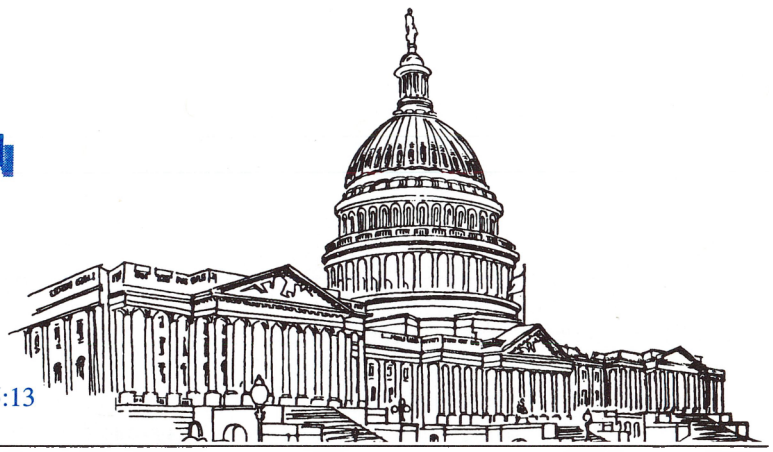


SALT



"You are the salt of the earth" Matthew 5:13

Washington Newsletter, Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention

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Pro-lifers win, lose in Congress

Although the U.S. House of Representatives recently advanced the pro-life agenda on a number of different fronts, a huge loss overshadows these victories. In addition, the Senate, which is far less friendly territory for pro-lifers, has not yet considered most of the policies.

Pro-lifers gained victories in a flurry of recent votes on abortion in the House. However, reversing the decision of its Appropriations Committee, the full House handed the abortion lobby a huge victory on Aug. 2 when it restored funding to the Title 10 federal family planning program.

Most of the activity occurred during

consideration of a 1996 spending bill for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (H.R. 2127). The Appropriations Committee approved the following amendments to H.R. 2127 before passing the bill on to the full House:

- **Medicaid:** The House narrowly voted 215-206 to affirm the committee's adoption of the amendment sponsored by Rep. Ernest Istook, R.-Okla., to allow states again to set their own guidelines on the use of Medicaid funds for abortion. It would overturn orders from President Clinton's administration which have forced states to liberalize their policies on Medicaid funding of abortion. This was

the case in the President's home state, where, as governor, he supported a constitutional amendment prohibiting tax-funded abortions, except to save the mother's life. This provision was struck down by a federal district court in light of the Clinton directives.

- **Ob/gyn programs:** The full House also voted 235-189 to support the provision sponsored by Rep. Tom DeLay, R.-Tex., to prevent federal and state governments from penalizing obstetrics and gynecology residency programs or graduates of programs which refuse to provide abortion training. The action follows a 1995 directive by the

(See *House* on Page 4)

Smith to Clinton: Help ban D & X

When James A. Smith had a momentary opportunity to speak to the President, the Christian Life Commission's director of government relations seized it to ask him to help ban a gruesome form of late-term abortion.

Smith's conversation with President Bill Clinton took place in a reception line following a July 12 speech on religious freedom at a northern Virginia high school. After thanking the President for his comments on religious liberty, Smith brought up legislation aimed at banning partial-birth, or dilation and extraction (D & X), abortions.

"By this point, he has a look of disbelief on his face, not shock, but he was obviously taken aback. And I said, 'I

More on partial-birth abortions: *Salt* again provides

information on the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act. The last issue included an article describing the procedure and drawings illustrating it. This gruesome method is used by some abortion doctors in the second half of pregnancy.

H.R. 1833 and its Senate companion, S. 939, would ban this procedure, which is also known as dilation and extraction (D and X), unless the mother's life is endangered. The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee approved it in mid-July, but the full House will not consider it until after it reconvenes September 6 from recess.

