

WHO CAUSES DEFEAT OF THE PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION IN THE KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

The answer is State Rep. Jim Callahan (D) of Southgate, KY. He of course claims to be "Pro-Life," and votes for our Bills when they get to the Floor of the Kentucky House of Representatives, but, in his position in "leadership" in the Kentucky House of Representatives, elected by his fellow Democrats (overwhelmingly the majority Party in the House) serves on the Rules Committee, and the Committee on Committees, which appoint the Democratic pro-abortion chairmen of the various committees in the House. They bottle up the Pro-Life bills, and, if the bills do finally manage to get out of the committee, they are blocked in the Rules Committee from getting a Floor vote.

Last month, Callahan refused a specific request from a Pro-Life Representative to make a Motion from the floor of the House for a vote to overrule the Democratic Majority Leader, which would have allowed vote on the floor of the House on 3 Pro-Life bills that had already passed the Ky. Senate.

Let us predict of course that Mr. Callahan will vigorously deny this allegation, and insist that he is of course "Pro-Life." But, if he is honest, he would have to answer "yes," to the following questions:

— Has he, this year and consistently in the past, voted in his Democratic Party Caucus to elect to the positions of leadership Speaker Jody Richards,

Speaker Pro Tem Larry Clark, Majority Floor Leader Greg Stumbo, and Majority Whip Joe Barrows, and himself as Majority Caucus Chair?

— Has he done so even in full knowledge of the fact that these people are the ones who, not only in this Session, but in past Sessions of the General Assembly effectively blocked Pro-Life legislation from coming to the floor of the legislature, and are personally and aggressively pro-abortion?

— Is he aware that when these bills do get out of committee, they pass overwhelmingly on the floor of the House, and are only effectively defeated by being kept from floor vote by this tiny group of authoritarian "leaders," which he repeatedly elects, year after year?

— Did he refuse a specific request by a Pro-Lifer to make a Motion from the floor of the House, last month, for a vote to overrule the Majority Leader, and to bring off of the calendar for floor vote 3 Pro-Life bills?

Mr. Callahan, and his compatriots have placed Party above Principle, and cannot dispute the logic of the late Cardinal Archbishop of Boston, Humberto Medeiros: "Those who make abortions possible by law — such as legislators and those who promote, defend and elect these same lawmakers — cannot separate themselves totally from that guilt which accompanies this horrendous crime and deadly sin."

The reality is of course undeniable that the Pro-Life Movement has too long indulged people like Callahan in their "Pontius Pilate" defense. They are "personally opposed" to abortion, and will vote against it when it reaches the Floor, but then somehow seek to wash their hands of innocent blood even though they are directly responsible for the ongoing killing, by affirmatively supporting for elective positions in leadership of the legislatures committed pro-abortionists, who thereby effectively stop Pro-Life legislation.

Callahan and his pro-abort majoritarians in the Democratic Party control not only the appointment of chairmen of the committees in the House, but also control the flow of the bills that are permitted, even after they come out of the committee, to go to the Floor for a vote of the full membership.

In this current session of the legislature, there were three Pro-Life bills introduced into the Kentucky House of Representatives, and two were assigned to the Judiciary Committee and one to the Health and Welfare Committee.

Both Chairmen were strongly pro-abortion (appointed by the majority leadership, including Callahan). One of the bills finally found its way out of the Judiciary Committee, but the House

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Rules Committee declined to assign it a time for Floor vote.

One of these other “lip service Pro-Lifers” on the Rules Committee, and in the majority “leadership” is Rep. **Jody Richards (D) of Bowling Green**, who is Speaker of the House. He likewise professes that he is “Pro-Life,” but has likewise sold out the Pro-Life cause. For example two years ago, he was exposed by N. Ky. Rep. Tom Kerr (D), whom he promised to allow one of Kerr’s bills to be heard on the Floor of the House. Richards likewise, this year, guaranteed a vote in the House Judiciary Committee on 2 Pro-Life bills, and failed to perform, and again in the last week of the Session told Kerr he would not recognize him on the floor for purpose of Kerr’s making a Motion to bring the bills to a vote.

Truth is Frequently Uncomfortable

A famous cartoonist immortalized the truth “I have seen the enemy, and he is us.” Obviously, we are all part of the problem. Equally obviously, and frequently ignored, is the fact many of us are working against the problem, and many are not!

