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MEETING WITH
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC
BISHOPS

Friday, September 10, 1976

10:00 A. M.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Meeting with the Executive Committee
National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Friday - September 10, 1976
The Oval Office
10:00 P.M. (45 mins.)

I. PURPOSE

To discuss with the United States leaders of the Roman Catholic Church topics of mutual concern and interest.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background: General: The six-member Executive Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops are elected by all the United States Bishops as the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. The membership of the Church numbers approximately 49 million Americans, or approximately 23% of the U.S. Population. There are nearly 27 million registered Catholic voters. TAB A sets forth a breakdown by State of the Catholic population in the United States.

This will be your second formal meeting at the White House with the leaders of the Church. The first meeting occurred on June 18, 1975, and focused on the world food crisis, illegal aliens, and the question of Southeast Asia refugees. Agencies of the Church were deeply involved in the resettlement effort of Vietnam refugees in the United States and the Bishops are most appreciative of your leadership in this area. As indicated in the Participants section of this paper, several of the participants in that meeting will be on hand for Friday's meeting.

The Executive Committee will be conducting additional business while in Washington, including a Thursday Board meeting of the Catholic Relief Services.

Your meeting with the Bishops follows three important statements issued by Archbishop Bernardin on the abortion issue -- one commenting on the 1976 Democratic Party platform, one on the Republican Party platform, and one on the Executive Committee's recent meeting with Governor Carter at the Mayflower Hotel. Archbishop Bernardin plans to make another statement, the fourth in this series, following Friday's Executive Committee meeting with you.

The Democratic Platform Abortion Plank and the Bishops' Response: The 1976 Democratic Party platform states:

"We fully recognize the religious and ethical nature of the concerns which many Americans have on the subject of abortion. We feel, however, that it is undesirable to attempt to amend the United States Constitution to overturn the Supreme Court decision in this area."

On June 24, Archbishop Bernardin, speaking on behalf of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, sharply assailed the Democratic plank, calling it "irresponsible" and "morally offensive". In another release, the Bishops Conference stated the Democratic platform's language on abortion "was drafted by Governor Carter's representatives and supported by the Governor." (Carter subsequently repudiated much of the plank's language and disclaimed responsibility for its drafting.)

The Republican Platform Abortion Plank and the Bishops' Response: The abortion plank of the 1976 GOP platform reads as follows:

"The question of abortion is one of the most difficult and controversial of our time. It is undoubtedly a moral and personal issue, but it also involves complex questions relating to medical science and criminal justice. There are those in our party who favor complete support of the Supreme Court decision, which supports abortion on demand. There are others who share sincere convictions that the Supreme Court decision must be changed by a constitutional amendment

prohibiting all abortions. Others have yet to take a position; or they have assumed a stance somewhere in between the polar positions. We protest the Supreme Court's intrusion into the family structure through its denial of the parents' obligation and right to guide their minor children. The Republican Party favors the continuance of the public dialogue on abortion and supports the efforts of those who seek enactment of a constitutional amendment to restore protection of the right to life of the unborn child."

On August 18, Archbishop Bernardin released a statement commenting that the GOP platform's "recognition of the value of life" and its "protest of the Supreme Court intrusion into family matters are "timely and important." He also noted approvingly the "encouragement" the GOP platform provides to "a continuation of the public dialogue on abortion."

Bishops Conference Meeting with Governor Carter: Governor Carter met with the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on August 31, 1976. At this meeting, Carter repeated his personal opposition to abortion and his opposition to the use of government funds for abortion. He also indicated he would not oppose an effort to obtain a constitutional amendment. He intimated that he may be willing to support some future unspecified "partial amendment."

In response, Archbishop Bernardin said that personal opposition to abortion is not enough -- the Conference continues to be "disappointed" with the Governor's position.

The Church vis-a-vis Politics: Another statement of importance was issued by the Bishops Conference on August 16, after the Democratic Convention and prior to the Republican Convention, defining the role of the Church in the political process. The statement strongly reaffirmed that the Church will not involve itself in partisan politics but will, as part of its educational role, "maintain its freedom to speak out clearly on any issue, and, furthermore, plans to do so during the coming Presidential campaign as the occasion demands." This statement sets the stage for the active role the Church plans to play this fall on the issue of abortion.

Agenda: The agenda for the meeting is open, however, its certain that abortion, aide to private education and certain foreign policy topics will arise.