While abortion rights advocates have sought to discredit descriptions and illustrations of this method, Martin Haskell, one of the most prominent practitioners of this procedure, confirmed the technical accuracy of the drawings in a 1993 interview with *American Medical News*. Page 3 of this issue includes a letter from a nurse who observed Haskell perform three such abortions. **Be warned:** In some ways, her first-person account may be even more troubling than the illustrations used in the last issue.

know that you oppose late-term abortions," said Smith, alluding to Clinton's rhetoric on the issue, "and this is mostly a procedure for late-term

abortions. And so we're hoping that you can actually endorse this legislation.'

"He said, 'You know I signed a law in
(See *CLC* on Page 2)

Cyberporn I: What is it?*

By Richard D. Land

Today America faces a grave threat to its future moral well-being. That threat is cyberporn—grotesque obscenity, which is accessible across the length and breadth of our land through the various on-line computer networks which reach into ever-increasing millions of our homes each year.

Cyberporn's increasing presence in our society generated cover stories in *Newsweek* and *Time* the same week (July 3), as well as numerous other periodicals and newspapers. Even a cursory survey of the material available on the Internet reveals what *Newsweek* accurately called "a plethora of cybersleaze." This material is truly vile, obscene and perverse. It includes graphic depictions and descriptions of bestiality, incest, pedophilia, necrophilia, defecation, urination and the torture, bondage and rape of women and children, including bound women "being burned by cigarettes" and "Pierced with swords" (*Newsweek*, July 3).

One convicted cyberporn peddler discovered his two most popular products were pictures of sex acts with animals and child pornography. He found that "incest" descriptions of the child pornography dramatically increased its popularity and that substituting "words like choke or choking" for more bland descriptions of certain sex acts doubled demand for those particular pictures (*Time*, July 3). Cyberporn is far more deviant, violent and perverse than what is available in the hardest-core X-rated video or bookstore in most American cities.

America is faced with an almost invisible, subterranean, electronic river of pornographic slime which threatens our nation's basic moral fabric. This is extremely dangerous, morally radioactive material. Rapists and sex offenders "are 15 times as likely as non-offenders to have had exposure to 'hard core' pornography during childhood or between six and ten years old" (*Attorney General's Commission on Pornography*). One recent University of New Hampshire study clearly "demonstrated a higher rape rate in states with broader availability of pornographic material" (*Christianity Today*, Sept. 12, 1994). Also, for many men and boys (cyberporn users are overwhelmingly male) this material is highly addictive, and exposure to it often leads to socially destructive behavior both to themselves and to their victims.

Cyberporn also allows an invisible horde of pedophiles and child molesters to surf the Internet seeking to solicit and seduce children through computer terminals in the children's own bedrooms. There have been some highly publicized cases in the press recently of children actually having been induced into running away from home to meet pedophiles who entice them away from home through the Internet.

While most of the concern with obscenity on-line in cyberporn has focused on attempting to protect children from gaining access to this palpable filth and in keeping pedophiles from using cyberporn to "access" children in their own homes, one needs to ask whether this electronic evil should be legal at all in our society.

The U.S. Supreme Court has never granted First Amendment protection to obscenity. I do not believe anyone has the "right" to make or to view images of children or adults being raped, tortured or degraded in a host of unspeakable ways. Any society that asserts or defends such a "right" reveals only its own depravity.

If you agree, please write or call your representative and senators today and tell them you want the strongest possible legislation to combat this dangerous evil.

*In the next issue of Salt, Land will conclude with "Cyberporn II: What to do?"

CLC staffer lobbies Clinton

(Continued from Page 1)

Arkansas banning third-trimester abortions.' And I said, 'I know that, and that's why we were hoping you will be able to endorse this legislation.'"

The President said he might take a look at the bill, Smith said.

"That sort of ended it," Smith said. "I started to step away, and he cleared his throat, and I thought at this point maybe he felt that he had overcommitted himself. So he cleared his throat and said, 'Now that's going to pass the House isn't it?' I said, 'Well, we hope so.'"

