



The Caleb Report

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In this Issue: *Fetal Tissue Research / Abortifacient? / Resignation / Vatican Under Attack / Quotable Quotes / Federalism Amendment / Boycott Update / Sisters Continue Diatribe / Board Membership Changes / NRLC Kills ARL / Campaign 2000 / Movie Endorsement / The Prayer Project / New Addresses & Service / Action Speaks Louder*

FETAL TISSUE RESEARCH

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) has released a statement reaffirming its support of “potentially lifesaving research using fetal tissue donated by women,” while denouncing “alleged fetal tissue profiteering.” In a statement released in March, Gloria Feldt, PPFA’s president, “reinforced concern about the alleged profiteering of fetal tissue donated by women for medical research in Kansas, which was a subject of the ABC News show ‘20/20.’” The “20/20” segment detailed abuses by private sector tissue and organ procurement companies that receive and distribute donations of fetal tissue for research.

“Where there is wrongdoing, it should be prosecuted and the people who are doing that kind of thing should be brought to justice,” said Feldt to ABC’s Chris Wallace during their conversation for the “20/20” segment. In a separate letter sent to Wallace, Feldt reaffirmed that PPFA believes that fetal tissue research is an important endeavor with the *potential* to save lives and ameliorate disease.

“Planned Parenthood supports research using fetal tissue in accordance with legal and ethical guidelines and are deeply concerned about the attempt by some to profit from the humanitarian contributions of courageous women,” said Feldt. “We are confident those Planned Parenthood affiliates offering women the option to donate tissue are doing so in accordance with the law and medical ethics.”

PPFC is urging the Health and Environment Subcommittee of Commerce of the U.S. House of Representatives “to seek enforcement of the existing statutes.” In a letter to the committee’s chairman, Feldt affirmed the critical status of the issue, but expressed concern that “the public nature of...[the] inquiry may undermine the important research being conducted by scientists looking for cures to debilitating diseases, and may potentially stigmatize the donation of fetal tissue.” Feldt stated that PPFA “will not stand silent while anti-choice zealots engage in offensive and perhaps illegal behavior, so lacking in compassion that they would sacrifice potentially lifesaving medical research to further their political goals, which is to deprive women of the fundamental right to choose abortion.”

RESIGNATION

Alexander C. Sanger has resigned as president of Planned Parenthood of New York City (PPNYC), the largest affiliate of PPFA. Sanger left the post in February 2000. He remains with the organization as a “senior advisor,” consulting on fund-raising and public advocacy issues.

“After a decade of leadership of this outstanding organization, I am now ready to set my sights on the national and international spheres to advance the future of the reproductive rights movement,” Sanger said. “At the same time, I am happy to continue my long association with PPNYC.” Sanger added that he would now be free to accept speaking engagements and write a book about the future of the “Reproductive Rights Movement.” Sanger’s grandmother was PPFA founder and eugenist Margaret Sanger.

VATICAN UNDER ATTACK

Associated Press (AP) reports that pro-life and religious groups from around the world are “launching a new campaign in support of the Vatican to counter efforts to review the Holy See’s unique and influential status at the United Nations [UN].” The Vatican serves as a non-member state with permanent observer status. The Vatican does not have a vote, but can participate in debates and other UN programs.

In 1999, the so-called “Catholics for a Free Choice” (“CFC”) announced that it was seeking a formal review of the Holy See’s observer status, saying the Vatican claim to be a “state” was questionable and it should be treated more like a non-governmental organization (NGO). NGOs cannot directly negotiate treaties or speak during formal debates, but may lobby individual governments to incorporate their positions.

Fighting in support of the Vatican is Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (CFHRI). More than 1,000 organizations from around the world, including Life Decisions International, have signed on to support CFHRI’s goals.

Austin Ruse, CFHRI’s president, said the effort to review the Vatican’s status is intended to gag the UN’s loudest pro-life voice. “That is against one of the founding principles of the UN, where the smallest nation can stand up to the biggest nation and be treated as an equal,” he said.