Bishop Malone's testimony (TAB B) to GOP Platform Committee provides an excellent summary of the Church's position on the great majority of issues that may be discussed.

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| TAB C | Abortion |
| TAB D | Aide to Education |
| TAB E | International Food Policy |
| TAB F | Relations with Developing Countries |
| TAB G | U.S. Policy toward Eastern Europe |
| TAB H | U.S. Policy toward Africa |
| TAB I | U.S. Policy toward Italy |

B. Participants:

*The Most Reverend Joseph L. Bernardin

Archbishop of Cincinnati

President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference (Archbishop Bernardin was on hand at the airport in Philadelphia and accompanied Cardinal Krol and Mayor Rizzo in your limousine en route the Eucharistic Congress.)

The Most Reverend John Carberry

Archbishop of St. Louis

Vice President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Archbishop John J. McGuire

Treasurer, National Conference of Catholic Bishops

*Bishop James S. Rausch

General Secretary, National Conference of Catholic Bishops

*His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke

Archbishop of New York

Member, Executive Committee, National Conference of Catholic Bishops. (Cardinal Cooke met you upon arrival at the Eucharistic Congress.) He is considered the National leader of the Church's pro-life activities.

*Bishop James W. Malone

Bishop of Youngstown, Ohio

Member, Executive Committee, National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Staff: Dick Cheney, Bill Baroody

* Denotes those who attended your June 1975 Cabinet Room Meeting with the Catholic Bishops.

- C. Press Plan: There will be no press photo of the meeting per the Bishops Conference request. Archbishop Bernardin will make a brief statement to the Press in front of the West Lobby following the meeting.

A

CATHOLICS IN U.S.A.% of Population

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|--------|
| <u>N.E.</u> | 5,701,190 | 41.37% |
| Maine | 264,538 | 26.62% |
| N.H. | 261,737 | 3.38% |
| Vt. | 150,624 | 32.44% |
| Mass. | 3,037,454 | 40.50% |
| RI | 605,041 | 64.57% |
| Conn. | 1,381,796 | 44.54% |
| | | |
| <u>Middle Atlantic</u> | 12,909,533 | 33.53% |
| | | |
| N.Y. | 6,348,132 | 33.97% |
| N.J. | 2,819,026 | 35.62% |
| Penn. | 3,742,375 | 31.46% |
| | | |
| <u>So. Atlantic</u> | 2,533,726 | 7.94% |
| | | |
| Del. | 114,563 | 14.19% |
| Md. | 451,812 | 19.09% |
| D.C. | 350,733 | 17.06% |
| Va. | 239,964 | 5.20% |
| W. Va. | 95,880 | 5.50% |
| N.C. | 78,282 | 1.50% |
| S.C. | 50,838 | 1.86% |
| Ga. | 98,666 | 2.76% |
| Fla. | 1,052,988 | 11.98% |
| | | |
| <u>East. No. Cent.</u> | 10,404,616 | 25.59% |
| | | |
| Ohio | 2,326,919 | 21.58% |
| Ind. | 718,183 | 13.84% |
| Ill. | 3,556,169 | 31.66% |
| Mich. | 2,289,924 | 25.62% |
| Wisc. | 1,513,421 | 33.49% |
| | | |
| <u>East So. Cent.</u> | 617,468 | 4.83% |
| | | |
| Ky. | 344,189 | 10.12% |
| Tenn. | 98,509 | 2.55% |
| Ala. | 92,100 | 2.73% |
| Miss. | 82,670 | 3.82% |