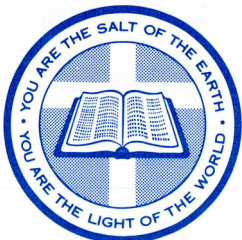
The President said if the bill "gets up a head of steam and starts moving, then maybe we'll take a look at it," Smith recalled. Smith asked for a meeting with Clinton to discuss the legislation.

Clinton repeated his request for some information, and the discussion ended.

"It was obvious that it was something that he was not prepared to hear," Smith said. "I believe it was obvious from his expression that he knew what we were talking about, because I think he is probably already concerned about how he is going to have to deal with it."

On July 19, the day after the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee approved the bill, Smith sent information to the President and again asked for a meeting.

If the bill passes both the House and Senate, Clinton will be confronted with a dilemma. The pro-choice lobby, which strongly supports the President, adamantly opposes the legislation. This is a type of procedure, however, which is done when many unborn children are able to survive outside the womb. The method clearly would not have popular support.



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Executive director: Richard D. Land. Editor: Tom Strode. Contributors: James A. Smith, Michael Whitehead.

Eyewitness account of partial-birth abortions

Brenda Shafer, a registered nurse for 13 years, wrote a July 9 letter to Rep. Tony Hall, D.-Ohio, describing the partial-birth abortions, also known as dilation and extraction (D and X), she witnessed while working on assignment for three days in September 1993 at a Dayton, Ohio, clinic operated by Martin Haskell, one of the best-known practitioners of this procedure. She was pro-choice at the time, said Shafer, who worked for a nursing agency. Here are excerpts from her letter to Hall, a cosponsor of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act (H.R. 1833, S. 939).

Dear Congressman Hall:

I read in the paper that you have sponsored a bill in Congress to make a law against what you call partial-birth abortions. I encourage you to do everything you can to pass this law as soon as possible. I saw three of these partial-birth abortions up close in 1993. It was the most horrifying experience of my life. . . .

It was one of these cases that especially haunts me. The woman was six months pregnant (26-1/2 weeks). A doctor told her that the baby had Down's Syndrome, and she decided to have an abortion. She came in the first two days to have the laminaria inserted and changed, and she cried the whole time. On the third day she came in to receive the partial-birth procedure. (Dr. Haskell called it "D&X," for dilation and extraction.)

Dr. Haskell brought the ultrasound in and hooked it up so that he could see the baby. On the ultrasound screen, I could see the heart beating. I asked Dr. Haskell, and he told me that "Yes, that is the heartbeat." As Dr. Haskell watched the baby on the ultrasound screen, he went in with forceps and grabbed the baby's legs and brought them down into the birth canal. Then he delivered the body and the arms, all the way up to the neck.

At this point, only the baby's head was still inside. The baby's body was moving. His little fingers were clasping together. He was kicking his feet. All the while his little head was still stuck inside. Dr. Haskell took a pair of scissors and inserted them into the back of the baby's head. Then he opened the scissors up. Then he stuck the high-powered suction tube into the hole and sucked the baby's brains out. I almost threw up as I watched him do these things.

Next, Dr. Haskell delivered the baby's head, cut the umbilical cord and delivered the placenta. He threw the baby in a pan, along with the placenta and the instruments he'd used. I saw the baby move in the pan. I asked another nurse and she said it was just "reflexes."

The woman wanted to see her baby, so they cleaned up the baby and put it in a blanket and handed the baby to her. She cried the whole time, and she kept saying, "I'm sorry, please forgive me." I was crying, too. I couldn't take it. In all my professional years I had never experienced anything like this.