“The campaign is unusual in that it includes evangelical Protestant groups who long resented recognition of the Vatican as a sovereign state,” AP reported. “Those groups, however, are now lobbying to keep that recognition to preserve a strong anti-abortion voice at the United Nations.”

Francis Kissling, president of “CFC,” said her campaign, known as “See Change,” had over 400 signatures from organizations that want to review the Vatican’s claim to be a sovereign state. Only Switzerland has the same UN status as the Vatican, while groups representing religions such as the pro-abortion World Council of Churches have lesser status.

“We have all seen the Holy See misuse a status that it obtained within the UN to some extent by accident,” Kissling told AP. The “See Change” campaign is not a threat “to any legitimate state that sits in the UN...,” she said.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“...I don’t believe people should have sex before marriage.”

— Kevin Richardson, member of the popular music group Backstreet Boys

“Actually, I have to say that I don’t believe in having a sexual relationship outside of marriage.”

— Brian Littrell, also a member of Backstreet Boys

That ought to please every pro-life teenage girl!

FEDERALISM AMENDMENT

A pro-life leader has suggested a Federalism Amendment to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, rather than the Paramount Human Life Amendment. The latter amendment to the Constitution would redefine “person” to include all human beings, from fertilization to natural death. A Federalism Amendment would allow the states to pass laws.

Writing in *National Review*, Clarke Forsythe of Americans United for Life, a Chicago-based pro-life legal organization, argued that his plan would eliminate the “right” to abortion. Forsythe said the amendment would help dispel “the myth of abortion as a necessary evil” and would prevent an “overly aggressive judicial branch” from blocking state pro-life laws.

Forsythe argued that passage of the Paramount Human Life Amendment is not currently possible. He asserted that only a Federalism Amendment can “open up the political and legislative process for pro-life measures.” But Forsythe admitted “a great deal of preparation—and substantial cultural change—would be necessary before any amendment could be successful.” He called on the Pro-Life Movement to focus on “restoring the sanctity of human life” through a “broadly based legal, political, cultural and educational strategy.”

Some pro-life leaders, including Douglas R. Scott, LDI’s president, call the plan dangerous. “I believe that if we were to pass a Federalism Amendment, we would never see action on any bill or constitutional amendment to totally ban abortion,” he said. “Besides, I do not want a country that is ‘half-slave’ and ‘half-free.’”

BOYCOTT UPDATE

Fannie Mae is no longer a boycott target. At this writing, 67 corporations are known to have stopped funding Planned Parenthood. This may be the most successful boycott in history!

Dayton Hudson Corporation has changed its name to **Target Inc.**

Rumors that **Starbucks Coffee** is a supporter of Planned Parenthood are untrue.

Some corporate subsidiaries are denying support of Planned Parenthood. In pleading innocence *and* ignorance, they fail to mention that their respective parent corporations are doing so. Dairy Queen and See’s Candies seem to be the leaders in this misleading practice.

SISTERS CONTINUE DIATRIBE

Abigail Van Buren (“Dear Abby”) and Ann Landers are well known for their pro-abortion and pro-euthanasia views. They recently printed letters that allowed an opportunity to repeat their rabid support for an ungodly cause:

I am a 70-year-old Republican woman. I attended high school with fewer than 300 students in the late ’40s. Two young women died of botched abortions, devastating their families and friends. (Abortions were illegal then.)

When my own children were in high school in the ’70s, a young couple who were “going steady” became pregnant. They terminated the pregnancy early on at a reputable clinic. Few knew about it. The relationship ended after a few months. Both went on to graduate from college, marry others, and now have stable families with two and three children respectively.

My grandson is the result of a caring birth mother choosing to place the child she could not care for up for adoption—thereby giving happiness to the child as well as to our family.

The key word is “choice.” Only the girl/woman should make the decision to have an abortion or carry the pregnancy to term and keep the child or place the baby for adoption. The decision should NOT be up to self-righteous, ambitious politicians.

— Pro-Choice Grandma

Van Buren’s response:

Right on! Only the individual knows how much she can handle, and the decision should be hers to make. The key word is, indeed, “choice.”

