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Life Decisions International

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PLANNED PARENTHOOD EMBARKS ON NEW CAMPAIGNS Group Targets Europeans And Africans

“Using strongly anti-religious language, the European branch of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) has recently issued a document entitled ‘Why We Need to Talk about Abortion,’” reported the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (C-FAM). The document calls for the legalization of abortion throughout the European Union (EU). Each member country is given the responsibility for making it happen, but IPPF-Europe is not willing to wait. It has demanded that the EU Commission and the European Parliament act to “drive the issues forward” and “keep them high on the political agenda.”



Golubiewski

In an article titled, “International Planned Parenthood Federation Launches a New Abortion Campaign in Europe,” Maciej Golubiewski reported that the IPPF-Europe document lauds the European Parliament and the Council of Europe for issuing two pro-abortion reports in recent years. The document quotes from the European Parliament’s “Van Lancker Report,” which calls for unrestricted abortion “rights” in every EU country.

IPPF-Europe is targeting EU’s predominantly Catholic states of Ireland, Malta, Poland, Portugal, and Slovakia where women are faced with “no other option than forced pregnancy’ unless they want to risk their lives through illegal abortion or to travel abroad to have it. ‘Unplanned pregnancy’ is portrayed as a ‘shock,’ leading to ‘clear-cut panic.’ An aborted life is equated to an exercise of a woman’s right ‘to choose....’” Golubiewski reported.

The IPPF-Europe paper exemplifies what pro-life activists have long known; the pro-abortion strategy of linking the Pro-Life Movement with religion helps promote abortion. “This is an appeal to religious bigotry,” said Douglas R. Scott, Jr., president of Life Decisions International. “Unfortunately, employing religious bigotry and a ‘do not force your beliefs on others’ mentality can go a long way in much of Europe.”

The document criticizes Slovakia for allowing doctors to claim “conscientious objection” so they are not forced to commit abortions. “IPPF has clearly taken

sides in the debate about religious freedom in Europe,” Golubiewski concluded.

Included in the IPPF-Europe document is a section called “Every abortion has a story.” A strategy often used by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the section is a collection of stories of women who supposedly experienced an unwanted pregnancy. One story is of a Slovakian woman who aborted her child and was subsequently chastised by a Roman Catholic priest at Mass. The story ends with the woman’s Catholic husband leaving her. Of course, there is no evidence proffered to support this or any other claim. Still, it serves the larger purpose. Generally, it instills anti-religious sentiment. More specifically, it evokes an anti-Christian response. And even more specifically, anti-Catholic fervor is generated.



In an article titled, “IPPF and UNFPA Ramping Up Abortion Campaigns in Africa,” C-FAM’s Samantha Singson showed that pro-abortion forces are not limiting their efforts to Europe. “In a bid to make abortion widely legal in Africa,” she reports, IPPF and the United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA) “have been working diligently at the African Union (AU) for a continent-wide strategy that delivers ‘sexual and re-productive health services,’ including ‘safe abortion.’”

Singson reported that the two rabidly pro-abortion groups have been meddling in Africa for a long time. She said IPPF and UNFPA have been “key players” in drafting and promoting the AU’s “Continental Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.” The document promotes implementation of “sexual and reproductive health and rights,” which includes abortion, into national health systems across Africa:

In 2005, IPPF co-authored a draft of the Framework which calls on all AU states to “create an enabling environment for preventing unsafe abortion,” “promote the expansion of post-abortion care and the use of menstrual vacuum aspiration (MVA) techniques,” as well as “encourage a responsible debate to demystify taboos about abortion.”

IPPF and UNFPA were also “key players” in drafting The Maputo Plan of Action (named after the Mozambique city where the document was presented), which is a three-year plan to implement the provisions of the “Continental Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.” The Maputo Plan of Action includes proposed health program costs, targets, and measures for abortion “services.” It calls on all African countries to “enact policies and legal frameworks,” “prepare and implement national plans of action” and “refurbish and equip facilities for provision of comprehensive abortion care services.”

The Maputo Plan of Action is not to be confused with The Maputo Protocol, which calls for legalized abortion. Singson explained:

The Maputo Protocol is a legally binding document on states which have ratified it. So far this includes 21 of the 53 AU members. Future ratifications remain uncertain as controversy swells around the Protocol's provision for legalized abortion on demand. At least one state that ratified the Protocol explicitly rejected this provision.

