world & nation

Bush, Clinton reply to bishops' survey

By Nancy Frazler O'Brien Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The responses President George Bush and Gov. Bill Clinton made to a U.S. Catholic Conference questionnaire highlighted some of their differences, but also showed agreement on such issues as the death penalty, euthanasia and most foreign policy.

Independent candidate H. Ross Perot did not respond to the USCC questionnaire.

In response to approximately 40 questions in the USCC survey, neither candidate revealed new stands. The questions were based on issues explored in "Political Responsibility: Revitalizing American Democracy," the USCC Administrative Board's statement on the 1992 elections.

Bush and Clinton reiterated their long-held positions on abortion and on school-choice programs that would include religiously affiliated schools.

"I am opposed to abortion except when the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term," said Bush. "I believe that abortion should be safe, legal and rare," said Clinton.

On school choice, Bush spoke about his proposal to give "\$1,000 scholarships to children from middle- and lowincome families so they can attend the lawfully operating schools of their choice — public, private or religious."

Clinton recalled his own education at a Catholic elementary school and university but said he opposed the Bush plan. "While I value my Catholic educa-



President George Bush

tion, I also understand that our public school system is too important to allow its financial base to be diluted. That is why I support public school choice but would not extend this to private or parochial schools."

On capital punishment, the two candidates found themselves in agreement.

"I support a federal death penalty for the most heinous crimes, with procedures to ensure its fair and color-blind application," Bush said. "In particular, I support the death penalty for cop killers, carjackers and narcotic kingpins."

"Some crimes are so heinous and committed by offenders so incorrigible that they merit the death penalty," said Clinton. He noted that he had signed several execution orders as governor of Arkansas and said "a leader cannot



Gov. Bill Clinton

shrink from" such decisions. On euthanasia, both candidates

On euthanasia, both candidates opposed such proposals as the one before California voters this year to legalize physician-assisted suicide.

"I support the sentiment expressed in the Hippocratic oath taken by all physicians, which states that a physician's responsibility is to `give no deadly medicine to anyone," said Bush. "I do not support doctor-assisted suicide," Clinton said.

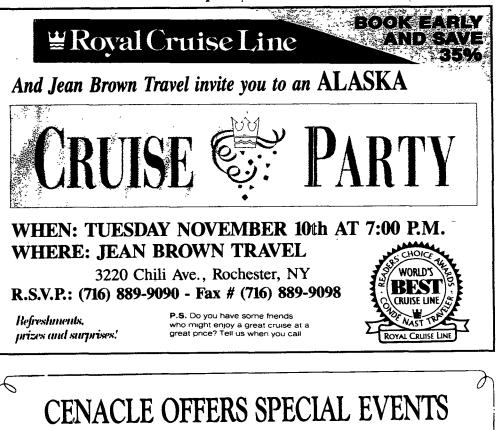
With respect to such foreign-policy areas as South Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, Bush and Clinton generally outlined the same goals. On the Middle East, for example, Bush said, "I support an agreement of real peace between Israel and Arab countries, codified by treaties and characterized by reconciliation and openness." Clinton took a similar stand: "I am a strong supporter of the peace talks that are under way, and if elected, I will continue the American role in them."

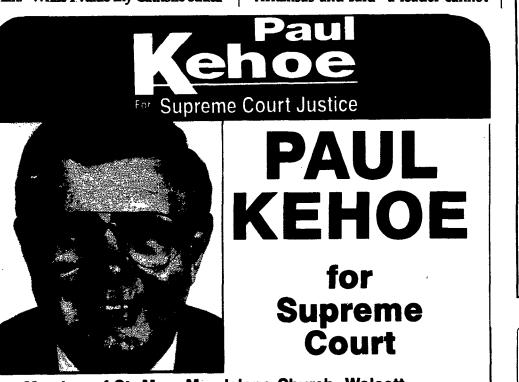
The USCC questionnaire also addressed such issues as arms control and disarmament, civil rights, the economy, family life, food and agriculture policy, health, housing, human rights, immigration, international economic policy, labor relations, mass media and refugees.

In a set of seven general questions, the USCC gave the candidates an opportunity to address the question of "family values," which has become one of the catch phrases of the 1992 campaign.

"I believe the policies of the federal government should promote, not hinder, strong families and moral values," said Bush. "If we mean to prepare our children for the 21st century, schools must cultivate values and good character and give real meaning to right and wrong."

"It is unfortunate that public discussion of how best to help families has become so polarized," said Clinton. "I want an America that does more than talk about family values. I want an America that values families."





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New York, and former member of church council.

- Married for twenty-nine years to wife, Betty, and father of three grown sons.
- Highest possible rating by his county bar association.
- Wayne County District Attorney 1967-1971. Successfully prosecuted over 400 felony cases, including First Degree Murder.
- Wrote legislation for tougher Parole Laws, improved Victim's Rights, to increase penalties for drug dealers and to provide funding for Statewide Anti-Drug Program (DARE).
- Graduate of Syracuse University School of Law, Magna Cum Laude, 1962.
- Wolcott Rotary Club Wolcott Elks Americar

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