It is a major mistake for the Pro-Life Movement, and a major contribution to the success of the pro-abortionists, when we fail to identify those who, while claiming to be Pro-Life, act in a way that directly advances the pro-abortion cause. Jim Callahan is unquestionably one of those. His strategy, and that of the pro-abortionists, is to diffuse responsibility. The strategy of the Pro-Life Movement must be to focalize individual responsibility — for what we do, and for what we do not do!!

The **great abolitionist, William Lloyd Garrison**, who made a mighty contribution to the abolition of the institution of slavery, denying human personhood to our black brothers and sisters, stated: **“I cannot do everything, but I can do something. That which I can do, I must do.”**

Accordingly, we cannot do everything, but that which we can do, we must do. We can defeat office holders like Jim Callahan who give lip service to the Pro-Life cause, but whose total professional life actively contributes to active selection in leadership positions of active pro-abortionists who then perpetuate the institution of abortion.

Note, for example, the response of Rep. Callahan to our most recent questionnaire, this year, for his candidacy for re-election. He received the standard questionnaire of all candidates, question 7 of which read:

“Will you refuse to support in any manner a candidate for any public office, who publicly states acceptance of the current status of legalized abortion, or who fails to disclose his position on the issue of abortion, or who has, as a public official, a record of support for abortion or of failing to oppose it?”

Rep. Callahan answered “No” and then, arrogantly volunteered the additional message to us “Please be consistent with Republicans and Democrats,” implying of course that NKRTL supports his opposing Party.

The reality, of course, is to the contrary, and Rep. Callahan knows that he cannot support the charge that NKRTL-PAC has ever been partisan.

We have supported and criticized, equally, Democrats and Republicans — solely on the question of their

consistency in defense of innocent human life. Without at all defending the Republican Party (which we have frequently criticized, as for example in our endorsement in the last Presidential election of **Howard Phillips of the Constitution Party**, and our criticism not only of **Bill Clinton (D)** but also **Bob Dole (R)**), the truth is quite undeniable:

— (1) Rep. Callahan is not just a member of the Democratic Party, but indeed has risen to a leadership position, obviously at the price of his support of those leaders (pro-abortion), as evidenced in their legislative positions,

— (2) he attended at the Governor’s Mansion in Frankfort in 1992 the first state gubernatorial support for our pro-abortion Pres. Bill Clinton and

— (3) he admits in his own answer to our candidate questionnaire that he supports all Democrats, even those who actively maintain abortion by their vote or appointment.

In the final analysis — in our heart of hearts — whom do we really admire — those who cling to the current power of the day, and thus actively contribute to the descending degeneracy of society, or those who stand up for uncompromising and undiluted moral principle, written by God on the heart of each of us? The overwhelming majority of the N. Ky. delegation to the General Assembly has shown themselves to be the latter.

Three Pro-Life Bills in 2000 General Assembly

Fetal Homicide

There were 3 Pro-Life bills introduced into this Session of the General Assembly. **HB 379 (Fetal Homicide)** would make it a crime for a third person (other than the Mother and the abortionist, who are constitutionally protected under Roe v. Wade) to kill an unborn child.

Such a prosecution was frustrated by the Ky. Supreme Court several years ago involving the conviction of a man in Wayne County, Ky., who had reached up into the birth canal and pulled the child out, killing it and almost killing the Mother. He was prosecuted for homicide and was convicted, but the Ky. Supreme Court held that the child was not “a person” by reason of Roe v. Wade, so as to come within our homicide statutes.

Twenty-six states have amended their homicide laws to describe the unborn child as a “person” and this bill would do that. It is of course an anti-violence bill, and good legislation, but because it establishes the “personhood” of the unborn child, the pro-death community is rabidly against it. The prime sponsor of this bill is **Rep. Tom Kerr (D)** of Kenton County.

Fetal Personhood

The second bill, **HB 378**, establishes the personhood of the unborn child from the instant of conception on, for purposes of bringing a civil suit for wrongful death, if injuries in the womb results in the child’s death. It is already the law of Kentucky, since a 1955 decision of our highest court, that the unborn child who is viable has such a cause of action. This legislation would simply push the right back to the instant of conception, and of course is opposed by the

death community for the same reason. The prime sponsor

Both of these bills were drafted through the joint efforts of Reps. Kerr and Fischer, and NKRTL Pres. Robert C. Cetrulo, all three of whom are attorneys and have experience in these legal fields. Such statutes have been upheld in other states, and there is not one decision holding them to be unconstitutional.

