



# The Caleb Report

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Life Decisions International

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## KMART CORPORATION ASSISTS ANTI-LIFE ORGANIZATION

### Support for the March of Dimes Continues Despite "Search and Destroy" Philosophy

Kmart Corporation and anti-life March of Dimes (MoD) officially kicked off the company's 2004 support for WalkAmerica with the unveiling of a banner by Julian C. Day, Kmart's chief executive officer. The banner, which acknowledges the company as the nation's top WalkAmerica team, is displayed in the lobby of the Kmart Resource Center in Troy, Michigan.

"At Kmart we hope that every baby is born healthy," Day said. "That is why Kmart is proud to support March of Dimes WalkAmerica in helping our customers and associates get the information they need to have healthy babies."

Kmart pushes for donations at its 1,500-plus stores, even verbally asking customers at checkout. It also urges customers to participate in WalkAmerica through notices in Kmart stores and its print advertising. Last year alone, its employees raised more than \$3.5 million through various local fund-raising events. For example, Kmart's "Leaders in Learning" campaign included the sale of bookmarks bearing a MoD message. The company has raised \$39 million in its two decades of association with MoD.

As part of Kmart's 2004 national fund-raising event, stores are selling MoD paper sneakers for one dollar each until Mother's Day. Customers purchasing a special paper sneaker were given a chance to win a \$1,000 Kmart gift card. A \$1,000 donation was also made to the local MoD chapter of each winner on their behalf.

"We are so very grateful to Kmart associates and their customers for making a tremendous effort on behalf of mothers and babies," said MoD President Jennifer L. Howse. "We know that Kmart greatly values its community efforts and its connection to families. The

funds raised by its associates and customers will help more babies be born healthy."

Kmart is not the only corporation supporting MoD. Others include Farmers Insurance Group, GUM (oral care products), Famous Footwear, Discovery Health Channel, Gymboree, General Nutrition Centers (GNC), Motherhood Maternity, CitiGroup, Sprint Communications, and the Planned Parenthood-funding **CIGNA Corporation** and **Bank of America**.

MoD describes itself as a "national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality." Founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938, MoD funds "research, community services, education, and advocacy [programs] to save babies..." In 2003, it launched a five-year campaign to address the "increasing rate of premature birth." But doubt has been cast upon MoD's commitment.

The Elliot Institute, which researches the physical and psychological effects of abortion, has accused MoD of concealing evidence that shows women who have had abortions need to be especially vigilant in receiving adequate prenatal care in subsequent pregnancies. MoD has removed information from its website about the risk of premature birth following abortion. The website had previously included a statement that women with a history of three or more miscarriages or abortions may be at higher risk of premature delivery. In actuality, the Elliot Institute says the risk of premature birth increases after only one induced abortion.

David Reardon, Ph.D., director of the Elliot Institute, said at least 50 published studies have shown a higher risk of premature birth and low birth weight delivery among women with a history of abortion. One study

found the risk doubles after just one abortion. Multiple abortions increase the risk even more. Reardon said a doubling of risk among an estimated one-fourth of delivering women who have a history of abortion would result in a 25 percent rise overall.

Rather than changing the website to include the more accurate information, MoD eliminated mention of the risk entirely. “Has it (MoD) updated its website and literature to better prepare American couples to receive adequate prenatal care to avoid premature births when there is a history of induced abortion?” Reardon asked. “No. March of Dimes has instead decided it must try even harder to cover up the abortion link to neonatal deaths and handicaps by removing even the vastly understated risk of premature birth after three or four abortions from their website.”

MoD claims it does not take a position on abortion, but every respectable pro-life organization opposes the group due to its “search and destroy” philosophy. The primary objection is over prenatal testing that is done to give women “choices” about bringing a child into the world. “The Pro-Life Movement *strongly* opposes fetal testing that is done for such reasons,” said LDI President Douglas R. Scott. “Prenatal testing should be done only for the sake of the unborn child, such as diagnosing problems that can be corrected in the womb or helping parents prepare for the special needs of a disabled child. Any other use is clearly for eugenic purposes.”