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------|
| <u>West No. Cent.</u> | 3,231,097 | 19.81% |
| Minn. | 995,012 | 26.43% |
| Iowa | 527,844 | 18.98% |
| Missouri | 763,563 | 16.21% |
| No.Dak. | 171,185 | 27.71% |
| So.Dak. | 135,798 | 20.58% |
| Neb. | 317,786 | 20.99% |
| Kansas | 319,909 | 14.13% |
| | | |
| <u>West So. Cent.</u> | 3,570,560 | 17.63% |
| Ark. | 55,150 | 2.87% |
| La. | 1,293,690 | 34.36% |
| Okla. | 106,266 | 4.11% |
| Tex.. | 2,124,454 | 17.65% |
| | | |
| <u>Mountain</u> | 1,559,330 | 17.75% |
| Montana | 133,206 | 19.18% |
| Idaho | 63,596 | 8.26% |
| Wyoming | 45,000 | 13.24% |
| Colo. | 405,701 | 17.66% |
| New Mex. | 356,832 | 37.56% |
| Ariz. | 403,250 | 19.55% |
| Utah | 51,745 | 4.4% |
| Nevada | 100,000 | 20.00% |
| | | |
| <u>Pacific</u> | 5,601,968 | 20.15% |
| Washington | 466,654 | 13.64% |
| Oregon | 283,893 | 12.28% |
| Calif. | 4,604,296 | 22.00% |
| Alaska | 42,125 | 14.12% |
| Hawaii | 205,000 | 24.64% |
| | | |
| <u>Eastern Rites</u> | 613,347 | |
| Military Ordinariate | 1,950,000 | |
| Total 1976 | 48,701,835 | 22.88% |

B

Testimony of the United States Catholic Conference

Before the Republican Platform Committee

Most Rev. James W. Malone

I am Bishop James W. Malone of Youngstown, Ohio. I am pleased to appear today to present the views of the United States Catholic Conference, which is the national-level action agency of the Catholic Bishops and represents the concerns of the Church on a broad range of public policy questions. Because of the limits imposed by time, my testimony today will only highlight our views on a variety of issues which have been dealt with in detailed public statements of the Catholic Bishops. (A number of these more extended statements are in the packet we have provided.)

We believe that the Church is required by the Gospel and its long tradition to promote and defend human rights and human dignity. This view of the Church's ministry and mission requires it to relate positively to the political order, since social injustice and the denial of human rights can often be remedied only through governmental action.

The Church's participation in public affairs is an affirmation of the importance of the political process and genuine pluralism. The Church recognizes the legitimate autonomy of government and the

rights of all, including the Church itself, to be heard in the formulation of public policy. For these reasons, we welcome this brief opportunity to present our views on major domestic and international issues.

I. Domestic Social Justice

Our nation was founded on the ideals of freedom and human rights. We are compelled by the needs of our people and our history as a nation to confront and seek to remedy the ills of poverty, unemployment, poor health, hunger, crime, discrimination and other threats to human dignity. We ask the Republican Party and its candidates to act boldly and creatively to secure basic human rights for all our people.

A. The Right to Life

In its abortion decisions of January, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that human life prior to birth can be destroyed for virtually any reason. As a result, human lives can be destroyed on a massive scale in the name of lesser societal interests -- personal freedom, population control, etc. This destruction of human life in its early stages is violent and wrong. It lacks all precedent in law and ethics.

The most recent abortion decisions of the High Court have extended the policy of abortion on demand to deny spouses and parents of teenaged girls natural rights vital to the fostering and preservation of the family unit. In striking down these fundamental rights,

the Court has rejected longstanding precedents supportive of strong family life. These decisions pose a grave peril to the family as a continuing basic social institution.

The mounting threats to the life of the unborn are based on a lack of hope and the denial of the value of unborn human life. The continued erosion by the High Court of the traditional commitment to protect the unalienable right to life and to strengthen the family as a basic unit of our society undermine the foundations of American life. They make a constitutional amendment more imperative than ever.

The decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court on abortion must be reversed. We urge as the only feasible means available to correct the Court's tragic and enormous error, the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution and we specifically request the Republican Platform Committee to support this endeavor.

B. The Right to Eat

Our nation has been blessed with an abundance of land and natural resources vital to the production of our food and fibre. Yet, problems of hunger and malnutrition continue to affect millions in our

country. In addition, we are witnessing an increased concentration of ownership and control of our land, resources and the food production, processing and distribution system.

National food policy should work towards full production, equitable distribution and price stability. We support: (1) protection of a dispersed pattern of ownership of land and resources coupled with national land use planning; (2) agricultural policies and programs to promote full production and an adequate return for farmers; and (3) domestic food programs to meet the needs of hungry and malnourished people in the United States.

Consistent with our views in regard to employment policy, we strongly urge the Republican Party to support a public policy of basic reform of the welfare system which will provide an adequate income base for all Americans and which will replace the present system of fragmented programs of nutrition and health assistance.