Pharmacists' Conscience Clause

The third bill, **HB 489**, would provide "conscience rights" to pharmacists who do not wish to be involved in the abortion process, by insulating them from discrimination by their employers for refusing to dispense medications that result in abortion. The pro-abortion majority in the House Health and Welfare Committee gutted the bill and produced a "committee substitute," which would restrict the protection of the pharmacist to drugs whose "sole intent and function was to produce an abortion," thereby insulating many other drugs that are known to have abortifacient properties.

Pro-Abort Maneuverings in the House

After long delays, the pro-abortion Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, **Rep. Gross Lindsay (D)** of Henderson, finally consented to hearings on HB 378 and 379. NKRTL Pres. Robert C. Cetrulo was one of 4 Pro-Life witnesses before the Committee on March 2nd. A large delegation of Pro-Lifers was in attendance from all areas of the state represented by Kentucky Coalition for Life, including NKRTL which had a good delegation present, including **V-Pres. Fred Summe**, and Board members **Joe Bessler, Marge Huth, Kathy Murphy, Marian Scharold and Tony Summe**. While the majority of that Committee is Pro-Life, the Chairman persisted in his refusal to permit these bills to be voted upon. **Speaker Jody Richards (D)** promised to N. Ky. legislators that he would get these bills voted upon.

HB 379 finally was voted upon, overwhelmingly favorably by the Committee and assigned to Rules Committee, where the 5 House "leaders" control life or death of a bill by permitting it to go to the floor for a vote, or simply not permitting it. These leaders, elected by vote of the Majority Party are **Democrats House Speaker Jody Richards of Bowling Green, Speaker Pro Tempore Larry Clark of Louisville, Majority Floor Leader Gregory D. Stumbo of Prestonsburg, Majority Caucus Chair Jim Callahan of Campbell County and Majority Whip Joe Barrows of Versailles**.

HB 379 died in this House Rules Committee, which failed to put it on the Floor for a vote of all the members. HB 378 died in Health and Welfare Committee where its pro-abortion Chairman declined any action on it. **The House Democratic leadership caused the death of these Pro-Life bills!**

The Democratic Representatives, many of whom claim to be Pro-Life, are responsible for the election of these "leaders," who continue to bottle up bills in closed meetings, thus controlling and indeed thwarting the will of the majority. This process is offensive and immoral, and indeed destructive of the democratic process itself. Majority Caucus Chair Jim

of this bill is **Rep. Joe Fischer (R)** of Campbell County.

Callahan (D) of Campbell County, KY, continues to claim of course that he is Pro-Life, but nonetheless without public protestation "goes along" with the killing of these Pro-Life bills by his oligarchy of 5 Democratic leaders that rule the House.

The "Other Half of the Story" - The Senate

Four years ago, the Ky. Senate was likewise in the control of a tiny few leaders who were pro-abortion, of the then majority party, the Democratic Party. With the defeat of **Sen. Joe Meyer (D)** of Kenton County in 1996, the Democratic Majority in the Senate was reduced from 20 to 18. Then State **Sen. Gex Williams (R)** of N. Ky. then engineered a coup, putting together a coalition of Republicans and Democrats, who fired the pro-abortion **Sen. Pres. Eck Rose (D)** and elected new leadership, guaranteeing open access of legislation to the floor of the Senate. In the next legislative session, we passed 3 Pro-Life bills, overwhelmingly.

NKRTL and its state affiliate, **Kentucky Coalition for Life**, have been working carefully behind the scenes with the Republican leadership in the Senate, crafting a plan whereby Pro-Life bills would be placed as amendments upon bills passed by the House and coming over for Senate consideration. The subject matter of the amendment must be relevant to the subject matter of the original bill. Four such bills were identified and, on **an historic day in Frankfort, March 17th**, the Fetal Homicide Bill was offered as an amendment to 3 separate pieces of House legislation

which had passed the House overwhelmingly.

It was inspirational to see the young Senate pages, serving for the day from St. Phillips School in Melbourne, KY, dressed in Irish green, and as they surrounded the Senate floor praying for the success of the Pro-Life Amendments.