IPPF and UNFPA are hedging against stalled ratification [of The Maputo Protocol] by using a two-pronged approach to promote abortion on the continent. While they work to get more states to ratify the legally binding Protocol, they are insinuating abortion into health ministries by getting health bureaucrats to implement the non-binding [Continental Framework document] and Maputo Plan of Action both of which call for abortion.



Obaid

A recently released UNFPA's proposal states that The Maputo Plan of Action will be “the focus of future activities” for the group's work in Africa. Calling the document a model for other regions to emulate, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid said, “Now the real work begins on national implementation. We all stand ready to support Africa in this clear commitment.”

C-FAM, which operates a division called the International Organizations Research Group (IORG), is headed by D. Austin Ruse. “C-FAM and Austin Ruse enjoy an impeccable reputation for conducting excellent research that results in high quality material,” Scott said. “If C-FAM reports it, you can count on its accuracy.”

ATTACKED FOR TIES TO “RADICAL” L.D.I.

Pro-abortion activists often work with their allies in the media to attack pro-life leaders and lawmakers. The most recent vociferous attack is against the Honorable Kevin Andrews, a Member of the Australian Parliament and Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.

“It is obvious that some pro-abortion zealot was in the United States or searching the Internet in an effort to

find something that could be used to attack Kevin Andrews,” said Douglas R. Scott, Jr., president of Life Decisions International. “They eventually discovered that Mr. Andrews and his wife, Margaret, are members of our Board of Advisors. To pro-abortion activists, one may as well be a member of the Nazi Party.”



Kevin Andrews

Kerry-Anne Walsh and Michelle Singer of Australia's *Sun-Herald* co-authored an article titled, “Andrews in radical group that boycotts Disney,” in which the Minister was called an “adviser to a radical right-wing international organization that advocates economic boycotts to achieve social and political change.” In the very next sentence, Andrews was said to be “officially listed” as an LDI board member.

“Talk about admitting a bias right off the bat,” Scott said. “LDI was labeled a ‘radical right-wing’ organization. We were later referred to as an ‘extremist body’.”

“Kevin and Margaret Andrews are members of LDI's Board of Advisors,” Scott explained. “He has played no part in determining LDI policy or strategy. The placing of prominent lawmakers or business leaders in an advisory capacity is a common practice and virtually all organizations do so. There are many members of Planned Parenthood's Board of Advocates. Does this mean they are intimately involved in decision-making? Of course not and any reasonable person who is not trying to push an agenda by using half-truths and innuendo knows it.”

Walsh and Singer referred to one LDI boycott target, GlaxoSmithKline, as “respected.” The pair goes on to say that the company “manufactures and distributes contraceptive pills and is involved with producing the so-called abortion drug RU-486.” The truth is that GlaxoSmithKline is a boycott target because it supports Planned Parenthood and for no other reason.

The writers claimed that Andrews “immediately distanced himself” from LDI when asked about the association. To support this claim they quoted an Andrews spokesman who said the Minister “has not been asked for, nor given any advice, nor is he involved in the operations” of LDI. “This hardly constitutes distancing himself from LDI,” Scott said. “Neither Kevin nor Margaret Andrews has tried to keep people from knowing about their pro-life convictions. They are both strongly and proudly pro-life.”

The writers argued that Andrews should not serve in the Australian cabinet because he has a “conflict of interest.” After all, they suggested, Andrews could be called upon to “make decisions that affect companies

boycotted by the extremist body he advises.” Scott responded by calling the statement “ridiculous.”



Margaret Andrews

Andrews was asked why he “accepted the board position if he was not involved in the operations of the organization.” Scott said the answer is simple. “Kevin and Margaret Andrews are members of LDI’s Board of Advisors. *Advisors. A-d-v-i-s-o-r-s.* This means that, if asked, they *advise*. Just what part of the word ‘advisor’ is confusing to these two activists? Are they so blinded by their zealous support for the killing of preborn human beings that they cannot understand simple and commonly used words?”

Stunningly, Walsh and Singer claimed that, “Emails to LDI about Mr Andrews’s role went unanswered.” Scott called the statement “flatly untrue.” The response sent to the reporters read as follows:

Kevin and Margaret Andrews have been friends of mine for many years. They serve on our Board of Advisors strictly as a favor to me. They have absolutely no role in this organization...