MoD does not condemn abortion as an unacceptable “solution” to the “problem” of conceiving an imperfect child. A MoD booklet states: “When a birth defect is diagnosed, genetic counselors provide emotional support and understanding during what can be a very difficult time. If there are decisions to be made—about the pregnancy, the care of a child, having more children, or about the ability of the family to cope with ongoing problems—the parents can make more informed choices with the facts in hand.”

MoD has awarded grants for research on genetic problems that may be used to encourage medical personnel to suggest abortion. Abortionist Maurice Mahoney received \$35,000 for research on chorionic villi sampling and for developing a prenatal diagnostic technique which would permit the first-trimester abortion of affected unborn children. From 1989 to 1990, MoD gave Haig H. Kazazian of Johns Hopkins University a \$50,000 grant to perfect early detection methods for such disorders as Beta-Thalassemia,

Hemophilia A, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and Cystic Fibrosis, none of which is treatable in the womb. Kazazian is a devoted advocate of eugenic abortion.

A MoD policy statement notes its support of fetal tissue experimentation as “one technique to broaden understanding of human biology and pregnancy outcome.” It has funded fetal experimentation and fetal tissue use for more than two decades. In the early 1970s, it gave \$19,000 to John F. S. Crocker of Dalhousie University to study congenital kidney abnormalities. The study involved 60 pairs of embryonic kidneys that had been obtained from human abortions after five to twelve weeks gestation. MoD has also written to influential members of Congress in support of federal funding for fetal tissue and embryonic stem cell experimentation.

Pro-abortion activists have held MoD leadership positions. For example, President Bill Clinton’s Senate-rejected nominee for Surgeon General, Henry Foster, served on its Medical Service Advisory Committee. Foster admitted committing nearly 700 abortions based on the results of fetal testing. He also defended fetoscopic prenatal research as “clearly therapeutic” since it is done “for the same reasons that we do amniocentesis; to decide whether or not the pregnancy should continue and to provide a therapeutic abortion.”

Other pro-abortion names associated with MoD include actors Ed Begley, Jr., and Ted Danson, comedians Joan Rivers, Phyllis Diller, and Kathy Griffin, singers Wynonna Judd and Lou Rawls, sexologist Ruth Westheimer, and author T. Berry Brazelton. Surprisingly, actress Patricia Heaton, who is active with Feminists for Life, is also involved with MoD. Lending their names to the group more recently are singers Kelly Clarkson and Justin Guarini of *American Idol* fame. The abortion views of the latter two individuals are unknown. MoD has long been a favorite of celebrities as it allows them to show a concern for children while also supporting abortion.

Like Planned Parenthood, MoD seeks out young people to do its bidding and raise money for its work. Schools are targeted for promotion of its fund-raising events, particularly WalkAmerica. Many schools allow MoD posters that promote such events. MoD’s National Youth Council assists the group “in the design and implementation of programs targeted to youth.” Members are involved with advocacy initiatives and the development of collegiate programs.

The head of Planned Parenthood of the Palm Beach and Treasure Coast Area was recognized by MoD as “Woman of Distinction 2003.” In accepting the award, the Planned Parenthood chief executive officer said she “longs to see every child wanted, loved, and cared for—the result of choice rather than chance.”

And what was the last straw? MoD presented Senator Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., with its prestigious Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award for a “lifetime of work in advancing a wide range of initiatives central to the health and well being of children and families.” As MoD’s president put it, “Senator Kennedy has been a strong voice on issues important to American families for decades. He is a visionary legislator whose work has resulted in significant improvements in federal support of research and services critical to children and their families.” The award is presented to individuals and corporations who have “made a substantial contribution to the community.”

**ACTION:** Let Kmart’s chief executive officer know how you feel. Write to Mr. Julian C. Day, President & Chief Executive Officer, Kmart Holding Corporation, 3100 W. Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48084-3163. We suggest that you call as well as (not instead of) writing a letter: (248) 463-1000.