The Amendments passed overwhelmingly, with a few negative votes by a few die-hard Democrat pro-aborts, including **Benny Ray Bailey of Hindman, David Karem of Louisville and Ernesto Scorsone of Lexington**, and several other Democrats passing on their vote. With the sole exception of **Sen. Dan Seum (R) of Louisville**, who was absent from the chamber that day (and seen later that

evening on KET-TV in attendance at a police rally in

Robert C. Cetrulo had drafted a conscience clause for pharmacists which was parallel exactly to the language passed by the legislature in 1974 immunizing doctors and nurses who did not wish to be involved in the abortion process, KRS 311.800 (drafted by Cetrulo), and sent that Amendment to the N. Ky. Senators in the legislature. It was they, **Sen. Richard Roeding (R), Sen. Katie Stine (R) and Sen. Jack Westwood (R)** who, together with the Republican leadership, engineered passage of these Pro-Life bills. Cetrulo's Amendment was offered as an Amendment to House bill dealing with nurses and prescriptions, and it again passed overwhelmingly.

**Contrast Between
Pro-Abort Democratic Leadership and
Pro-Life Republican Leadership Now
Undeniable**

For anyone with eyes who wishes to see, the contrast is now undeniable between the pro-abortion Democratic leadership in the General Assembly and the Pro-Life Republican leadership.

Credit for these successes thus far belongs to Republican Senate leaders, and the leadership furnished by the N. Ky. delegation to the Senate, and to Reps. Kerr and Fischer in the House and to NKRTL and Kentucky Coalition for Life, all of whom worked vigorously behind the scenes with members of the General Assembly across the state.

Media Reaction

Reporting on KET-TV on the evening of March 17th was interesting. Reporters, who are generally not favorable to Pro-Life matters, didn't know what else to say, and so the presiding moderator of the program, Al Smith, who routinely mocks moral legislation, simply quoted anti-abortionist reporter **Pat Crowley** of the *Kentucky Enquirer*, who let slip his anti-religious bent as well, that N. Ky. legislators don't have much time for any other legislation other than "theology."

House Concurrence Needed

When a bill that comes from the House is amended in the Senate, it must then go back to the House for House concurrence or rejection. House leadership (again the same Democratic pro-aborts) have the option to send the bills, as amended, to the Floor of the House for a vote, or to kill them in committee, which means killing the bill with the amendment. (Everyone knows what happens when these Pro-Life bills hit the Floor of the House. They pass over-whelmingly, by 70% or 80%, as they did 2 years ago when there was an effort to contain them in committee, but eventually they went to the Floor.) Two of the 4 amended bills are bills sponsored primarily by Jody Richards, Speaker of the House, and had passed the House overwhelmingly.

**Rep. Jim Callahan, A.W.O.L.,
Again at "Crunch Time"**

The pro-abortion leadership of the House (a tiny handful of Democrats who control the flow of bills from committees

Louisville) every Republican Senator voted Pro-Life. to the House floor) again stood firm. Under their "litmus test," any legislation of a Pro-Life nature must not be allowed to be voted on, and that of course includes now these bills that originally passed the House and had come back to the House with Pro-Life Senate riders on them.

Pro-Life forces in the House, led by Tom Kerr (D) and Joe Fischer (R) continued the fight to try to get these matters voted upon on the House Floor. Democratic Party Majority Leader Greg Stumbo (D) refused to permit them to be voted on upon the floor.

Kerr went to the Speaker of the House, Jody Richards (D) (who constantly claims to be Pro-Life, and to support our views) and candidly disclosed to him that he (Kerr) was going to make a motion on the floor to suspend the rules, which of course means overruling the Majority Leader, and call these bills for vote on the floor. Richards told Kerr that he would not recognize Kerr when he rose to speak, so that Kerr could not make the motion. He also indicated he would not recognize Fischer.

Kerr then went to all of the Democrats in the House who claimed to be Pro-Life, to see who would support him in this move and the only ones that he could get to support him were **Tom Riner** of Louisville, **Perry Clark** of Louisville and **Arnold Simpson** of Covington. **"A.W.O.L." again was Jim Callahan of Campbell County.**

We don't have to ask Callahan where his priorities are — with the unborn children who are being slaughtered, or the pharmacists who are being compelled to dispense abortifacient medications contrary to their moral and religious beliefs, on the one hand, or with the Democratic Party, on the other hand. His votes tell us that they have placed Party above Principle.

It brings to mind the sad joke about the fellow who had been caught on film, with irrefutable and conclusive evidence of his robbery of the bank, and upon the trial of the case said to the jury, "Who are you going to believe — me, or your lying eyes???"

Legislative Wrap-Up — "Special Interests"

The phrase "special interests" has been used by the media for many years now. What does it really mean?