Another case I saw on that third day was a six-month-old (approximately 25 weeks) baby. The mother was over age 40. There was nothing wrong with this baby, she just didn't want it. The doctor used the same procedure, except he didn't use as much medicine to relax the lady as the first lady (who'd been very upset). This baby was also alive. I saw the heartbeat on the ultrasound. (Actually every baby that day still had a heartbeat at the time of the procedure.) This second baby was a little smaller than the first baby. I remember thinking how perfect this child was. This mother did not want to see it. The doctor didn't offer you this option, but if the mother insisted he let them see the baby. Otherwise he sent them back to a little room where another person examined them. A lab came and picked the babies up to dispose of them.

I also saw a third case that day. (I was only assisting in one operating room.) This was a 17-year-old girl. She was approximately 25 weeks. The same procedure was done on this baby.

The Down's Syndrome baby was the only baby that had a defect. And that baby with Down's Syndrome had the most perfect, angelic face I have ever seen. I never realized how perfect these babies really are at this point. When you hear the word "fetus," I think a lot of people think as I did of just a blob of cells, or a mass of something. It was very revealing to me. I don't think about abortion the same way anymore. I still have nightmares about what I saw. Please pass your bill as soon as you can.

Express your opinion

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

White House Comment Line
(202) 456-1111

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Capitol Switchboard
(202) 224-3121

Sincerely,

Brenda Shafer, R.N.

House restores Title 10 funding

(Continued from Page 1)

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requiring residency programs to provide such training.

• **Embryo experimentation:**

H.R. 2127 contains a provision adopted by the Appropriations Committee which prohibits federal funding of experimentation on living human embryos. This amendment was offered in committee by Reps. Jay Dickey, R.-Ark., and Roger Wicker, R.-Miss. This provision was not challenged on the House floor. The Dickey-Wicker amendment would prevent the Clinton administration from implementing the 1994 recommendation of a National Institutes of Health panel that called for federal funding of research involving the deliberate creation of, and experimentation upon, human embryos.

• **Title 10 clinics:** In a huge setback for the pro-life lobby, the House reversed the decision of the Appropriations Committee and restored funding to the controversial federal family planning program known as Title 10. Although Title 10 was defunded by a 28-25 vote in committee, the full House adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Jim Greenwood, R.-Pa., to restore the funding

Join CLC on-line

Subscribers to SBCNet, the Southern Baptist Convention's data communications network, may receive information on ethics and religious liberty issues from the Christian Life Commission and also "talk" with CLC staff members.

The CLC posts on a regular basis a number of items in the General Ministry B Forum of SBCNet, which is found on CompuServe, the computer on-line service. These include alerts about pending federal legislation, statements from news conferences and commentaries. In addition to accessing such items in the CLC library of the B Forum, subscribers may communicate with CLC staff in the B Forum message section.

Free SBCNet membership kits are distributed by the Baptist Sunday School Board. They are available in DOS, Macintosh and Windows and may be ordered at 1-800-325-7749.

224-204. Title 10 funds about 4,000 clinics at a cost of \$193 million a year. The chief beneficiary of the program is Planned Parenthood Federation of America, which receives approximately \$34 million per year from Title 10. In

addition to providing condoms and other contraceptives, Title 10 clinics are required to provide counseling and referral for abortions. Parental involvement is not a requirement in the Title 10 program.

In other developments involving abortion:

• **Federal benefits:** On July 19, the House voted 235-188 to remove coverage of abortion from federal employees' health programs, except when the mother's life is endangered. The restriction was part of the Treasury and Postal Service appropriations bill (H.R. 2020). However, when the Senate took up H.R. 2020 on Aug. 5, the House language was defeated, and a weaker ban on abortion funding permitting coverage in the cases of rape and incest in addition to saving the mother's life was adopted by a vote of 50-44.

• **Military facilities:** On June 15, the House also voted to prohibit abortions in military facilities, unless the mother's life is threatened. It would nullify an executive order signed by Clinton two days after his inauguration. By a 230-196 margin, pro-lifers defeated an attempt to remove the provision from the Department of Defense Authorization bill (H.R. 1530). A Senate committee rejected this pro-life amendment. When the Defense authorization bill goes to the conference committee, the issue will be decided.

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