C. The Right to Health Care

We support a national health policy rooted in the fundamental belief that every person has the right to life, to bodily integrity and to the means which are necessary and suitable for the development of life. In spite of the enormous national commitment to health, the present health care system has serious inadequacies. Consequently, we strongly support comprehensive national health insurance. We support a program which is universal, mandatory and includes provisions for preventive care, a voluntary health care system, consumer participation and reforms in health care delivery.

D. The Right to Employment and A Decent Income

Our national economic life does not reflect broad values of social justice and human rights. The current levels of unemployment and their massive human and economic costs are unacceptable. They take their severest toll on those weakest in economic terms: young people, blacks, Hispanics, women and blue collar workers. Fundamentally, our nation must provide jobs for those who can work and a decent income for those who cannot. Current policy falls far short of these goals.

We call for an effective national commitment to genuine full employment through comprehensive economic planning, structural reforms and job creation programs, including public service employment. Public policy ought to guarantee that no one seeking work will be denied the opportunity to earn a livelihood. Full employment is the foundation of a just economic policy; it should not be sacrificed for other political or economic goals. We also call for a guarantee of a decent income for those who cannot work and adequate assistance to those in need through reform of the welfare system.

We fear that in times of economic distress, persons may seek scapegoats for our economic problems. One example of this is the attempt to focus on the illegal alien as a cause of unemployment among our citizens. While we support effective enforcement of immigration laws, we believe attempts to make it unlawful to employ illegal aliens, without effective safeguards to prevent job discrimination, are moving in a dangerous direction. This could lead to widespread discrimination against minority group U.S. Citizens and legal aliens, especially Hispan

whose legal status may be called into question. We are also concerned that this proposal may force families who have become integrated into our society to endure separation or deportation of family members.

We wish, further, to reaffirm our support for the rights of workers to join together to bargain collectively with their employers, and ask that protection of these rights be extended to those whose rights are currently unprotected, especially farm laborers.

Renewed efforts are required to reform our economic life. We ask government, business, labor and the public to join together to plan and provide for our future, to promote fairness in taxation, to halt the destructive impact of inflation and to distribute more evenly the burdens and opportunities of our society.

E. The Right to Decent Housing

Twenty-five years ago Congress established as national policy its commitment to the right of all Americans to decent housing. We are far from achieving that goal. Housing costs have increased to the point that millions of families cannot obtain decent housing unless they deprive themselves of other essentials of life. National housing policy should: (1) provide sufficient resources and programs to meet the housing needs of low-and moderate-income families; (2) seek to preserve existing housing stock and support neighborhoods by opposing "redlining" and encouraging rehabilitation and reinvestment in central cities; (3) encourage a monetary policy and credit allocation

systems that provide a sustained supply of affordable credit for housing production; (4) focus effort on the special needs of low-income families, blacks, Hispanics, rural people, the elderly, and the handicapped; (5) support the integral participation of housing consumers and tenants in decisions regarding housing at neighborhood, community and national levels; and (6) promote equal housing opportunity, within a framework of cultural pluralism, through voluntary compliance and, where necessary, legal remedies.

F. The Right to Education

We call upon the Republican Party to support a public policy which will insure the rights of all persons to an adequate education regardless of race, national origin, economic status, or physical handicap. In particular, we advocate policies to improve the educational opportunities available to economically disadvantaged persons and minorities, including bilingual and bicultural education, as well as compliance with legal requirements for racially integrated schools.

We advocate continued support of a constitutionally acceptable method of providing tax aid for the education of pupils in nonpublic schools in order to insure parental freedom in choosing the best education for their children. In particular, we urge the support of Federal education legislation which provides for the equitable participation in Federal programs of children attending the nation's nonpublic schools. We further recommend that this principle be incorporated in all existing and future legislation.

The Platform should also support policies which would provide

financial assistance based on need to allow students to attend the higher educational institution of their choice.

In addition, governmental action must enable public and private agencies to meet more effectively the tremendous need for early childhood learning, family services and day care.

I also wish to comment very briefly on three other important domestic issues.

COMMUNICATIONS

We are concerned that the powerful force of commercial television be truly responsive to the public interest. We strongly oppose government control over television programming policy, but we deplore unilateral decision-making by the networks. We urge that broadcasters, government, private business, and representatives of the viewing public seek effective ways to ensure accountability in the formulation and implementation of broadcast policy.