For a long time, it was used to identify those individuals, and groups, who acted upon the legislatures to advance their own specific and direct economic advantage — industry, the National Association of Manufacturers, labor, AFL-CIO, the American Medical Association, the American Bar Association, the tobacco industry, etc.

More recently, it has become common for the pro-abortion media to unfairly identify the Right to Life Movement as a "special interest," even though all of the Right to Life proponents not only make no profit from their activities, but indeed make great sacrifice and suffer for their participation in the Pro-Life Movement.

"It's not the economy, stupid!"

Recent experience in the Ky. General Assembly gives true understanding to the phrase of "special interests," as embodied in the Bill Clinton campaign motto of 1992 "It's the economy, stupid!"

Early in the General Assembly session this year, Pro-Lifers solicited the support of the **Kentucky Association of Trial Attorneys**, a plaintiffs' bar association that represents lawyers who bring suits for injured parties, to support HB 378. This bill would establish the right of the unborn child to sue for injury received in the womb, from the moment of conception.

KATA, which should have been a natural ally of such proposal, declined to support the bill, and their legislative

This bill did not establish the "personhood principle" of the unborn child. Ironically, KATA's bill passed the Senate and came over to the House, where Pro-Lifers put the language of HB 378, establishing the personhood of the unborn child, and allowing it to sue for its own cause of action for its death caused prenatally, as an amendment. The pro-abort leadership in the House, which was favorable to the Senate bill creating the new cause of action for the parents, but hostile to the establishment of the "personhood principle" of the unborn child, refused to call the bill up, as amended, for floor vote, thereby killing not only the Pro-Life legislation, but also KATA's legislation.

The Kentucky Defense Council, representing the defense and insurance company attorneys in the state of Kentucky, likewise opposed the Pro-Life wrongful death/personhood bill, in this instance for the selfish reason that it adversely affected their economic interests, representing defendants and insurance companies, in that it would increase exposure for civil damages to defendants.

Two years ago, there were several pieces of Pro-Life legislation before the General Assembly, which regulated and restricted physicians who do abortion, requiring that they give full information to the woman about to abort, and also requiring that such clinics have reasonable safety provisions in place for the safety of the woman. Interestingly enough, a prominent N. Ky. physician, who claims to be Pro-Life, and routinely writes Letters to the Editor asserting Pro-Life positions when they support politicians of his choice, opposed this legislation on the grounds that it constituted restrictions upon physicians — obviously demonstrating his priorities, in favor of doctors as opposed to the principle of sanctity of innocent human life.

This same physician was asked by NKRTL to accept a position on the N. Ky. Independent District Health Department Board, which we are turning around in terms of membership which had previously supported the abortifacient "morning-after" pill, but he declined indicating that he was "too busy."

These few brief examples truly explain and illustrate the concept of "special interests." To them, "it is the economy, stupid!" The Pro-Life Movement will not prevail until it is able to persuade a sufficient number of these self-interested (and in some instances self-righteous) activists to the reality of the truth that "it's morality, not the economy, stupid!"

FIDELITY TO TRUTH = VICTORY

A March 11 column in the *Cincinnati Post*, captioned "Ohio GOP establishment was stunned by conservative surge," and read: "GOP Statehouse leaders were startled when

lobbyist actually pointed out that she opposed the "personhood principle," demonstrating her pro-abortion bias. KATA introduced a somewhat similar bill of its own, but more acceptable to the feminists/pro-abortionists, in that it simply added a cause of action to the parents of the unborn child due to prenatal injury for loss of affection.

election results showed the moderate candidates they backed had been rejected by Ohioans, in favor of conservatives. ...And Hamilton County GOP Chairman Joe Deters failed to get the job done as candidates anointed by the county party lost two of three races for House seats to challengers from the anti-establishment Pro-Family Alliance. ...What will this new crowd of conservatives demand? ...More restrictions on abortion. ...A ban on gay marriages ...An end to the sale of fetal tissue for a myriad of legitimate medical uses."