#### **UPDATE: CORPORATE FUNDING PROJECT**

As reported in the January-February 2004 edition of *The Caleb Report*, the following corporations are no longer boycott targets: **Mrs. Field’s Famous Brands**, **Schering-Plough** and **The Home Depot**. In addition, Hudson Trail Outfitters is not a subsidiary of **Lost Arrow Corporation**.

#### **AN UNWILLINGNESS TO KILL**

In February, the Eckerd Corporation fired three pharmacists who refused to participate in the deaths of unborn children. Gene Herr of Denton, Ohio, said he and two coworkers were fired after refusing to fill a prescription for so-called emergency contraception.

Herr would not fill the prescription for the “morning-after pill” because it could have killed the child if the woman seeking the drug had already conceived. Though he had declined to fill such prescriptions in the past, this particular woman had reportedly been raped—a circumstance that apparently warranted corporate disciplinary action for Herr and his colleagues.

“I went in the back room and briefly prayed about it,” Herr said. “I actually called my pastor at Denton Bible Church and asked him what he thought about it.”

The two other pharmacists who were present at the pharmacy also refused to fill the prescription. The woman obtained the drugs at another local pharmacy.

An Eckerd spokesman said the company had taken “the appropriate disciplinary action” since its employment manual requires pharmacists to fill all legitimate prescriptions. There are no exceptions, even for religious or moral reasons.

Herr said he was unaware of the corporate policy until his supervisors questioned him about the incident shortly before he was fired. “In my mind if I agree to work for someone knowing that that’s their policy, then I should submit to that policy. But I didn’t even know about it,” he said.

Morning-after pills are higher doses of the hormones in regular birth control pills and have been sold under the brand names Plan B and Preven since 1998. They work by preventing ovulation or fertilization of an egg. If fertilization already has occurred, they prevent it from implanting into the uterus (an early abortion).

Herr said he’s disappointed but not angry or bitter. “I’m a Christian. I feel like God gave me an opportunity to, I guess, make a stand for what is right,” Herr said. “He’s gonna take care of me either way.”

In a similar case, the Associated Press reports that the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing has filed a complaint against pharmacist Neil Noesen for refusing to fill a prescription. Noesen was substituting at a Kmart Pharmacy and had told the managing pharmacist he would not fill prescriptions for birth control that could cause an abortion. The managing pharmacist agreed to fill such prescriptions.

The complaint stems from an instance in which Noesen was the only pharmacist on duty. Noesen declined to fill a prescription for birth control pills. When the customer went to a Wal-Mart Pharmacy, Noesen refused to transfer the prescription. She returned to the Kmart with two police officers, but Noesen still refused and police took no action. The managing pharmacist refilled the prescription when he returned to work.

After a CVS pharmacist in North Richland Hills, Texas, refused to dispense birth control pills, an official with the drugstore chain said its pharmacists do not have to fill such prescriptions if it is against their religious beliefs. “We support our pharmacists who have a deeply-held belief,” the spokesman said. Company policy calls on pharmacists to help the customer get their prescription filled by another

pharmacist in the same store or by calling a competing store. The spokesman said the pharmacist will receive additional training for failing to help the customer get the prescription filled.

The CVS spokesman apologized to the customer, Julee Lacey, and promised to deliver the prescription to her home. CVS said its policy is designed to respect the religious beliefs of its pharmacists as well as the rights of customers. The conscience clause of the American Pharmacist Association “supports establishing systems to ensure patients’ access to legally prescribed therapy without compromising the pharmacist’s right of conscientious refusal.”

The CVS customer service phone line initially told callers that the pharmacists who refused to fill the prescription based on personal conviction was acting in line with CVS policy. The message was later changed to say that the pharmacist who took a stand had violated company policy because he did not make sure the prescription is filled by another pharmacist at that location or by another area pharmacy.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) President Gloria Feldt fired off a letter to CVS Chief Executive Officer Thomas M. Ryan:

I am writing to express my outrage at the discrimination that violated Julee Lacey’s rights March 29 at the CVS Pharmacy in North Richland Hills. Upon presenting her prescription for birth control pills at the drive-through pharmacy window of that location, Mrs. Lacey was told that the pharmacist would not fill her prescription. Not because there was a problem with the prescription, or because the pharmacy was out of stock. No, Mrs. Lacey was denied this essential medication because the pharmacist personally did not “believe” in birth control.

