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AP/Wide World Photos  
Representative Nita Lowey (second from left) stands with other members of the House of Representatives during a meeting with reporters on Capitol Hill Feb. 10 to express support for surgeon general nominee Dr. Henry W. Foster Jr.

## Foster

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But the transcript of a 1978 hearing of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Ethics Advisory Board, on which Foster served, showed him claiming to have already performed up to 700 abortions by then. "I have done a lot of amniocentesis and therapeutic abortions, probably near 700," he is quoted as saying.

The transcript also shows that Foster sometimes clashed with the board's most prominent Catholic member, Jesuit Father Richard A. McCormick, over the use of fertilized embryos for experimentation. At the time the priest was professor of Christian ethics at Georgetown University's Kennedy Institute for the Study of Reproduction and Bioethics in Washington.

Now a visiting professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, Father McCormick told Catholic News Service Feb. 13 that he did not recall much about his dealings with Foster on the ethics board and had not spoken with Foster since the board was dissolved in 1979.

He said he had "no reason to think that Foster wouldn't do a good job" as surgeon general, but that issues of Foster's qualifications "have been dwarfed by the gross incompetence of the (nomination) process."

"The abortion issue is terribly controversial and divisive, and anyone who isn't squeaky clean on the issue" should

“  
We will fight for  
this nomination.  
”

Leon Panetta

not have been nominated, Father McCormick said.

Pro-life groups opposing the Foster nomination also focused on the 1981 clinical trials of an abortion-inducing drug that occurred at Meharry Medical College in Nashville when Foster was chairman of obstetrics and gynecology there.

A 1981 story by National Catholic News Service, as CNS was then called, described Foster as principal investigator in the study of a vaginal suppository that induced abortion. The trials were funded by the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Co. of Kalamazoo, Mich., which never brought the drug to market.

Fifty-five of the 60 pregnant women and girls who received the experimental drug aborted through use of the drug, Foster reported several years later in a medical journal. Four others had to undergo a surgical abortion, and one "opted to continue her pregnancy" after the drug failed to cause an abortion and later gave birth to a baby boy, he said.

## Advertisers'

The puzzle below contains the names (or one word from the names) of 20 advertisers in this week's Catholic Courier. Read this week's advertisements to complete the puzzle. Send or deliver your entry to Puzzle, c/o Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624 or fax to 716-328-8640.

If you correctly identify the advertisers in this week's puzzle, your entry will be placed in a random drawing for one of four Official 1994-95 Diocesan Directories published by the Catholic Courier.

Prizes will be awarded by random drawing of completed puzzles received by Friday, February 24. Winner will be notified by mail and their names will be published in the following week's Catholic Courier. No purchase necessary to win. Only one entry per person, please. Employees of the Catholic Courier and their immediate families are not eligible.

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Winners from the Feb. 2, Advertisers' Puzzle were Judy Geimer, Rochester; Charles Frosino, Rochester; Agnes Howard, Rochester; and Ann Mason, Webster.

Some words in the puzzle included John, Arndt, Bartolomeo, Bosdyk, Cherry, Cinellis, Crystal, Hart, Class, Kids, Barn, Dominics, Academy, Penfield, Optician, Sulewski, Steak, Scottsville, Vay and Schliech.

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Watch for our next Advertisers' Puzzle on March 2nd!

## Priest

Continued from page 1

we lose nine out of 10 and someone comes up with a protocol that says: I believe if I can experiment with some zygotes I can reduce this loss by half, so in a sense I am saving. By allowing me to experiment on this being, I will save future beings of the same class.

**Father McCormick:** Well, I have the same problem with saying that I would with the baby about to be aborted by saying, look, by doing this I can do an awful lot for future babies. I can't myself see that is morally justified.

**Halpern:** Because why? Because the zygote cannot consent? You would certainly allow an adult to —

**Father McCormick:** That is right. We are talking about nonconsenting individuals here.

When the Ethics Advisory Board submitted its final report to then-HEW Secretary Joseph Califano in 1979, Father McCormick supported its conclusion that in vitro fertilization is ethically acceptable in the sense that, while controversial, it can

be defended.

The board said that federal regulations gave it the responsibility to judge in vitro fertilization research proposals on their "acceptability from an ethical viewpoint."

"This phrase is broad enough to include several interpretations," the board said, including "ethically mandatory, clearly ethically right, ethically defensible although still legitimately controverted."

"However, the board wishes to make clear that in reaching a decision as to 'acceptability,' it is not finding that the ethical considerations against such research are insubstantial," the report added. "In finding the research 'acceptable from an ethical viewpoint,' the board is therefore using the phrase in the third sense."

The board said questions of whether such research should be funded by the federal government or in what amounts funding might be given were essentially political questions which they could not resolve. Father McCormick said, however, that he would not support using federal funds for in vitro fertilization research.