For years, the "establishment" Republican Party in Hamilton County was as powerful, and repressive, as the "establishment" Democratic Party in Kentucky. And each claimed to be "Pro-Life," although each supported for election pro-abortion candidates, who then kept in place the killing machine. **Words, words, words ...!**

Several years ago, a group formed in Cincinnati called "**Platform Republicans**," committed to the principle that the local Republican Party should adhere to the Platform Plank in the National Republican Party, requiring all candidates to support the sanctity of innocent human life. They were smashed down pitilessly by the establishment Republican Party, headed by **Republican Party Chairman Ralph Kohnen**, who of course proclaimed that he was "Pro-Life," but continued to support pro-aborts for office, as long as they were ... Republican!!! Unfortunately, **Cincinnati Right to Life**, the local affiliate of **National Right to Life** (which received four years ago for its endorsement of the pro-abort Republican **Bob Dole**, \$650,000 from the Republican National Committee), continued its compromising ways of endorsing pro-abort Republicans for office.

More recently, there came into existence an organization in Cincinnati called **Family First PAC**. Its board of directors, which includes several Kentuckians who are members of Northern Kentucky Right to Life Committee, invited as a speaker **NKRTL Pres.**

Robert C. Cetrulo, last Spring. They then adopted a policy of "no compromise," and declined to endorse or support any candidate who was in favor of killing even one innocent unborn child. Family First PAC became a part of the

Words, words, words

Pro-Family Alliance, which just now defeated the “Republican establishment” candidates in Cincinnati for the state legislature, giving rise to the panic expressed by the *Post* columnist that indeed this suggests the probability of future legislation, restricting abortion, prohibiting harvesting of unborn babies’ bodies for Nazi-type uses, etc.

One wonders when, or whether, those compromisers who call themselves “Pro-Life” will ever learn? As **Mother Teresa** reminded us, “We are not called to victory, but we

Now, three years later, more pharmacists are following her lead. **Walmart**, the world’s largest retailer and one of the top pharmacy chains in the country, refuses to market the pills.

According to **Dr. Bogomir Kuhar**, executive director of **Pharmacists for Life International (PFLI)**, a 1500 member group who refuse to dispense medications they believe will cause an abortion or aid in suicide, they are urging retailers to remove all abortifacients from their stores.

Attorney Gregory Sullivan insists “A pharmacist is under no obligation to assist a woman in destroying the life in her womb. Indeed, to compel a pharmacist’s assistance in this situation ... would be an arrogant imposition of values.”

The South Dakota legislature last year passed the Nation’s first conscience clause law, protecting Pro-Life pharmacists from being compelled to be involved in the life-destroying process of the sale of these abortifacients.

Suit is now pending on behalf of Karen L. Brauer through her Pro-Life attorney **Tom Condit** of Cincinnati in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio at Cincinnati.

“ABSOLUTES” — YES OR NO?

Bedrock to the abortion dispute, as well indeed to most other important disputes going on in our society, is the basic question as to whether or not “right” and “wrong” is relative, or absolute.

One professor wryly noted that the only thing that a majority of his students were absolutely certain of is that there are no absolutes!

Notice the strong efforts on the part of the secularists, in the schools as well as in the lawmaking assemblies of our nation to force the “relativism” principle into our way of life. They resist, of course, all efforts to post the Ten Commandments either in our schools, or in our courthouses, insist upon “values clarification” courses, denying the existence of absolute principles of right and wrong, and insist upon telling our young people even from the grade school levels on up, in secular sex education classes that if they can’t practice abstinence, then they need to practice “safe sex” with condoms.

Both History and Logic Ignored

Modern secularists of course have to ignore both history and logic to defend their position. They cannot deal with the fact that the founding charter of this nation, **The Declaration of Independence**, boldly proclaimed: “We

are called to fidelity.” Isn’t it interesting, however, that the Lord does frequently reward fidelity with victory!

MORE PHARMACISTS REFUSING TO SELL MORNING-AFTER PILLS

When **Karen L. Brauer**, a pharmacist for **Kmart** in the greater Cincinnati area, refused to dispense the birth control pill Micronor in late 1996, she was fired,” pointed out a recent article in the *Washington Times*.

hold these truths to be self-evident; that man is endowed by his Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Rights are given not by government, but by God. Secularists would strip all reference to a Supreme Being, in any public arena, and enshrines their own secularistic beliefs, denying freedom to their neighbors’ beliefs, and making government to reflect atheistic secular humanism.

These current disputes, including those over the **Ten Commandments**, or simply an effort by the secular humanists to reinvent American history. The historical fact is that the United States was established as a Christian nation, founded on Judeo-Christian principles. Our laws were formulated from the Ten Commandments (one simply needs to read the Pentateuch — the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy — to realize that the criminal code and all of its refinements as initially adopted in this nation flow directly from the Bible).