Kevin and Margaret Andrews are honest and talented individuals. While lawmakers are called “honorable” just because they received a few more votes than their opponents, many do not deserve the title. Kevin Andrews actually lives up to the title. He is truly an honorable man.

I hope someone in the abortion or family planning industries has not been working to get allies in the media to do their dirty work by tarnishing the reputations of these two good people. While some would do such a thing with no regard for the truth, I trust you would never allow yourself to be used in such a way because you value intellectual and professional integrity, regardless of your personal positions on such issues.

Walsh and Singer wrote that LDI is “vehemently opposed to any organization that provides abortion or sexual reproduction advice.” Once again, this is a lie. “While we obviously oppose any group that commits or advocates abortion, we do not necessarily oppose those that give ‘sexual reproductive advice,’” Scott said.

One of the most upsetting aspects of Andrews’ association with LDI seems to be the use of the economic boycott to impact philanthropic decision-making. “Boycotts are universally seen as a peaceful and legitimate means to affect change,” Scott said. “In fact, the strategy has been used by many Australian organizations and individuals. Why does it seem that the strategy is not the real problem that Walsh and Singer have with LDI? It is what we stand for that upsets them.”

Scott said it is odd that pro-abortion apologists Walsh and Singer think Kevin Andrews should be ashamed of his pro-life convictions and his association with LDI. “These two people embrace death as a ‘solution’ to

adult-created social problems, yet they think it is *Kevin Andrews* who should be ashamed? Kevin Andrews sees death as a non-solution and we urge the writers to join us in seeking life-affirming, positive, long-term and real *solutions* to the problems faced by women experiencing an untimely pregnancy.”

“It is unfortunate that Walsh and Singer have no room for the truth as they push their agenda,” Scott said. “These women are demagogues who are intent on destroying an honorable man. Honesty and journalistic integrity be damned.”



Cassidy

The *Sun-Herald* story was picked up by other news agencies, including the Australian Broadcasting Company (ABC). Barry Cassidy, host of the newsmagazine “Insiders,” raised the issue during an interview with Andrews. “I...read this morning that you are an adviser and an honorary patron to the radical—as it’s described in the newspaper—radical pro-life group Life Decisions International. Is that true?” Cassidy asked. Andrews responded by saying he has been a patron (Americans use the word “advisor”) for about 10 years.”

“This group advocates economic boycotts against companies producing contraceptive pills,” Cassidy said. “Is that something that you support?” Andrews said that as a member of LDI’s Board of Advisors, he is not involved in day-to-day operations.

Cassidy pursued the matter. “But as a patron you lend your support to that organization...you wouldn’t put your name to it unless you supported their tactics and their tactics are to support an economic boycott against companies like GlaxoSmithKline, for example.”

“Look, the bottom line is that this is an organization which is pro-life,” Andrews responded. “Everybody knows I’m pro-life. I’m patron of an organization that’s pro-life.” Cassidy then inserted the words, “And pro-economic boycotts.”

“Well, as to the way in which they advocate a pro-life outcome, that’s fine...” Andrews said. “I’m a patron of it. I’m not running away from that.”

Cassidy had another question to ask on the subject. “I’m just curious [about] one thing. What have they got against Walt Disney? Why are they demanding a boycott against Walt Disney?”

“This is a perfect example of a ‘journalist’ that does not do his homework,” Scott said. “Not only are boycotts well recognized as a legitimate way to impact corporate behavior, the boycott is against corporations that fund Planned Parenthood. It has nothing whatsoever to

do with companies that produce 'contraceptive pills.' Disney funds Planned Parenthood. It's that simple."

"I'm going to try to be less critical of the American press from now on," Scott said. "At least they try to make their stories *look* balanced. Walsh, Singer and Cassidy have gone so far over the top that their bias is plain to see, giving them an instantaneous lack of credibility. All three have failed the basic tests of true journalism. A disinterest in pursuing and reporting the truth represents the most egregious failure of all."

LDI received several e-mails from Australians who read the *Sun-Herald* story and/or watched the "Insiders" interview. Nigel Freitas was appalled by what he read:

I read the story in the Sunday papers published here and was appalled. This is absolutely blatant journalistic bias. I could not find anything at all about your organization that is either "extreme" or "radical". Please keep in mind that the Fairfax papers are basically staffed by secular Marxists, so anyone to the right of Fidel Castro is considered "right wing".

