research and study," the cardinal said.

The Church, he added, will take the same attitude toward this research that it did to the carbon 14 dating, "inspired by the love of truth." He said the Church showed that commitment "by permitting the radiocarbon dating" as soon as a reasonable program for such tests was available.

Recent developments in carbon 14 dating made it possible for the tests to be conducted on extremely small samples of cloth, thus assuring that the shroud would not be damaged by the tests.

In his statement, the cardinal criticized press leaks about the test results, noting promises by the laboratories that they would let the archdiocese release the results first.

He said the leaks favored the "insinuation" that "the Church was afraid of science" and was trying to hide the conclusions.

The cardinal said the laboratory results would be published in detail in a scientific journal.

With the cardinal at the Turin press conference were Joaquin Navarro Valls, Vatican press spokesman, and Luigi Gonella, the cardinal's adviser on the shroud.

Gonella said he was satisfied with the analysis, calling the carbon 14 dating process "state-of-the-art technology."

The shroud is owned by the Vatican, but is in the custody of the Archdiocese of Turin, which the cardinal said would continue to be the case.