In their zeal to reconstruct history, these zealous secularists create history books which proudly quote Patrick Henry’s courageous cry “Give me liberty or give me death,” but censor out another statement of Henry: “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religion, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason, peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity and freedom of worship here.”

Isn’t it interesting that “...the very principles that guided our founding fathers to grant asylum to all faiths have been excised from history books in the name of religious freedom,” pointed out a guest columnist, Ninie O’Hara in the *Lexington Herald Leader* in January of this year.

One of the authors of the *Federalist Papers*, **James Madison**, wrote: “We have staked the future upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

The second President of the United States, **John Quincy Adams**, wrote: “The highest glory of the American Revolution was that it connected, in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”

Pres. Abraham Lincoln candidly observed: “Let us be diverted by none of these sophistical contrivances wherewith we are so industrially-plied and belabored — contrivances such as groping for middle ground between the right and the wrong, vain as the search for a man who should be neither a living man nor a dead man — such as

a policy of 'don't care' on a question about which all true men do care — such as reversing the divine rule ...”

The great admirer of the remarkable American political experiment **Alexis de Tocqueville** noted that: “...liberty cannot be established without morality, nor morality without faith.”

The farewell address of **Pres. George Washington** is quite instructive: “Let it simply be asked, where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instrument of investigation Courts of Justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

“I can't say I'm comforted reading a government pamphlet called 'Condoms and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Especially AIDS.' 'Condoms are not 100 percent safe,' it says, 'but if used properly will reduce the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.' *Reduce* the risk of a disease that is 100 percent fatal! That's all that's available between us and death? How much do condoms reduce the risk? They don't say. So much for Safe Sex. Safe Sex was a dumb idea anyway. I've noticed that the catchword now is 'Safer Sex.' So much for truth in advertising. ...

“Nobody these days lobbies for abstinence, virginity or single lifetime sexual partners. That would be boring. *Abstinence and sexual intercourse with one mutually faithful uninfected partner are the only totally effective prevention strategies.* ...

“Have the '80s passed and everyone forgotten sexually transmitted diseases? Syphilis is on the rise. Gonorrhea is harder to treat and increasing among black teenagers and adults. Ectopic pregnancies and infertility from sexually transmitted diseases are mounting every year. Giving condoms to high school kids isn't going to reverse all this. That prim little old lady on TV had it right. Unmarried people shouldn't be having sex. Few people have the courage to say this publicly. In the context of our culture they sound like cranks. Doctors can't fix most of the things you can catch out there. There's no cure for AIDS. There's no cure for herpes or genital warts. Gonorrhea and chlamydial infection can ruin your chances of ever getting pregnant and can harm your baby if you do. That afternoon in the motel may leave you with an infection that you'll have to explain to your spouse. Your doctor can't cover up for you.

I could use your help

Tragic Consequences of Stupidity and Perversity

The tragic consequences of the ignoring of these clearly established moral logical and historical principles are all around us. We have had many years now of sex education, indoctrination in the “safe sex” principles, which has brought us an epidemic of teen pregnancy, abortions, sexually transmitted diseases, and AIDS.

As pointed out by **infectious disease physician Robert C. Noble, MD**, of the **University of Kentucky College of Medicine** in an article in *Newsweek Magazine* April 1, 1991: “I'm an infectious-disease physician and an AIDS doctor to the poor. Passing out condoms to teenagers is like issuing them squirt guns for a four-alarm blaze. Condoms just don't hack it. We should stop kidding ourselves. ...

Your spouse's lawyer may sue him if he tries. There is no safe sex. Condoms aren't going to make a dent in the sexual epidemics that we are facing. If the condom breaks, you may die.”

What Caused Columbine?

As pointed out by national Pro-Life and Pro-Family activists **Phyllis Schlafly**: “For the past 25 years, the prevailing dogma in public school teaching has been *Values Clarification* ...That means teaching students to reject 'the old moral and ethical standards,' and instead 'make their own choices' and 'build their own value system.'

“Indeed Eric Harris and his sidekick, Dylan Klebold, did 'build their own value system,' which allowed them to kill 13 people at **Columbine**, then take their own lives. Harris and Klebold were not dumb or underprivileged; they came from affluent two-parent families. ...

“*Values Clarification* teaches that, since there are absolutely no absolutes, students should engage in personal 'decision making' about behavior instead of looking to God, the Ten Commandments, parents, church, or other authority which teaches that behavior should conform to traditional morality.”