We have an organization here called "Media Watch". They broadcast on the state run ABC. Essentially, they too are leftists, but I've emailed them (mediawatch@your.abc.net.au) and I suggest you do the same. Good Luck.

Freitas attached a copy of his message to Media Watch:

An article published in the *Sun Herald* today caught my eye...As a former student journalist, I was quite frankly shocked at the overt bias displayed in this "article".

The continued use by the journalists of 'radical' and 'extremist' to describe a pro-life advocacy group appears unwarranted. What exactly is radical and extremist about this group? They boycott companies they don't agree with, oppose abortion and reject violence. Greenpeace campaigns in a similar way—are they radical and extremist as well?

They attempt to smear Kevin Andrews as not being impartial because of his association with this group. Peter Garrett [a member of the minority Labor Party in Australia's parliament] is a member of Greenpeace; does this affect his ability to make impartial decisions? If not, why not?

While some may find this group's beliefs distasteful, there is no evidence to justify the use of terms like 'radical' and 'extremist'. There is no evidence provided of a history of or links to, violent actions, violent behaviour or violent beliefs.

A visit to the LDI website shows "*its leaders unequivocally condemn acts of violence committed in the name of the Pro-Life Movement. Violence is morally reprehensible and contradicts the fundamental premise that every human life is precious and deserving of respect...*"

I searched the website in vain to find something that could be classified as "extremist". A Google search on this group returns nothing of an extremist or radical nature.

Opposing something and campaigning against companies that support it is an exercise in democracy that is carried out by groups on both the right and left. It appears that only because

this organization is "right wing" is this kind of language employed.

Will MediaWatch inquire as to why these terms have been used?

Katalin Longdon, who identified herself as "a Christian in Sydney," also read the article:

I just finished reading the *Sun Herald's* biased article here in Sydney. I have never heard of your organization, but like to research online for the "true" stories.

I noticed Kerry Anne-Walsh's and Michelle Singer's (Any relation to ethicists Peter?) bias with words like "radical right wing" international organization, "respected" global pharmaceutical [when it referred to GlaxoSmithKline]. These "adjectives" rang alarm bells. It was great to see your [press release] refute these points...Thanks!

Many people wrote to the newspaper and television network with comments about the story. The most outrageous response made several accusations against LDI, all of which were presented as fact:

Life Decisions International (LDI) promotes itself as "a pro-life organization advocating economic boycotts against companies providing abortion advice."

LDI also maintains a *Boycott List* against organizations they consider to be "too liberal", which includes the American Automobile Association (AAA), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Girl Scouts, The Lions Club, and the Young Womens [sic] Christian Association (YWCA).

They also boycott companies that have a no-discrimination policy on hiring gays, with a special campaign against the Walt Disney Company for their non-discriminatory...policy.

The American Coalition of Life Activists [ACLA] which is an organization [sic] with which Life Decisions International is affiliated and financially supports goes one step further and actively [sic] advocates anti-abortion violence and supports the killing of doctors who perform abortions.

None of this perturbs Andrews, "As to the way in which they advocate a pro-life outcome, that's fine," he said.

Kevin Andrews should be reported to the Australian Federal Police as he admits he is "in frequent and extensive contact" with "foreigners" who are themselves members of "extremist, religion-based [sic] organizations" which "advocate bombings and other violence against civilians".

Kevin Andrews should be [sic] charged with "intentionally providing support to an organization, whilst being reckless as to whether it was a terrorist organization."

The only problem with this diatribe is that *absolutely none* of it is true. LDI does *not* "describe itself" in the manner the author claimed. LDI does *not* keep a list of groups considered to be "too liberal." The boycott has *nothing* to do with non-discrimination policies. LDI has *never* been in contact with ACLA. LDI is *not* "affiliated" with the group (or any other). LDI has *never* given one penny to ACLA. (Nigel Freitas referenced LDI's *strong* anti-violence policy in his message to Media Watch.)

“Where did this person get such garbage?” Scott asked. “A person cannot ‘accidentally’ be so wrong. This is clearly an example of the intentional dissemination of lies by a person without integrity.”