This is completely inexcusable. Contraception is basic health care for women—85% of us use it at some point during our lifetimes. Mrs. Lacey had a valid and legal prescription to obtain it. This pharmacist’s actions were an unacceptable imposition of narrow personal ideology on Mrs. Lacey’s reproductive health and rights.

When this story first broke, people who called CVS’ customer service line were told that CVS supported the pharmacists’ actions and that refusing to fill prescriptions based on personal beliefs was in line with CVS policy. Soon afterwards, however, callers were informed of the CVS policy requiring referrals, and informed that CVS would be following up with the pharmacist who refused to dispense Mrs. Lacey’s birth control for her violation of company standards.

On behalf of America’s women, I want your personal guarantee that this will never happen again. We want

to know the immediate steps you will take to guarantee that all CVS pharmacies at least ensure that every patient’s prescription is filled, either by a CVS pharmacist or by another nearby establishment that will fulfill their professional obligations instead of imposing personal ideology and denying patients their rights. When an Eckerd pharmacist in Denton, Texas, refused to fill a rape survivor’s prescription for emergency contraception he was fired. I urge you to consider whose conscience really counts here, and to formulate your response accordingly. Your pharmacist’s actions were a violation of women’s fundamental human rights, and we will not stand silently by.

Yes, Feldt argues that obtaining birth control is a “fundamental human right.”

LDI’s Douglas R. Scott wrote to the head of Eckerd to express his outrage over the decision to fire the pharmacists. He also wrote to the president of CVS to urge the company to take a strong stand in defense of religiously-held beliefs. Scott wrote that Planned Parenthood is in no moral position to be bullying anyone or demanding anything.

**ACTION:** Write to Mr. J. Wayne Harris, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Eckerd Corporation, 8333 Bryan Dairy Rd., Largo, FL 33777-1213. We suggest that you call as well as (not instead of) writing a letter: (800) 325-3737. Copy your letter and also place a phone call to Eckerd’s parent corporation: Mr. Allen I. Questrom, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, J.C. Penny Company Inc., 6501 Legacy Dr., Plano, TX 75024-3698. Phone: (972) 431-1000.

Write to Thomas M. Ryan, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, CVS Corporation, One CVS Dr., Woonsocket, RI 02895. Phone: (401) 765-1500, ext. 2800.

### QUOTABLE QUOTE

“We have been told by grieving counselors to take pictures of all dead fetuses and babies—specifically babies, but also fetuses—so there is a memory of the baby by the mother.”

— abortionist Amos Grunebaum, testifying in favor of partial-birth abortion in *National Abortion Federation v. Attorney General of the United States*, a companion case to those filed by abortionist Leroy Carhart and PPFA against the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act

### PLANNED PARENTHOOD & GIRL SCOUTS

The Bluebonnet Council of Girl Scouts will no longer cosponsor two sex education events organized by Planned Parenthood, reports the Waco *Tribune-Herald*. The move followed Baylor University Professor John Pisciotta’s call for a boycott of the group’s cookies.

“Our policies basically state that we do not take a position on issues like abortion,” said Beth Vivio, council executive director. “We feel these are private matters that need to be discussed or determined by each family.” (This is a “pro-choice” position.) Vivio said some council members had opposed the Girl Scouts logo being part of brochures for the “Nobody’s Fool” and “3R Coalition” sex education programs.

“As part of an organization whose mission is to help girls grow strong, some local Girl Scout councils may make girls and their families aware of the information and resources that are available to them on such matters,” a statement from the board said. “In all instances, these topics are discussed from an informative rather than advocacy point of view.”