Mrs. Schlafly also notes that 1987, many years before the tragic shooting at Columbine, another student there, Tara Becker spoke at length on a video about “the relentless focus on death, dying and suicide in her junior class at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. She and several of her classmates attempted suicide as a result of this depressing curriculum, and it took them many months to recover from the experience.”

The Fatal Poison of Subjectivism

Subjectivism has led to many conclusions, and conduct, which, were they not so tragically serious, could simply be referred to as “quaint.” Consider for example statements of **Dr. Peter Singer**, a Princeton University professor of bioethics, in his book “*Practical Ethics*” (1997): “Killing a disabled infant is not morally equivalent to killing a person. Very often it is not wrong at all.”

Is there a reader who did not automatically recall the acts of the Nazis 50 years ago in Germany — produced obviously by such a philosophy?

A Christian philosopher pointed out recently the undeniable and unavoidable tragic consequences of “the

poison of subjectivism”: **“If the Ten Commandments are not valid for all times, they never were valid. If the law of fairness as expressed in the Golden Rule is not valid for all times, you have no right to complain about anything I do to you. If morality is subjective, then only power rules, and then genocide of a minority would be a matter of no moral significance.”**

It is the year 2000, in the United States of America. Do you know where your rights are?

Alan Keyes - The Principled Presidential Candidate

Former UN Ambassador, **Alan Keyes (R)**, understands the primacy of the issue of the sanctity of innocent human life:

“But if human beings can decide who is human and who is not, the doctrine of God-given rights is utterly corrupted. Abortion is the unjust taking of human life and a breach of the fundamental principles of our public moral creed.

“Some people talk about ‘viability’ as a test to determine which offspring have rights that we must respect, and which do not. But might does not make right. And so the mere fact that the individual in the womb is wholly in its mother’s physical power and completely dependent upon her for sustenance gives her no right whatsoever with respect to its life, since the mere possession of physical power can never confer such a right. Medical procedures resulting in the death of an unborn child, except as a collateral and unintended consequence of efforts to save the mother’s physical life, are therefore impermissible.”

He is the only Pro-Lifer on the ballot of either of the two major Parties.

THE MANY FACES OF NKRTL

(This article is part of a continuing series of introducing the many people who make NKRTL such a vibrant organization.)

When we finally prevailed upon Board member **Joe Bessler** to sit for an interview for this piece, and asked him who he was, his response typified him: “Proud to be the son of Joe and Laverne Bessler, married to Ruthie Bessler for 19 years, and the proud father of 4 sons, John, Aaron, Nathan and Jason.”

Like most NKRTL Board members, Joe’s experiences are diverse, but reflect the call of God, leading him inexplicably to a deep commitment to the Pro-Life ministry.

Joe worked at a grocery store during high school, and after college, held a variety of jobs, extensively in the auto salvage business. As he continually sought to develop an opportunity to get into business for himself, he found, at each turn, the right person present in his life. Joe frankly attributes this to the many prayer groups that he has been involved with, over many years, and praying: "If we're open, the Lord leads us everyday."

Joe founded Bessler Auto Parts, in 1985, which he says is called in the auto salvage business "The Original Recyclers." He works with his two brothers and two brothers-in-law and a cousin and 20 other employees.

He recalls going to a political fundraiser and handing out Pro-Life literature, as a youth. He belonged to church Pro-Life groups, and then got involved with Operation Rescue — "a direct intervention of the Holy Spirit: I was listening to the car radio to a song about the unborn being slaughtered in their mother's wombs. It hit me so hard and moved me so deeply that I began sobbing, and had to pull over to recover my composure. I knew then that I had to do more. I went to a couple of rallies for Operation Rescue and decided to participate in several rescues.

"I ended up in jail on one occasion, which was a very peaceful, Spirit-filled experience for me.

I got involved with **Project Nehemiah**, sidewalk counseling, which I did for several years every other Tuesday morning until the clinic quit opening on Tuesdays."

Joe has served **Life Chain**, picketed abortuaries, heads the Respect Life group in his parish, and serves on the Board of Directors of NKRTL. "Other than that just sit around and eat bon-bons," is Joe's wry response to a question about hobbies. He does say he enjoys snow-skiing, waterskiing and golf, but his business takes a lot of time and he spends most of his free time with his children, and their sporting events.

Joe's life is a dramatic teaching journey. He has been touched by many, and has touched many, beneficially.