Another person wrote to ask a question and make a point. “Are their [sic] really still people against abortion and gay people?? You would think these people would have given up by now and realised we live in the ‘to each their own’ era.”

“Andrews [sic] nutty colleagues in LDI also are against Lions Club, Rotary, American Cancer Society,” wrote Jeremy Bentham of Brisbane. He continued:

We understand how the Taliban embraces such mad fundamentalism but how do these people get to be...government ministers [sic]?...The actions of Kevin Andrews...prove if nothing else the man is a bigot. Do we need such people in our parliament?”

LDI does not oppose the missions of the Lions Club, Rotary, or American Cancer Society. LDI objects to their involvement with Planned Parenthood. And how Bentham can conclude that Andrews is a “bigot” is outside the boundaries of reason. “Like everyone, Kevin Andrews has his faults, but bigotry is unquestionably not one of them,” Scott said. “Unscrupulous leftists like to use the word against anyone that disagrees with them. They seem to enjoy substituting ‘Nazi’ or ‘terrorist’ or ‘zealot when ‘bigot’ gets a bit overused.”

One person who refused to identify himself sounded more like a pro-abortion American than an Australian:

This government, through their links with the religious right, has continued to chip away at the seperation [sic] between church and state. Religious representatives in state schools, religious ideologies driving the abortion and euthenasia [sic] debates and now a minister supporting the boycotting of companies on the grounds of religion.

“The sooner this right wing fascist [Andrews] is dumped the better,” wrote Christopher from Brisbane. “He belongs in a bygone era.”

Interestingly, *someone* has sought to include mention of the *Sun-Herald* article on Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia. “The entry has even more errors than the article,” Scott said. “We have repeatedly tried to correct the errors, but the person or persons kept changing the text back to the lies. Wikipedia has prohibited LDI from making corrections. While people disagree on these important issues, can’t we at least agree to be truthful when writing or talking about them?”

The timing of the baseless attacks on Andrews is no coincidence. A federal election will be held in Australia sometime before mid-January. “Kevin Andrews is the target of an orchestrated pro-abortion attack,” Scott said. “They would love to see him defeated.”

ACTION: Please pray that Kevin and Margaret Andrews will be given the strength they need to persevere. Pray, too, for those who persecute them.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“Believing a woman’s place is in the home, [anti-abortion extremists] have declared war on women’s rights. A woman who cannot control her own reproduction is hardly in a position to run for the U.S. Senate, start her own company or join the military.”

– Cynthia Tucker, editorial in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, January 22, 2006

PLANNED PARENTHOOD BUDGET UP

In 2006, Douglas R. Scott, Jr., president of Life Decisions International, warned that, “If the current trend continues, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Inc. will command a budget of more than \$1 billion in three years.” While Planned Parenthood’s budget continues to rise, the pace has slowed—and rather significantly.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) generated \$902.8 million in Fiscal Year 2005-2006, which is an increase of 2.4 percent over the previous reporting period. In Fiscal Year 2004-2005, PPFA’s income had risen a whopping 8.4 percent.



While the rate of PPFA’s massive budget increases has slowed, the amount the abortion-committing goliath generates from American taxpayers has risen by a staggering 10.75 percent. In the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year, the elected representatives of American taxpayers gave \$272.7 million to Planned Parenthood, which represented 30.9 percent of its overall budget. In the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year, taxpayers provided more than a third of the behemoth’s budget (\$305.3 million).

“This ‘not-for-profit’ entity ends every fiscal year with tens of millions of dollars in ‘excess revenue over expenses,’” Scott said. The “excess” for 2004-2005 *alone* was \$63 million. In 2005-2006 *alone*, the excess was \$55.8 million.

On June 30, 2006, PPFA had net assets totaling \$839.8 million, of which \$330.9 million was unrestricted and another \$116.6 million was temporarily restricted. “This is essentially a savings account,” Scott explained. “The money is sitting in a bank and drawing interest. It will someday be used to advance Planned Parenthood’s deadly agenda. Still, despite these huge sums, the corporation’s hierarchy incessantly claims it needs—and has a right to—more and more tax dollars.”