Pisciotta said the change is a step in the right direction, but a complete break from Planned Parenthood is needed. “I hope they will do this and this whole thing can end,” he said.

Vivio said it is possible that Girl Scouts will still make available information about sex education conferences like “Nobody’s Fool.” Girl Scouts had sponsored the program for many years, though it had not been widely publicized.

“I’m sick to think that an organization as illustrious as the Girl Scouts would make a decision based on one person’s political agenda,” said Pam Smallwood of Planned Parenthood of Central Texas. She accused Pisciotta of distributing misinformation about “Nobody’s Fool,” including quotations from sex education books that were taken out of context.

Pisciotta appeared on *The Today Show* with Girl Scout Chief Executive Officer Kathy Cloninger to discuss the boycott of the group’s cookies. Cloninger said her group is “very disappointed that a citizen would use something as American icon as the Girl Scout cookie sale to really bully young girls into getting involved in an issue that has absolutely nothing to do with the mission of Girl Scouting, which is to help girls grow up strong and capable and to aspire to their highest ideals.” Exactly who is responsible for forcing “young girls into getting involved in an issue that has absolutely nothing to do with the mission of Girl Scouting”? Is it not the same people who chose to associate with Planned Parenthood in the first place?

“We are very disappointed that an organization which considers its fund-raising program to be an American icon would associate itself with a group as un-American as Planned Parenthood,” said LDI’s Douglas R. Scott. “And it is an amazing coincidence that Cloninger uses the same rhetorical tricks as those

employed by Planned Parenthood.” Scott specifically referenced the use of the phrase “bullying young girls” in their effort to paint a mental image of a man harming children. The overall goal of the technique is to demonize Pisciotta and refocus the public away from the real issue—the group’s *choice* to be associated with Planned Parenthood.

Cloninger noted that the decision has local ramifications only. “The Girl Scouts in Waco, Texas, really made a decision based on local community context. They decided that in this particular situation that it would be in the best interest of girls and their families to discontinue the relationship with Planned Parenthood.” Cloninger said that girls “grow up with very complex issues facing them” and that her group addresses “the issues of human sexuality and body image and all of the things that girls are facing.”

Cloninger said the Girl Scouts partner with many groups, such as with the pro-abortion YWCA. She said Girl Scouts relies on Planned Parenthood affiliates across the country “to bring information-based sex education programs to girls.”

The Girls Scout’s chief defended her group in a way that would make Hillary Clinton proud. “It’s really impossible for girls to grow up in today’s society without having access to good information. And so we will continue to partner with organizations across this nation and local community Girl Scouts will make decisions based on...the local needs of both the girls and their families,” Cloninger said.

While Pisciotta had initially said a complete break from Planned Parenthood was needed, he accepted Cloninger’s statement and declared an end to the boycott of Girl Scout cookies. Pisciotta even encouraged the national television audience to buy Girl Scout cookies. “This is unfortunate because it is clear that the tie between Girl Scouts and Planned Parenthood continues,” Scott said.

“Are we really satisfied with identifying which local scout groups are or are not associated with Planned Parenthood? Are we happy that the leadership at Girl Scouts has made an association with Planned Parenthood a local decision?,” Scott asked. “We will be throwing to the wolves those children who reside in the areas where there is an association with the ungodly group. A change in policy from the top that completely eliminates any association with Planned Parenthood is the only real solution to the problem. Anything less is unacceptable.”

Ellen Christie, a Girl Scout's spokesman, offered additional insight: "We are not a Judeo-Christian or religious organization at all. We never have been. We've always been a spiritually-based movement." Scott responded: "This is interesting rhetoric, but exactly what kind of spirit is the movement based on?"

Christie said Girl Scouts does not discriminate and welcomes lesbian girls and scout leaders. She also said it does not take a position on sex education or abortion. "Nonsense," Scott replied. "When you allow Planned Parenthood into your midst you are taking a position on sex education and abortion."