We are alarmed by the incidence of violence and obscenity in television and the influence of the audience rating system on network decision-making. We call for a strong platform statement on this matter

A portion of cable T.V. channel capacity must be dedicated for non-commercial use in the service of health, education and welfare, and the poor of the inner cities must not be bypassed by cable franchise holders.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Crime and violence are a major and legitimate concern for many Americans. We support strong and effective action to control handguns, leading to their eventual elimination from our society. We also urge reform of our criminal justice system, especially as it affects juveniles. We advocate greater utilization of community-based correctional facilities, effective programs of education, rehabilitation and job-training for the offender, and the compensation of victims of crime.

Also, in this context, we oppose the use of capital punishment.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex and age continue to haunt our land, not only in the hearts of many Americans but in the fabric of our nation's institutions as well. Despite many years of religious, civic and governmental action, millions of our fellow Americans continue to be deprived of their civil rights because of their race, sex or ethnic background. Renewed and effective action is required on the part of government, the private sector and individual citizens, while conscious of the values of pluralism, to eradicate discrimination in all its forms so that all Americans can exercise their basic human rights.

II. International Issues

I now propose to turn to international affairs and the role of U.S. foreign policy.

A just and peaceful world is the vision and goal of all the peoples

of the planet. But despite great advances in science and technology, nations have been unable, individually, to solve two basic societal problems: the peaceful resolution of conflict between nations and the equitable distribution of the earth's wealth.

A. The United Nations

While the United Nations Organization was established precisely to deal with these problems, it must be admitted that the organization is still waiting for its member-states to give it the authority to settle disputes and to live up to its high expectations. However, it must also be acknowledged that the UN proceedings from time-to-time are adversely affected by rhetoric and slogans rather than genuine dialogue in the interests of resolving differences in perceptions and goals.

Although the United States was a major supporter of the United Nations during its first quarter century, certain recent responses to U.N. needs do no credit to our nation's avowed commitment to the UN's viability. The continued policy of the United States to engage in big-power summitry when the interests of other nations are directly involved, the Congress' squabbles about funding the United Nations generally and the International Labor Organization specifically, importation by the United States of Rhodesian ore which blatantly contradicts U.S. government endorsement of the UN embargo against Rhodesia, are several examples.

The United States should take positive steps to strengthen the United Nations and its agencies. This calls for acceleration of the process in which the United States and other nations experience a

limitation of the power to act unilaterally and an expansion of the obligation to share the responsibility of global peace and development.

In this regard, we make the following specific recommendations:

1. We encourage greater use by the United States of the long-established but practically dormant International Court of Justice for the settlement of disputes.

2. We also urge U.S. ratification of the Convention on Genocide and those Conventions which have already been submitted to Congress, e.g., on forced labor, racial discrimination and discrimination in education.

B. U.S. Initiatives

While the need exists, admittedly, for greater multi-lateral cooperation in world affairs, justice demands that certain immediate steps be taken by the United States, rather than waiting for the evolution of comprehensive international agreements.

The following are specific areas in which actions can and should be taken by the United States:

1. Underdeveloped Nations

The "right to eat" is fundamental to human dignity. We urge that U.S. policy for overseas food aid: (1) make a clear separation of food aid from strategic considerations; (2) give priority to the poorest nations; (3) establish a guaranteed amount of food aid annually; (4) establish an international system of grain reserves; and (5) promote agricultural development at the level of the small farmer and the rural poor.

The aims of the UN Second Development Decade should be fostered. Specifically, a precise percentage of our nation's annual income should be transferred to the underindustrialized and less powerful nations.

Fairer prices for raw materials and preferential treatment for their exported manufactured goods must be given to growing nations. This is particularly compelling in the name of justice because the commercial relationships between our nation and the poor nations is so asymmetric that the so-called rule of "free" trade is obviously not capable of regulating world trade with justice.

We must regulate the overseas operations of powerful U.S. owned multinational corporations. Presently, these enterprises are largely independent of national political power and are not subject to control from the point of view of the common good.

2. Human Rights

The protection of human rights must be given greater weight in U.S. Foreign policy. When rights are violated with impunity anywhere they are implicitly threatened everywhere. Two situations where human rights are severely violated and U.S. involvement is intimate, are especially urgent:

We urge that the United States condition all military and financial assistance (with the exception of humanitarian aid) to Chile upon the demonstration that human and civil rights have been restored.