The most proficient abortion machine in the United States, PPFA admits to killing 264,943 preborn human beings in 2005 alone (up 3.9 percent from 2004), gen-

erating an estimated \$100 million. In 2004, a scant 1,414 customers were referred to adoption agencies; down more than 20 percent from 2003. PPFA reported no referrals to adoption agencies in 2005. In fact, the word “adoption” is not used *anywhere* in PPFA’s 2005-2006 *Annual Report*.

PPFA claims to prevent the “need” for abortion while simultaneously working to increase its share of the lucrative abortion market. In 1984, PPFA committed just over 5.5 percent of all abortions in the United States. By 2004 that figure had risen to nearly 20 percent.

PPFA sold 1,245,506 “emergency” birth control kits in 2005 (nearly 26.6 percent more than in 2004). Every PPFA “clinic” dispenses “emergency” birth control. Most prescribe it over the phone and accept orders over the Internet, without an exam. In the vast majority of cases, “emergency” birth control causes an abortion, but Planned Parenthood wrongly and intentionally claims the drugs are “contraception.”

UPDATE: CORPORATE FUNDING PROJECT

A new *Boycott List* was released the last week of July 2007. There are far too many changes to include herein. However, the following corporations are no longer boycott targets: Allendale Pharmaceuticals, Blackjack Pizza, Chum, Circuit City, Cost Plus World Market, Darling International, George Weston, International Game Technology, MacTarnahan’s Brewing, Neiman Marcus, Tommy Hilfiger, Unilever, and Willis Stein.

The Allstate Corporation, which appears on the most recently published edition of *The Boycott List*, is no longer a boycott target.

The July 2007 edition of *The Boycott List* includes a significantly expanded “Dishonorable Mention” section. Additional information may be found by visiting the “Organization Watch” page on LDI’s website (www.fightpp.org [click on “Projects”]).



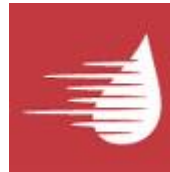
Cowell

The March-April 2007 edition of *The Caleb Report* included a story about the “American Idol” project titled “Idol Gives Back.” LDI objected to the fund-raising effort because among those groups selected as beneficiaries were the pro-abortion United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and Save the Children. Pro-life activists were asked to contact several corporate officials in an effort to get the two pro-abortion charities dropped, but as far as we know, not even one person received a response. Could this be because the key person behind the fund-raising effort also happens to be the chief executive officer of International Save the Children?

And just who is this person? It is none other than nasty “American Idol” judge Simon Cowell.

A LIE OF OMISSION

“It is ludicrous.” This was the reaction of Douglas R. Scott, Jr., president of Life Decisions International, to a statement made in defense of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s (L&LS) support for human embryonic stem cell experimentation.



LDI, which publishes a list of corporations that fund the abortion-committing group Planned Parenthood, recently updated the “Dishonorable Mention” section of *The Boycott List*. The section identifies nonprofit organizations that “are linked to Planned Parenthood and/or its agenda.” Like Planned Parenthood, L&LS actively supports embryonic stem cell experimentation.

“Planned Parenthood supports such experimentation because it seeks to promote its cause and justify its actions by further devaluing human life. While other groups may do so for what may be more altruistic reasons, the end result is the same,” Scott said.

“This is a complex and emotional subject, and I think it therefore requires that we carefully analyze the facts,” wrote Doug Lubbers in a statement to a pro-life activist who had written to express opposition to the charity’s support of embryonic stem cell experimentation. “But everything following that sentence was an attempt to evade the facts,” Scott said.

“I believe that your information derives from the fact that L&LS, along with the Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network and 520 other patient advocacy groups were co-signers to a letter to the House and the Senate, dated January 10, 2007, supporting the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.” Lubbers wrote.

“This is an attempt to justify the signing of the letter,” Scott responded. “It is like saying, ‘Yes, we signed the letter, but so did Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network and 520 other groups.’ Fair enough. The hospital and other groups are responsible for their having signed and L&LS is responsible for adding its name to the letter.”

“Although the Congress passed that legislation, it was vetoed by the President in June,” Lubbers wrote. “Therefore, this law has not been implemented. We are left with the intellectual exercise of why 522 organizations decided to co-sign such a letter.”

“Although I do not have any appreciation for the detail of the proposed legislation,” Lubbers continued, “I think it safe to say that there may have been many dif-

ferent reasons by these organizations, all of which are now moot.”