When Girl Scouts began to go down the wrong path it became clear that an alternative was needed. American Heritage Girls (AHG) was founded in 1995. It describes itself as "a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country." AHG offers merit badge programs, service projects, leadership opportunities and outdoor experiences. AHG calls itself a "program of character building" and has served thousands of girls since its inception.

**ACTION:** Write to Ms. Kathy Cloninger, Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts of the USA, 420 – 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., New York, New York 10018-2798. Phone: 1-800-478-7248 or (212) 852-8000.

**INFORMATION:** American Heritage Girls, 130 Tri-County Pkwy., Ste. 202, Cincinnati, OH 45246. Phone: (513) 771-2025. Website: ahgonline.org.

## 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: *March*—Senator **Joseph Lieberman**, D-Conn.; *April*—Senator **John Edwards**, D-N.C.; *May*—Senator **Arlen Specter**, R-Penn.; *June*—Senator **Rick Santorum**, R-Penn.; and *July*—Senator and presidential candidate **John Kerry**, D-Mass.

## IN YOUR OWN WORDS

LDI often provides space for its supporters (and detractors) to have their say about various issues:

May God bless you in this very, very important ministry!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

— Tom Grossheim

I have been following the boycott for years, despite the trouble. I am very concerned that you are no longer tracking NARAL supporters. Although I agree that PP is a menace, I consider NARAL much worse.

Could you please explain why you expect me to continue, even though you find it too much trouble to continue opposing NARAL?

— Mary Ann Schafer

We did not "find it too much trouble to continue opposing NARAL" and we believe the writer knows it. Rather, we responded to feedback from our supporters and chose to limit our focus to Planned Parenthood, just as we had done since the inception of LDI. We also noticed that those who support Planned Parenthood tend to be the same as those who support NARAL Pro-Choice America.

[I'm] amazed at the incredible work you do and thankful for such [an] organization. It is truly inspiring to find unselfish people who give themselves to the work of defending those without a voice. The more I see and read websites like yours, something inside tells me I have to do something too. So I have proposed to my husband that we picket abortion clinics in my hometown...in silent prayer and of course with some convincing hand held signs.

I will try to get in touch with the Bishop and see what can be done for Priests to talk more about the evil of contraception and abortion in homilies. We as Catholics need to hear more from them, we are in such need for Pro-life groups in our Churches!!

I feel the need to do something...I have some stickers on my car and I am sure they get people to think. I am also printing some t-shirts for us to wear. Thank you again for being that inspiration. Prayer and people like you can move masses!!

— Alba Holzwarth

One of LDI's Canadian supporters was upset with Canada's pro-life newspaper, *The Interim*, for failing to note our work and printing faulty information about corporate supporters of Planned Parenthood. He wrote to the editor and copied LDI:

I must start by saying that I have been an avid pro-lifer for the last 20 years, and have had unwavering support for your publication and Campaign Life [parent group of *The Interim*] for all of that time. Credibility is the cornerstone of this work. Without it, we look no better than those who scorn and smear us with innuendo and hearsay.

The Jan. '04 column, "Corporate Watch," written by Tony Gosgnach, contained a lot of material which was inaccurate and out of date, and of questionable resource. The term "is reported" is used twice, but does not say by who, or when or where. He lists a number of corporations that have come under criticism for sponsoring the TV show *Coupling*. Who?, or according to who?

Gosgnach also promotes two websites that expose corporations that are supporting abortion. A number

of corporations listed there should be applauded because they have ceased to support abortion. This is according to Life Decisions Int. who is the most thorough and ethical investigator of corporations supporting Planned Parenthood...Of all of the letters that I have written to the corporations on the LDI list, not one has denied doing what they are accused of doing...

You made no mention of Life Decisions International. I believe that you are well aware of LDI, and I would suggest that you encourage your readers to support this proven, ethical and most importantly, credible organization until such time as these other groups have proven their credibility to your satisfaction.

If you are going to report using phrases like "it is reported," I suggest a lesson from Focus on the Family publications that footnote any such "reports" in their publications.

