

Clinton would OK laws on abortion notification

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

FREELAND, Mich. — States should have the freedom to require parental notification for abortion, Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton said Oct. 25 in a 25-minute interview with Catholic News Service.

Clinton, who says he opposes abortion but believes it should be legal, also said he doesn't think federal law should prohibit a state's right to establish a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion may be performed, although he believes such waiting periods pose an unnecessary burden for some women.

The Arkansas governor, a Southern Baptist who graduated from Jesuit-run Georgetown University, also credited his six years of Catholic education with ingraining in him a sense of moral obligation to try to live out religious convictions that affects his daily life.

In a wide-ranging interview at Tri-City Airport in Freeland, Mich., near Saginaw, Clinton discussed:

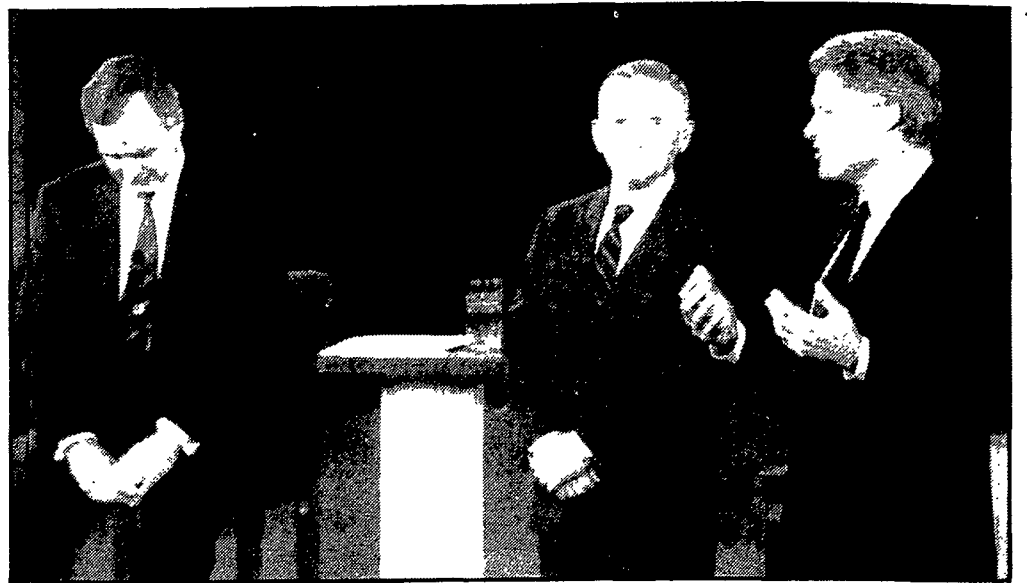
- His years at Georgetown and two years in a Catholic grade school.
- His opposition to a school-choice voucher funding system that includes parochial schools.

- Standards he would apply in nominating Supreme Court justices.
- His support for the death penalty.
- His support for would-be refugees to the United States from Haiti.
- Proposals to help the nation's poor children.

Clinton has said he would support the Freedom of Choice Act, which — as introduced in the last session of Congress — would have prohibited states from passing laws restricting abortion. But he noted that various proposed amendments to the bill would have given states some regulatory leeway.

Acknowledging that as governor of Arkansas he supported a law requiring minors to notify their parents before having abortions, Clinton noted, "The final form of that act (in Congress) is not yet clear. Before the people who support it decided not to push it in this Congress, there were all kinds of negotiations about what the states should still be free to do."

"I think states should absolutely have the freedom to have parental notice," he said. While he believes a 24-hour waiting period "philosophically, sounds like a totally reasonable thing," it can impose an unfair burden on women who must travel long distances in some



AP/Wide World Photos

RESPONDING TO THE ISSUES — President George Bush looks down as he listens to Gov. Bill Clinton during the two candidates' Oct. 15 debate with independent presidential hopeful H. Ross Perot. Bush and Clinton granted interviews with Catholic News Service and responded to a survey conducted by the U.S. Catholic Conference. Perot declined both requests.

areas of the country where there are few abortion clinics.

He urged finding ways for people who disagree on abortion to work together to reduce their number. Adoption, in particular, should be more widely encouraged, he said.

Clinton said as president he would nominate Supreme Court justices who agree with him that the constitutional right to privacy guarantees freedom to have abortions.

He agrees with the use of capital punishment, but said he doesn't think much would be gained by extending capital

punishment to more federal crimes.

Clinton supported a crime bill that never made it out of Congress this session. He said he thought the bill's provisions imposing the death penalty for several additional federal crimes were secondary.

"I supported it largely because it contained more funds to put police officers on the street and because it contained the Brady Bill, which would have a waiting period before people could buy handguns so we could check their criminal and mental health history and age," he said.



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ON THE JOB

- Rochester City Court Judge, 1983 to present
- Supervising Judge of the City Court, 1984 to 1992
- Monroe County District Attorney's Office, 1974 to 1982. Served as Bureau Chief of the Career Criminal Bureau; As Special Assistant D.A. for Major Felony Crimes Prosecution; and with the Special Investigations and Grand Jury Bureau. District Attorney's Liaison City Neighborhood Association's Court Watch Program
- Palmiere, Passero and Crimi, Esq., 1972 to 1974, private practice in civil and criminal law

IN THE COMMUNITY

- Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law, Rochester Institute of Technology
- Board Member, Mediation, Arbitration, Conciliation Program of the Center for Dispute Settlement
- Board Member, Victim/Offender Reconciliation Program
- Former Advisory Board Member, Adam Walsh Child Resource Center, Alternatives for Battered Women, Monroe County Community Service Sentencing Project
- Member, Group 14621 Community Association
- Active in youth sports programs

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EDUCATION

- Graduate of Aquinas Institute
- B.A. English, Niagara University
- Law Degree, St. John's University

THE VALENTINO FAMILY

Joe and Janet Valentino live in the City of Rochester, on Collingwood Drive, with their four children: Nick, Tad, Chris and Joe.

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About our political coverage

All the of the presidential-election coverage in this week's *Catholic Courier* was provided by Catholic News Service.

CNS began seeking interviews with the three presidential candidates shortly after this summer's Democratic and Re-

publican conventions.

When Ross Perot re-entered the race this fall, CNS made the same request for an interview with him. Despite repeated efforts, officials with the Perot campaign declined CNS' request for an interview.

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