“‘Intellectual exercise’? ‘Now moot’? Hogwash!” Scott said. “The fact is that L&LS wanted the legislation to pass. L&LS opposed the veto. It is simply providence that President George W. Bush was in office at this moment in time and he chose to veto the measure. Had another person been president, or had there been enough votes in Congress to override the veto, the bill could have become law. L&LS is attempting to excuse its actions by saying, ‘Well, we failed to get what we wanted, so let’s pretend we had no role in trying to make it happen.’” Scott compared the statement to a child who had been caught throwing rocks from an overpass in an attempt to hit cars on the freeway. “‘Well, at least I missed all the cars,’ the child could say. That is true, but had the effort been ‘successful,’ someone would probably have been killed.”

Scott said that the organizations did not have “many different reasons” for supporting the legislation. “There was only one reason for supporting the bill. These groups want to expand embryonic stem cell experimentation and they want federal taxpayer dollars to fund it.” He also said the subject is not “now moot” because “efforts to pass the same kind of bill will continue.” Scott said that if L&LS had no intention of being part of these future efforts, Lubbers would surely have said so. Moreover, L&LS should have publicly withdrawn its name from the list of those endorsing the legislation. (The letter mentioned by Lubbers is even available through the L&LS website.)

Lubbers closed his statement with these words: “Let me clearly state that the Society does not ‘support the destruction of innocent life’. Nothing is farther from being true, as evidenced by the Society’s policy – ‘The Society opposes the fertilization of human eggs for the purpose of research.’”

If this were the entire text of the L&LS policy, it would show that the charity opposes the fertilization of human eggs for the *express purpose* of conducting experiments on them,” Scott said. “But if the embryos were created without that specific purpose in mind, it is okay to do whatever you want to them. We trust Mr. Lubbers would be outraged if he were to hear someone say, ‘Sure, but the Jews are already dead. It’s okay to make lampshades out of their skin so long as we didn’t kill the Jews for the express purpose of making the lampshades.’”

“Was it okay for the Nazi regime to experiment on Jews after they were already dead or if they were going to be killed eventually anyway?” Scott asked. “After all, the argument with stem cell experimentation is that

the embryos will just be ‘flushed’ anyway so why waste them?”

Amazingly, Lubbers did not quote the entire text of the policy. He stopped at the word “research.” (“The Society opposes the fertilization of human eggs for the purpose of research”.) He used a period and quotation mark at the end of the line. But the policy, which L&LS claims is based “on the leading scientific and biological advice currently available,” is actually much longer. Adopted in June 2005, it is simply called “Policy on Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research”:

Biomedical research on human embryonic stem cells has the potential to improve our understanding of the molecular nature of cancers, including those of the blood and immune (lymphatic) systems. Such knowledge could significantly help the development of disease-specific, targeted therapies to provide increased cure rates with reduced toxic effects.

Laboratory studies of human embryonic stem cells can lead to the development of tissue-specific stem cells, such as those that form blood and immune cells. This research could result in more effective and less toxic stem cell transplantation, which is an important treatment of leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. There also is potential (although not part of our Society’s own mission) to utilize human embryonic stem cells to speed development of treatments for juvenile diabetes, Parkinson disease, heart disease, spinal cord injuries and other common disabling conditions.

Medical research requires balancing risks and benefits. Human embryonic stem cell research involves ethical, legal and social issues as well as scientific issues. Therapeutic human embryonic stem cell research can be accomplished under rigorous guidelines that safeguard human subjects. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society therefore supports the use of human embryonic stem cells for research and development of therapies whenever the proposed research is judged meritorious by the Society’s appropriately constituted scientific review committees and Board of Directors. The Society also supports the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer techniques to produce human stem cell lines. These new stem cell lines are vital for research on disease mechanisms and may lead to transplantation therapies that would not be compromised by immunologic rejection.

All research involving human subjects and human embryonic stem cell research funded by the Society should be accompanied by strict scientific and ethical guidelines at the grantee institution. These guidelines should correspond to the Guidelines for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research published by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences in April 2005.

The Society unequivocally opposes the use of human embryonic stem cells, either derived from a fertilized egg or from the process of somatic cell nuclear transfer, to clone a human being. The Society opposes the fertilization of human eggs for the purpose of research, but supports obtaining human embryonic stem cell lines for research from frozen fertilized eggs that would otherwise be destroyed (emphasis added).