We urge the reduction of U.S. military assistance to the Republic of Korea and the gradual reduction of U.S. ground troops in the peninsula, because the present dictatorial regime is so oppressive.

3. Military Issues

We support a policy of arms limitation as a necessary step to general disarmament. We believe this objective is a prerequisite to international peace and justice. Therefore, the arms race must be stopped. It is especially destructive because it violates the rights of the world's poor who are thereby deprived of essential needs and it creates the illusion of protecting human life and fostering peace.

In the event that it becomes necessary to conscript persons into military service, the same protection under the law should be given the selective conscientious objector as the general conscientious objector, providing his objection is well-founded, constitutes a sincerely held moral conviction, and he agrees to alternative service.

4. Other Areas of Concern

The rehabilitation and reconstruction of the war-torn countries of Indochina require our humane attention and the reasonable expenditure of our resources.

We call for a comprehensive political solution to the conflict in the Middle East including recognition of the following factors: (1) Continuing reliance on the United Nations diplomatically and through its peacekeeping machinery; (2) Acceptance as the basis for negotiations by all parties to the conflict of the stipulations set forth in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 of 22 November 1967; (3) The Right of the Palestinian Arabs to inclusion as partners in any negotiations on their right to a state and compensation for past losses; (4) The right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state with secure boundar

It is a matter of elemental social justice that a new and more just treaty be negotiated by the United States and the Republic of Panama regarding the Panama Canal.

U.S. policy should deal with African nations primarily in terms of African objectives and African needs, not as appendages to the superpowers' struggle. Regarding Southern Africa, the United States should:

1) Give unequivocal assurance to the governments of Rhodesia and the Republic of South Africa that they can expect no U.S. assistance until the black majorities have been brought into full participation in the respective governments; and 2) Repeal the law which allows the importation of Chrome ore from Rhodesia. Such importation puts the United States in violation of the economic sanctions against Rhodesia and, in the eyes of Africans, indicates insincerity in the statements our government may make about justice for black Rhodesians.

CONCLUSION

In closing these brief remarks, I wish to point out again that the protection and promotion of human rights must be the measure of public policy and political leadership. We hope your platform will reflect the positions we have articulated and a concern for social, economic and international justice.

We call on this party and its candidates to appeal to the sense of justice and the inherent idealism of the American people.

In that effort, we can recover the confidence, trust and energy of our people.

I thank you for this opportunity to share our views with you and I pray that this committee will act creatively and responsibly in fulfilling its important task.



ABORTION

General: Abortion is the most intensive and emotional topic to be discussed during the meeting. Along with aide to private education, which runs a fairly distant second, abortion is the national issue of prime importance to the Church and, clearly, the most politically explosive issue among not only Catholics but other large segments of the population.

The Catholic Church has decided to take a more aggressive position on abortion this year than ever before. The Conference has instructed each Bishop to insure that each parish educates its membership on the subject. The first Sunday in October will be known as "Life Sunday" and every sermon in every Catholic Church across the country will deal with right to life issues. Catholics will be asked to vote "responsibly" on this issue. The Bishops are sensitive about calling abortion a "Catholic issue" -- they feel it's a universal issue.

As it stands now, the Church leaders generally support your position and the Republican Platform because of the stand on behalf of a Constitutional amendment. The Bishops have made it clear that a Constitutional amendment is the only way to correct the Supreme Court's "intrusion" into this area. The precise version of the amendment is not as important at the present time as is the fact that you are for "an amendment." So, even though Carter states that he personally opposes abortion and opposes the federal funding of abortions, his refusal to support a Constitutional amendment has resulted in the response from the Bishops that they are deeply disappointed with his position.

Carter's present problems with the leaders of the Catholic Church also stem from several other factors including his attempt to use the Church for political purposes, his efforts to bypass the hierarchy, his failure to follow certain customary courtesies toward the Church, his perception as a "flip flopper" on abortion, and the simple fact that he is a Southern Baptist and traditionally there has been some friction between the two churches.

Thursday Carter alleged that you were attempting to politicize the issue of abortion.