The letter to Landers:

A while back, you asked your readers which columns of yours they had saved. I saved one on abortion, because I had had one. Only a few people knew about it. The column meant so much to me because it appeared when I desperately needed to know that not all women who have abortions are sleazy bimbos or trying to get out of “paying the piper” for their immoral behavior.

I got pregnant even though I was using birth control. I was living in a small town, where I knew no one and felt lonely and depressed. I was not a “bad” girl. I was brought up in a religious home. The shame alone made me contemplate suicide.

Then, there you were, Ann, a person I respected. I felt like you understood. I will always keep that column to remind myself of why I had the abortion and how you saved me from a life of self-destruction—or no life at all. Thank you.

— Grateful Up North

Ann Landers’ response:

A letter like yours makes all the hard work worthwhile. I am grateful to you for taking the time and trouble to write. I hope all the women who have walked in your shoes will find comfort in what you have written.

A comment about “choice” is in order. Those who support legal abortion complain when they are called “pro-abortion.” Many pro-life activists have even adopted the preferred term of those who believe it should be legal to kill children before birth.

While some go overboard in insisting that pro-life activists use one term or the other, we offer this thought: Persons who supported legal slavery were called “pro-slavery,” even if they were “personally opposed” to the barbaric practice or would not own a slave themselves. Maybe if pro-slavery Americans could have hired a Madison Avenue public relations firm, slavery would still exist!

LDI does not allow pro-abortion activists to determine “acceptable” rhetoric. Of course, with the Politically Correct Movement, it seems that choice of words that one finds disagreeable is automatically labeled “hate speech.”

BOARD MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The LDI Board of Directors has made some changes to its own membership as well as to the Board of Advisors. Members of the Board of Directors are: Michael Schwartz, Congressional Family Caucus (chairman); Patricia Bast Lyman, Esq., American Center for Law & Justice (vice chairman); Christopher P. Tyrrell, American Collegians for Life (secretary); James J. Giese, Dubuque County (Iowa) Right to Life (treasurer); Catherine A. Deeds, National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Ted Gerck, Life Internet (Canada); Gary Gillespie, M.A., Northwest College of the Assemblies of God; Sheila A. Moloney, Conservative Action Team of the United States House of Representatives; Stuart W. Nolan, Jr., Esq., Author & Attorney at Law; Hon. Penny Pullen, Life Advocacy Resource Project and former Illinois state legislator; and Thomas Strobhar, Pro Vita Advisors.

Members of the Board of Advisors are: Hon. Kevin Andrews, Member of Parliament (Australia); Margaret Andrews, editor of *Marriage, Family & Society ISSUES* and editor of *Threshold* (Australia); Patricia Pitkus Bainbridge, M.A., co-founder, Life Decisions International; Ronald L. Bauer, M.D., breast surgical oncologist; Gregg Cunningham, Center for Bio-Ethical Reform; Will Dodson, J.D., Southern Baptist Convention; Thomas A. Glessner, J.D., National Institute of Family & Life Advocates; Rev. Richard Hogan, Priests for Life; Jim Hughes, Campaign Life Coalition (Canada); Thomas L. Jipping, J.D., Free Congress Foundation; Steven W. Mosher, Population Research Institute; Countess Josephine Quintavalle, Comment on Reproduc-tive Ethics (United Kingdom); Joseph M. Scheidler, Pro-Life Action League; and Mercedes Arzú Wilson, L.H.D., Family of the Americas Foundation.

We are honored to have these esteemed individuals as part of LDI. They are dedicated to honest and intelligent pro-life leadership. (Organizations are listed for identification only.)

N.R.L.C. KILLS A.R.L.

National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) has apparently succeeded in destroying a potential “competitor,” American Right to Life (ARL). As has been covered in great detail by *The Caleb Report*

and *Special Reports*, NRLC rejected Christian arbitration in favor of a money-burning lawsuit against ARL.