— Rick Greer

*The Interim* contacted LDI and printed some corrections, but the kind gesture was tainted when the newspaper noted in the same article that it does not take a position on boycotting. This is odd since Campaign Life Coalition endorses the Corporate Funding Project and its president, Jim Hughes, serves on LDI's Board of Advisors. "We are disappointed in Mr. Gosgnach work," said LDI's Douglas R. Scott, "as it has a negative impact on our efforts."

### **NATIONAL GROUP CALLED "TRAITOR"**

By just one vote the South Dakota legislature defeated a bill described as the most restrictive abortion legislation proposed in the United States since *Roe v. Wade*. Which group was the most effective in killing the pro-life bill? Was it NARAL Pro-Choice America? Planned Parenthood? Was it the National Abortion Federation or the American Civil Liberties Union? No, the group most responsible for killing House Bill 1191 was the National Right to Life Committee Inc. (NRLC), which was aided by its state affiliate, South Dakota Right to Life Inc. (SDRL). Both *opposed* the bill, claiming it is not the "right time."

"It is one thing for National Right to Life to disagree with the timing of a bill banning abortions. It is another thing for them to join forces with pro-abortionists to kill the ban. It is betrayal of the unborn [child] and Pro-Life Movement," said the Thomas More Law Center's (TMLC) Richard Thompson. "When is it the wrong time to do what is right?...[NRLC] has lost the moral authority to lead the pro-life cause." This, of course, assumes that given NRLC's record it ever possessed any moral authority whatsoever.

In response, a statement from NRLC said it is "legitimate to question the wisdom of providing the current Supreme Court the opportunity to reaffirm the tragic *Roe v. Wade* decision, making it even more difficult for a future court...to reverse *Roe*." Yet it seems that any court with the courage to reverse *Roe* will do so, regardless of how many past decisions reaffirmed it.

NRLC said that "since federal law provides for the awarding of attorneys fees to a prevailing party in a constitutional challenge of a state law, a bill struck down now on the basis of *Roe v. Wade* would result in the awarding of very large sums to the pro-abortion groups that challenge the law." Would not the money go to the *lawyers* who would be paid either way?

The bill was sponsored by Republican Rep. Matt McCaulley who had asked the TMLC, a national public interest law firm, to help draft a bill that would directly confront *Roe*. The result was a bill that would ban virtually all abortions and make violation a felony. "There is something horribly wrong when South Dakota Right to Life and Planned Parenthood are on the same side of an issue," observed McCaulley.

The bill passed the state House by an overwhelming majority, 54 to 14. But State Senator Jay Duenwald, who serves as an officer of NRLC and its South Dakota affiliate, led covert opposition to the bill when it reached a Senate committee. Working in alliance with pro-abortion Senators, Duenwald succeeded in removing the ban and replacing it with an informed consent measure, which is already covered by state law. However, the ban was reinserted on the Senate floor through a compromise measure that created exceptions for the life of the mother and serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the woman. As part of its unholy alliance with pro-abortionists, did NRLC actually push to add exceptions to a bill that unquestionably could have passed without them?

Leslee Unruh, a member of SDRL for 25 years, and director of the South Dakota Alpha Health Center, an abortion counseling service, said she was "shocked, saddened and dismayed" at NRLC's actions. "In effect, they aborted the right to life bill," she said.

A TMLC press release put the issue into perspective:

After 31 years and over 40 million babies killed, the case of *Roe vs. Wade* making abortion a constitutional right is still the law. Yet, it took homosexual activists only 17 years to overturn the Supreme Court decision

that allowed states to criminalize homosexual sodomy. Still, according to National Right to Life, the time is not right.

Thompson compared NRLC's criticism of the timing of the bill with the attacks on Martin Luther King's actions in Alabama:

Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct-action campaign that was "well timed" in view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every...[black American] with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has always meant "Never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that justice too long delayed is justice denied. One thing we know for sure, Planned Parenthood and NARAL could not be happier with...[NRLC].

