

WORLD & NATION

Study reveals opposition to abortion method

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A majority of Americans support a ban on so-called partial-birth abortions, according to a poll conducted for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In a nationwide poll, 71 percent of 1,000 registered voters surveyed said they support a bill that would ban the controversial procedure used for late-term abortions. The question was asked in a poll commissioned by the NCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities to survey attitudes toward abortion.

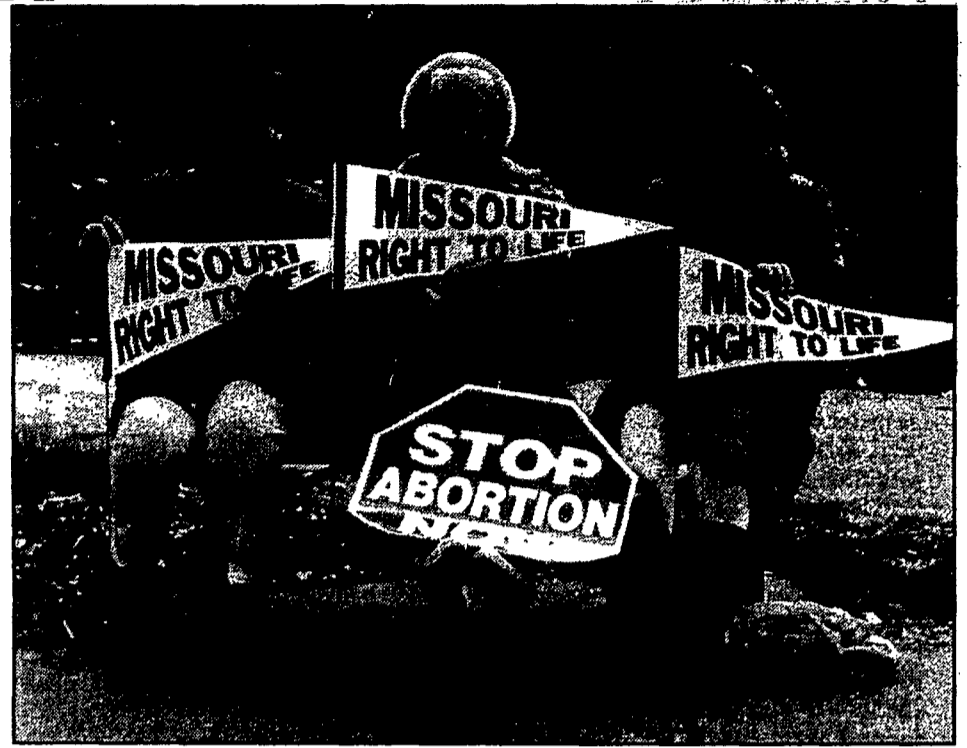
The entire poll was to be released Jan. 18, just before the Jan. 22 March for Life protesting the United States Supreme Court's Jan. 22, 1973, *Roe Vs. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in the U.S.

"Killing a baby who is four-fifths delivered outside of her mother violates every humane instinct Americans possess," said a statement from Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the secretariat.

In the procedure, an abortion is performed late in the pregnancy. The doctor grabs the fetus by the feet and pulls the body, up to the head, through the birth canal, then killing it by inserting scissors at the base of the brain. The brains are suctioned out, causing the skull to collapse and allowing easier removal of the head to complete the procedure.

The House and Senate passed separate versions of the bill and the measure was turned over to a conference committee to work out differences. President Clinton has said he would veto the versions that each chamber passed.

In the survey conducted for the NCCB by the Tarrance Group, 71 percent of the respondents said they would support a law to ban the procedure, with 57 percent of that group saying they strongly supported it and 14 percent saying they somewhat supported it. Sixteen



Participants in the Annual March For Life sit bundled up before last year's event in comparably mild weather. Organizers say this year's protest march will go on even in bad weather. CNS/Nancy Wiehac

percent said they opposed it, with 13 percent of that group strongly opposing it and 3 percent somewhat opposing it. Another 13 percent were unsure. The margin of error was plus or minus 3 percent.

The pro-life secretariat said the White House also is asking a public opinion question on the subject, which Alvare called "misleading at best and, at worst, deliberately designed to confuse the public regarding what's really at stake."

The secretariat reported the question posed on the White House public comment phone line asks:

"Should the president veto the measure which would criminalize a rarely used abortion procedure even in cases where the woman's health is at stake?"

The question asked in the NCCB poll asked:

"Congress is debating a late-term abortion procedure called partial-birth abortion. It involves partially delivering a live fetus in the last months of pregnancy, killing the fetus and then completing the delivery. Would you support a law which would prohibit this procedure, except where it is necessary to save the mother's life?"

Pope denounces hostility in the name of religion

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Denouncing all forms of anti-Semitism and "hostility in the name of religious convictions," Pope John Paul II asked members of all faiths to work together to build a better world.

"May members of all religions come to understand one another, show esteem for each other and work together to build, according to God's plan, peace and universal brotherhood," the pope said during his Sunday, Jan. 14 midday Angelus address.

Pope John Paul has been using the Sunday talks to review and reaffirm the contents of the documents of the Second

Vatican Council, which ended 30 years ago.

The document *Nostra Aetate*, on relations with other religions, encouraged mutual respect, dialogue and collaboration for the authentic good of all humanity, the pope said.

"History, unfortunately, has had dark pages of hostility in the name of religious convictions," he said.

Those tensions, the pope said, arose when people forgot that God is the origin and creator of all humanity as well as the ultimate destiny of all people.

The Catholic Church has an obligation to proclaim that "only Christ, the incarnate Son of God, is the way and truth and the life and only in him do men and

women find the fullness of religious life."

At the same time, he said, the church must recognize the positive elements found in many religions and acknowledge those things which are true and holy in other faiths.

"*Nostra Aetate*," the pope said, gave special attention "to our Jewish brothers and sisters, with whom Christianity has a particularly intimate relationship."

"The Christian faith, in fact, has its beginnings in the religious experience of the Jewish people from whom Christ came in the flesh," the pope said.

The pope prayed that members of all religions would learn to listen better to the voice of God in their lives and act on the truths he teaches.



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Listen!
I stand
at the door
and knock,

Revelation 3:14-22