ARL's founder, Patrick Mooney, reports that NRLC succeeded in making his organization spend virtually all of its funding (which came from caring pro-lifers) on a judicial defense. NRLC had alleged that ARL was an illegitimate organization and a scam. In reality, ARL was a political action committee that would have endorsed and funded only truly pro-life candidates—giving pro-life Americans a choice about the kind of politicians who received their money. NRLC has historically supported some pro-abortion candidates so long as they opposed campaign finance reform.

CAMPAIGN 2000

NRLC has made official what everyone has known for months—it wants Governor George W. Bush, R-Texas, to be president of the United States. NRLC officially and publicly endorsed Bush before the South Carolina primary, even though Alan Keyes was still in the race.

The endorsement was surely prompted by a fear that Senator John McCain, R-Arizona, could win the Republican nomination. McCain is co-author of campaign finance reform legislation. It is clear to us that NRLC would not support McCain over Al Gore, even though McCain has a voting record that is primarily pro-life. NRLC, which has taken hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Republican National Committee, has already spent more than \$340,000 in support of Bush.

“Like Bush, McCain ‘talks the talk,’” said LDI’s Douglas R. Scott, “but it’s clear from McCain’s comments that abortion is not an important issue to him.” Scott stated that a voting record is not the only important factor to consider when determining who deserves pro-life support.

“It is obvious to me that neither Bush nor McCain care about abortion. They will do little for our cause,” Scott said. “While Al Gore and Bill Bradley publicly argued about which of them is the most pro-abortion, Bush and McCain ran from the issue. Only Steve Forbes, Alan Keyes and Gary Bauer were brave enough to discuss abortion. They made it clear that the issue was important.” Scott noted that pro-abortion, establishment Republicans are backing Bush for a reason—he is one of the least likely candidates to push meaningful legislation.

One big surprise was Gary Bauer’s endorsement of McCain. “It was ludicrous given the Senator’s subsequent attacks on the ‘religious right’ and his past statements about how Christians have too much influence in the Republican Party,” Scott said. “Why would Gary endorse someone without knowing more about him? It’s irresponsible and now it has proven to be rather embarrassing.” Bauer’s support of McCain was criticized by James Dobson, Ph.D., of Focus on the Family. But this is rather odd given an internal document in which Dobson lists reasons why Bush should not be elected president.

Scott, who initially gave his personal support to Steve Forbes, now backs Keyes. “As explained in an issue of *Special Reports*, my principles require that a candidate meet a minimal standard before being considered for support. In fact, I would not even call a candidate ‘pro-life’ if he or she does not meet such a standard,” Scott said. “From the list of those who meet the standard, I select the candidate I believe has the best chance to win.” Scott explains that since Keyes is the only candidate left in the race who meets the standard, he endorsed the former ambassador.

Steve Forbes even addressed the abortion issue in his speech announcing an end to his political campaign:

Concerning the life issue, if you look at what I actually said in ‘96—and I’ll even give you a source—*L.A. Times*, February—I came out in favor of the life amendment. But what I tried to do in ‘96, and tried to do since, is try to find ways to bring people who are not with us on this issue, towards the goal, make them see it differently than they might have done before.

And of the three remaining candidates, obviously Alan Keyes is four square on the life issue. And I would urge the other two candidates, if one of them becomes the nominee, to leave the Reagan pro-life plank in the platform alone.

You can acknowledge that many Americans don't agree yet with that goal, but I don't think you win respect of the American people by abandoning such a basic principle for political short-term expediency. They have no respect for that, none whatsoever. And I think that, with patience and with compassion, we try to engage in that dialogue.

The Declaration of Independence is very clear; "life," then "liberty," then the "pursuit of happiness." And our founders understood that order. If you put "liberty" before "life," that's a license to kill. They understood it, and we have to recognize those words again and try to bring people along. And I have faith that hearts and minds and consciences can be changed. And I have faith that, ultimately, it will come to pass.

When a man who is leaving the race lectures the press on abortion, one can surely see that the issue is important to him. After all, the point is not a candidate's stand on the issue. The point is where the issue stands with him!