In response, NRLC employed an oft-used Planned Parenthood trick. "A group called the Thomas More Law Center issued a [press] release..." The point of using the phrase "a group called" is to imply that TMLC is some sort of unheard of, fly-by-night, radical, and tiny faction of the Pro-Life Movement. NRLC used the same rhetorical strategy in its successful effort to discredit and destroy American Right to Life.

Should any group be forced to support a piece of legislation when it was not consulted in the planning stage? "Any independent organization has the right to oppose a strategy it considers unwise, even if the logic is flawed," said LDI's Douglas R. Scott. "In this case, NRLC had the right to work against introduction of the bill. But once the pro-life bill was introduced, all legitimate pro-life organizations had a moral duty to support it. Any group that could not do so should have remained neutral, which is bad enough since such a position would inherently have a negative impact. Working overtly—or especially covertly—to defeat a pro-life bill is simply unconscionable."

### **OOPS: PROGRAM BACKFIRES**

A survey conducted by the Family Education Trust (FET) in the United Kingdom revealed that teenage pregnancy rates are highest in areas that are most aggressive in promoting sex education. The report, titled "Sex Education or Indoctrination?," showed that explicit sex education and giving condoms to young people encourages them to become sexually active.

Statistics show that teenage pregnancies in Britain rose from 38,439 in 2001 to 39,286 in 2002, despite the 15 million British pounds spent to counter the problem. The pregnancies led to 17,682 of the

children being aborted in 2001. The number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases [STD's] had also risen by an alarming 62 percent between 1997 and 2002.

In a bid to counter Western Europe's highest teenage pregnancy rate, the Government created the Teenage Pregnancy Unit (TPU) in 1999. TPU's goal is to reduce teenage pregnancies 15 percent by the end of 2004 and 50 percent by 2010. FET analysis revealed that TPU's strategy involves explicit sex education by nurses in schools, during which teachers are often not present. Free condoms are distributed and girls are sent a card on their 14th birthday inviting them to receive a confidential medical examination.

Valerie Riches, author of the FET report, said the Government's teenage pregnancy strategy is "based on the premise that it is unrealistic to expect young people to abstain from sex. They have embarked on a damage-limitation exercise dependent on condom use and the use of the morning-after pill. The figures show, however, that it might be wiser to support the majority in abstinence and demonstrate to the minority the physical, emotional and psychological benefits of delaying sex until marriage." The report also highlights the success of the Title V abstinence program in the United States, which has realized a remarkable ten percent reduction in teenage pregnancy rates.

Despite the FET and other studies that tout the success of abstinence-based programs, PPFA released a statement in which it argues that, "Abstinence-only programs pose [a] danger to youth." The words were used to oppose funding of the Title V program. "With American teenagers facing increasing STD rates, particularly HIV/AIDS, and a teen pregnancy rate that is still far too high, it is dangerous not to provide them with the responsible information that may well save their lives," the statement continued.

Title V provides a mere \$50 million each year to the states for abstinence programs. But PPFA supports what it calls a "more traditional" sex education program that "includes abstinence as well as discussion of the benefits of contraception for pregnancy, HIV, and STD prevention." PPFA complains that the federal government has chosen to fund "unrealistic abstinence-only education that censors information" because it does not allow states to "teach young people about the benefits of potentially life-saving contraceptive devices, including condoms."

Unable to defeat Title V in the past, Planned Parenthood has applied for and actually received some of the money in the program. (The group never lets a fund-raising opportunity pass it by.) However, Planned Parenthood's definition of "abstinence" includes anything short of vaginal intercourse—and we mean *anything*. This is clearly a perversion of the intent of Title V.

### SMILE

God is sitting in heaven when a scientist prays to Him.

"God, we don't need you anymore. Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing. In other words, we can now do what you did in the beginning."

"Oh, is that so? Tell Me..." replies God.

"Well," says the scientist, "we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of you and breathe life into it, thus creating man."

"Well, that's very interesting...show Me," God said.

So the scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the dirt into the shape of a man.

"No, no, no..." interrupts God. "Get your *own* dirt!"

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