

Abortion drug wins FDA approval

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Approval of the French abortion drug RU-486 for use in the United States will serve to "further numb our consciences to the violence of abortion and the taking of innocent human life," the head of the U.S. bishops' pro-life office said Sept. 28.

Gail Quinn, executive director of the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said the approval given earlier that day by the Food and Drug Administration was "the last in a series of capitulations to abortion advocates who dismiss serious concerns about the drug and its effects."

Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood, said the FDA approval would

cause abortion in the first few weeks of pregnancy.

"We will shout it from the rooftops: RU-486 kills innocent human persons," Brown said. "The U.S. Congress must resolve to conduct oversight hearings at once so that the Food and Drug Administration is held accountable for this raw, inhumane decision that will destroy babies and maim women."

In announcing its approval of mifepristone, which is to be marketed under the name Mifeprex, Dr. Jane E. Henney, U.S. commissioner of food and drugs, said the decision was based on "the FDA's careful evaluation of the scientific evidence related to the safe and effective use of this drug."

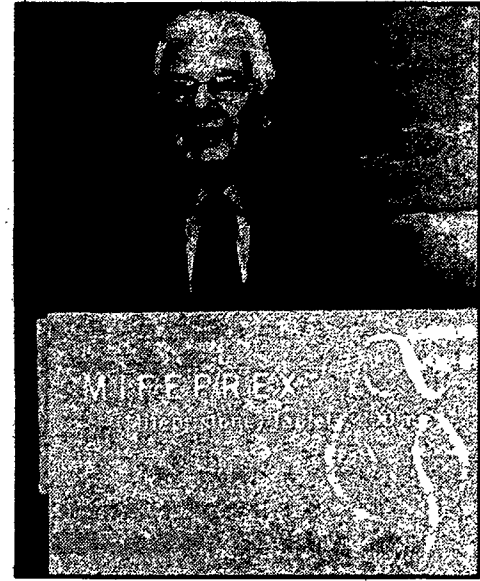
Judie Brown, a Catholic who heads the American Life League, also pledged to continue efforts against RU-486, which is known generically as mifepristone and is used along with a prostaglandin drug to

cause abortion in the first few weeks of pregnancy.

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Continued on page 6



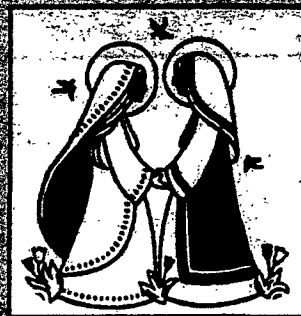
Reuters/CNS
Dr. Richard U. Hausknecht of Danco Laboratories, speaks to the media Sept. 28.



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Inside This Week



Ministry helps women ease pain
Addresses mothers' loss of children
— Page 5

Donor's grants will go long way
Three Finger Lake Schools in haste
— Page 3



Irish musician goes on record
Performs as way of thanking Mary
— Page 5

Church's Vineyard offers path of God's forgiveness

Theresa Karminski-Burke, a King of Prussia, Pa. psychologist, was overseeing a women's support group as part of her studies. The women began telling her and each other about another problem

had abortions," Karminski-Burke recalled during a phone interview

genuinist who was supervising her work with the group and told him of the women. She noted that she began to wonder if their disorders had the grief they felt over their abortions. However, she re-

no business prying into abortions," she said. She re- and how upset he became. "He kind of forbade deal with this

However, Karminski-Burke believed she was onto something and decided on her own to form a therapeutic support group for women who had had abortions. She has since become one of the nation's leading experts on the psychological effects of abortion on women.

According to Karminski-Burke and several other sources, such women often suffer from "post-abortion trauma" or "post-abortion syndrome," which certain mental health professionals consider a form of post-traumatic stress syndrome. The syndrome affects people who have suffered an event so traumatic that they are unable to cope with it in a normal manner. Per abortion, repressed feelings of guilt and grief may be responsible for such symptoms as depression, suicidal thoughts, sleep, appetite and sexual disturbances, alcohol and drug abuse and reduced motivation.

Continued on page 11