Meanwhile, NRLC has angered the Buchanan campaign. LDI had reported that Patrick J. Buchanan had stated he would be willing to accept a pro-abortion running mate. This information was reported directly to us by Carol Long Tobias, who is director of NRLC's political action committee. It was also reported to others. This source sure seemed legitimate to us! After all, would not the NRLC Political Action Committee know for sure—even better than LDI? When we expressed doubt to Tobias, we were assured that her information was accurate.

A couple LDI supporters contacted the Buchanan campaign, which was surprised to hear the news. "Mr. Buchanan's pledge to select only a pro-life running mate remains steadfast, and his fight for the unborn remains central to his campaign. He has said publicly that he will be the most pro-life candidate in this race, and has made no move to compromise his pro-life position in any way," said Kara Hopkins of Buchanan's campaign.

Yet LDI found it hard to believe that NRLC would just lie outright. We gave the source of the information to Hopkins, who immediately contacted NRLC. NRLC's representative denied that any such statement was made about Buchanan. The denial seemed to cast doubt on LDI until Matthew Malek, then-president of American Collegians for Life, said he was also given the same misinformation by Tobias. Despite repeated attempts, Tobias refused to return LDI's calls. Darla St. Martin, NRLC's associate executive director who is widely known to be the true power at the organization, told Hopkins no one from NRLC would be returning any calls from LDI.

LDI *greatly* regrets reporting the misinformation, but the Buchanan campaign is not angry with us. They understand why LDI would not inherently view the NRLC statement with distrust. We do not know whether the misinformation was given to LDI and others because of a simple error on the part of NRLC, or because its leaders believed discrediting Buchanan would help their candidate—George W. Bush. In any case, we are pleased to report that Patrick J. Buchanan remains true to the cause, although we still do not know why he is seeking the nomination of a political party that is historically pro-abortion.

MOVIE ENDORSEMENT

PPFA is promoting the film "Cider House Rules," which provides a positive picture of abortion. Michael Caine portrays a doctor who runs a rural Maine orphanage in the 1940s. The orphanage doubles as an abortion facility. "At least two generations have grown up with no notion of a time when abortion was illegal and extremely dangerous," said PPFA's Gloria Feldt.

Washington Post reviewer Michael O'Sullivan refers to Caine's character as the "savior of women in trouble." The film is nominated for several Academy Awards, including Best Picture. The degree to which this is a political statement versus a true judge of the motion picture is a matter of debate.

Feldt said PPFA affiliates will hold fund-raisers centered around the movie. In addition, PPFA is urging people—particularly young people—to see the propaganda motion picture.

THE PRAYER PROJECT

Join us in daily prayer for these individuals: April—*Anton Kuerti*, chief executive officer of Concertmasters Inc.; May—*Preston Manning*, leader of Canada's Reform Party; and June—*Jesse Ventura*, governor of Minnesota.

NEW ADDRESSES AND SERVICE

While we resisted it for some time, due to popular demand, we are now equipped to accept credit cards (Visa and MasterCard). The Web site is also equipped to do so. It can be used for donations or subscriptions and the site is secure.

As a reminder, our new mailing address is: **P.O. Box 75161, Washington, DC 20013-0161**. You may continue to use LDI return mail envelopes to our old address, but please use the new address when addressing your own envelopes. We hope this change will help us to serve you more efficiently.

ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER

Please take the following steps:

- Write to Target Inc. (Mr. Robert J. Ulrich, Chairman & CEO, Target Inc., 777 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55402), and Tandy Corporation (Mr. Leonard H. Roberts, Chairman, President & CEO, Tandy Corporation, 100 Throckmorton St., Ste. 1800, Fort Worth, TX 76102).

The Caleb Report is published six times per year. Subscribers also receive *Special Reports*, which is published quarterly. A minimum donation of \$38.00 per year is requested. Send changes of address to LDI at P.O. Box 75161, Washington, DC 20013-0161.

To schedule a speaker call (202) 347-2066. Our e-mail address is: ldi-hq@usa.net. Thanks for your support!

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