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HISTORIC, BUT...IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME

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There is no doubt that Barack Obama's election to the presidency of the United States was an historic event. As Cardinal Francis George of the Archdiocese of Chicago recently remarked, "Symbolically, this is a moment that touches more than our history when a country that once enshrined race slavery in its very constitutional order should come to elect an African-American to the presidency. In this, I truly believe, we must all rejoice."

While I certainly can—and do—rejoice in the symbolic moment of the election of an African-American to the nation's highest office, I am unable to rejoice that this particular man is our 44th president.

If a pro-life African-American like J.C. Watts (former U.S. Representative from Oklahoma) had been elected President, I definitely would be rejoicing. But, I simply cannot be joyful that Barack Obama—who should understand better than most, the plight of the voiceless—has promised to strip tiny human beings of even the minimal protection now offered by some federal and state legislation. If Obama keeps his campaign promise, the preborn at all stages of development will have absolutely no legal protection.



King

Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., commented that, "The election of an African-American president sends a powerful and historic message that what was previously unthinkable can become reality. The battle for equal rights has reached a major milestone, but Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of full equality remains just a dream as long as unborn children continue to be treated no better than property. Mr. Obama has promised actions that will only increase the number of abortions."

In the final presidential debate, while referencing "common ground" in the abortion debate, Obama mentioned "providing options for adoption and helping single mothers if they want to choose to keep the baby." However, he has not co-sponsored nor offered any support for the

Pregnant Women Support Act (H.R. 3192 and S. 2407, which would provide practical information and help to women facing untimely pregnancies. The bill, introduced by Sen. Robert Casey (D-Penn.) in the Senate and Rep. Lincoln Davis (D-Tenn.) in the House, has support from Democrats for Life, but not from Mr. Obama.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops believes the bill "is truly a common-ground initiative to reduce the number of abortions in the United States... Everyone can agree that no woman should choose abortion under financial duress or because she is threatened by domestic violence during her pregnancy." Why then is Barack Obama not on board supporting this bill?



Obama

Perhaps his response to a specific question on a candidate questionnaire from the abortion advocacy group, RHrealitycheck.org, gives the answer. When asked, "Does Senator Obama support continuing federal funding for crisis pregnancy centers," the Obama campaign responded with one word, "no." Let's see; he says we should help single mothers who choose to keep their babies and yet he opposes continuing the miniscule federal funding for the very groups who actually provide practical help and support for both single and married women who are facing untimely pregnancies.

Obama's promise to sign the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)—a bill he co-sponsored in the Senate which would nullify all state and federal laws that interfere with access to abortion—speaks volumes about his lack of concern for the preborn. His opposition to volunteer pregnancy care centers and his lack of support for the Pregnant Women Support Act demonstrate his unwavering support for Planned Parenthood and other abortion committing or advocacy groups.

Alveda King sums it up: "Pro-lifers... must promise to redouble our efforts to resist anti-life proposals, speak up for the babies, and, above all, pray... We must pray with persistence and love that, in God's time, what is now deemed unthinkable will become reality—that all our brothers and sisters, from conception to natural death, will be protected in law and welcomed in society. The elections are over. The pro-life battle begins anew."

Numerous warnings about Barack Obama's extreme pro-abortion views were issued during the presidential campaign. Sadly, many Catholics ignored or rejected the substance of those warnings.

Those of us who had personally met with the then-Senator's staff and studied official records and public statements made by Mr. Obama and his wife knew what an Obama administration would mean for unborn children. Minutes after Mr. Obama took the oath of office, the official White House website reminded visitors that President Obama "has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under *Roe v. Wade* a priority in his administration."

Two days later, as more than 200,000 pro-lifers were marching in Washington, D.C., Mr. Obama reiterated his pro-abortion stance in an official press release saying, "On the 36th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*..., I remain committed to protecting a woman's right to choose [abortion]."

What a striking contrast to the proclamation issued by President Bush seven days earlier making January 18th National Sanctity of Human Life Day. In that proclamation, Bush declared: "The most basic duty of government is to protect the life of the innocent. My administration has been committed to building a culture of life by vigorously promoting adoption and parental notification laws, opposing Federal funding for abortions overseas, encouraging teen abstinence, and funding crisis pregnancy programs."

It did not take long for President Obama to begin implementing his pro-abortion agenda. On January 23rd, he (like President Clinton) issued a "presidential memorandum" to the Secretary of State reversing the Mexico City Policy, which had prohibited funding to foreign organizations that promote or commit abortions.



Obama & Clinton

Unlike President Clinton, however, who gathered pro-abortion leaders and the mainstream media together to announce his executive order, President Obama waited until very late on Friday afternoon to issue his quietly. Just as he attempted to downplay his rabid pro-abortion agenda during the campaign, he waited to issue the executive order—sans the mainstream media—knowing that in D.C., Friday night is the time to issue news releases if you do not want anyone to notice.

Major media attention or not, the results are the same. Instead of providing necessary medical care and instruction in methods of Natural Family Planning, U.S. taxpayers

once again will be forced to pay millions of dollars for abortions and contraceptives in other countries. More unborn children will be killed and more women will be scarred—some physically and many emotionally and spiritually.

Mr. Obama has stated he wants to "reduce the need for abortion." If he really meant that, he would limit, not expand, abortion "services." He would push for parental involvement laws, support Pregnancy Care Centers (PCCs), fund abstinence-only education, and oppose Federal funding for abortions—all of which have demonstrated a decrease in abortion numbers. Instead, he opposes all restrictions on abortion, opposes PCCs, favors defunding abstinence-only education, and favors taxpayer funding for abortions.



Ruse

Abortion will never be reduced by increasing its scope. As Austin Ruse, director of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute recently commented, "One of the abortion questions that is almost unanimous in America is that we do not want federal funds being spent on abortions. By striking down the Mexico City policy, President Obama gives lie to the claim that he wants fewer abortions."

Archbishop Elio Sgreccia, former president, of the Pontifical Academy for Life (PAL), reacted to the reversal of the Mexico City Policy. "This deals a harsh blow not only to us Catholics but to all the people across the world that fight against the slaughter of innocents that is carried out with abortion," he said.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, PAL's current president, called the reversal "the arrogance of someone who believes they are right, in signing a decree which will open the door to abortion and thus to the destruction of human life."

The door has been opened and it's just a matter of time before the hinges are blown off with other anticipated pro-abortion actions by the Obama administration.

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