Research using human embryonic stem cells is in its early stages. New research developments, opportunities and challeng-

es will continue in future years. Consequently, the Public Policy, Patient Services and Medical and Scientific Committees of the Society should continue to review these guidelines, at least annually, so as to remain current with the scientific, humanitarian, legal and ethical implications of developments in this field.

“Mr. Lubbers’ response is intellectually shallow and utterly ridiculous. And omitting a key part of the L&LS policy makes it deceptive as well,” Scott said. “Mr. Lubbers would have us believe this is a ‘complex’ issue, but it is not as complex as he would like us to think. In fact it is quite simple. We urge L&LS to end its support of embryonic stem cell experimentation.”

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

LDI often provides space for its supporters and detractors to have their say about various issues. If you have a comment/opinion on any issue relating to LDI or life issues, do not be shy! Send it to us!

A Commendation

I am writing as an American citizen and as a Catholic to commend your organization and its agenda of fighting Planned Parenthood and, especially, its pro-abortion stance. I believe that as the general public comes to understand more about Planned Parenthood, the less support it will receive in our society. Thank you.

– J. H. Bennett

Making It Manageable

Judy Celano likes the new letter-writing strategy implemented to support of the Corporate Funding Project:

I just received the most recent mailing, including the new letter writing strategy. I just had to write to thank you! Thank you for making a task that used to seem overwhelming, so very manageable! I have already started writing :)

Details about the letter-writing strategy are included in the material sent to LDI Partners.

Refuses to “Pay”

I am a legislator in South Dakota that will always be 100% pro life. I am interested in your boycott list and will let others know (esp. South Dakota companies) but I will not pay for the list. If you want my help let me know at my email address...

– Rep. Gary L. Jerke

Thanks For The Reminder

[T]hank you for reminding me that AOL is a boycott target. This is the last email you will receive from me on AOL...

Keep up the fantastic work. You are a real inspiration to me and thousands of others. And we’ll stay with you in this critical work.

– Dave Kothman

Writing Two Per Week!

I’m just getting to this today because we were out of town these past 10 days. Also just a note to you that ever since you wrote that much needed paragraph chastising “us” (most accurate to me!) about not writing letters to corps, I have been trying to write 2 a week. Thank you for the ‘gentle’ nudge!

I’m very grateful for all that you do. God’s peace to you.

– Liz Hildebrand

A Good Kind Of Nagging

I’ve finally gotten brave and written a letter—after procrastinating a long time and boycotting, but not writing.

...

My 14-year old son has been nagging me to write letters, since he knows we have stopped using products on *The Boycott List*, dropped credit cards, and moved a retirement account (away from Chase Manhattan).

– Leaella Shirley

Prewritten Letters

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your work on the boycott list. You are a great inspiration to me. *Do you have any pre-written letters that we can send to CEO’s too?*

I withdrew my \$ from Bank of America, but would like to find out if the new credit union also supports them. Local branches do not know what corporate does as demonstrated by the B of A manager.

How can I help you besides donating? Once again, you are in my prayers and heart. I have spread your website to groups of people.

– Rose Vitug

LDI does not offer prewritten letters. We do not want the letters received by corporate leaders to all sound the same. We can, however, offer some basic guide-lines for letter-writing. Tell the chief executive you are boycotting the company because of its support of Planned Parenthood. Include a sentence or two as to why you do not approve of such donations. Be sure to say that until *LDI* says the company has been dropped from *The Boycott List*, you will continue the boycott.

THE PRAYER PROJECT

Please join us in daily prayer for the men and women who are active in the Pro-Abortion Movement and those who have not been strong in their claimed pro-life convictions: *July*—**Gerard L. Stockhausen, S.J.**, president of the University of Mercy Detroit (UMD); *August*—**Malcolm S. “Steve” Forbes, Jr.**, president and chief executive officer of boycott target **FORBES Inc.**; *September*—Mayor **Antonio Villaraigosa**, D-Los Angeles; *October*—**Jack Kevorkian**; *November*—**Simon Cowell**, chief executive officer of International Save the Children Alliance; and *December*—pro-abortion Australian correspondents **Kerry-Anne Walsh**, **Michelle Singer**, and **Barrie Cassidy**.

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