Background: The following facts may be useful during the meeting:

- . In the Fall of 1972 you voted against the Michigan referendum calling for the legalization of abortion.
- . In March of 1973, you co-sponsored a Constitutional amendment which would allow each State to determine its own rules regarding the practice of abortion. A copy of H. J. Res. 468 is enclosed should you wish to refer to it during the meeting.
- . In June of 1973, you voted for a substitute amendment to the Legal Services Corporation Bill (HR. 78-24, Roll Call 261) to prohibit legal assistance in proceedings seeking to produce a non-therapeutic abortion or to compel an individual or an institution to perform an abortion or to provide facilities for an abortion contrary to religious or moral convictions of such an individual or institution.
- . Early this year you proposed a \$10 billion Health Block Grant, the Financial Assistance for Health Care Act, to replace the current medicaid program and 15 other Federal health programs. Decisions about the use of these public funds for medical services, including abortions, would be left entirely to the citizens of each State. This is consistent with your support for a Constitutional amendment which would restore the traditional State authority to limit abortion and decide the issue.

Polls: A recent Teeter poll shows the following:

| <u>Amendment Prohibiting Abortions</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Republican</u> | <u>Ticket Splitter</u> | <u>Democratic</u> |
|--|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Favor | 49% | 50% | 45% | 48% |
| Oppose | 44 | 39 | 49 | 44 |
| Don't Know | 7 | 11 | 5 | 8 |

| <u>Interest in Abortion Issue</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Favor Amendment Prohibiting Abortion</u> | <u>Oppose Amendment Prohibiting Abortion</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---|--|-----------------------|
| Very Interested | 100% | 56% | 41% | 3% |
| Somewhat Interested | 100 | 45 | 50 | 5 |
| Not Very Interested | 100 | 45 | 42 | 13 |
| Don't Know | 100 | 35 | 36 | 29 |

The poll shows a rather even breakout between those who favor an amendment and those who do not. Generally speaking, those who favor an amendment are more intense in their interest in this issue than those who oppose an amendment.

NOTE: A CBS poll announced Thursday night, September 9, showed 32% favor an antiabortion amendment, 56% oppose.

Hyde Amendment: On August 10th the House acted for the third time in less than two months to bar the use of federal funds for abortion as an amendment to the Labor/HEW Appropriations Bill. Relating to the Hyde Amendment, you have directed your staff to review the specific legislative language to determine if it is consistent with your long-standing position. If it is not consistent, you have asked for recommendations on how it could be made consistent with your position on abortion.

The Department of Defense has ordered all military facilities to comply with the Supreme Court decision on abortion. DOD will provide abortions as a normal medical service in its hospitals but will not reimburse individuals for abortions performed outside of military hospitals.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has ordered all Public Health Service facilities to comply with the Supreme Court decisions on abortion and to provide abortions as a normal medical procedure. The Department also reimburses States for abortions under Medicaid (Title XIX) and Social Services (Title XX).

Most federal employee health insurance including two government-wide ones -- Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Aetna -- cover legal abortions and the government pays its regular 60% share of medical costs.

TALKING POINTS

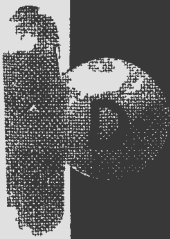
- . As a general principle, I am strongly against the Government's intrusion into the structure, dignity and sanctity of family life. The Federal government should not look to itself for answers to problems which rightly fall within the purview of religion and home life.
- . I am extremely concerned about the apparent increased irreverence for life. For instance, I was shocked to see recent publicity concerning selective abortion because a woman conceives a male when a female is desired or vice versa.
- . I have consistently stated that the Supreme Court went too far in its 1973 decision which served to invalidate State's authority to limit abortion.
- . Also, I am strongly against the recent Supreme Court decision undermining parental authority by permitting minors to have an abortion without parental approval. Again, I think this decision is an unwarranted intrusion into family relations.
- . I favor a Constitutional amendment to remedy the situation. The Republican platform embraces my long-held beliefs in this area.

If the discussion proceeds to specifics regarding the type of Constitutional amendment you favor

- . I favor an amendment that would restore to the States the capability to legislate on abortion according to the wishes of the citizens of that State.

NOTE: The hierarchy of the Church have not endorsed either of the two types of Constitutional amendments pending before Congress. (A) "Human Life Amendment" (B) "States Rights Amendment". They have spoken in terms of the "maximum legal protection possible for the unborn child".

- . Of course, as President, I will follow the law of the land.

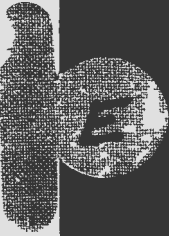


AID TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

You have stated that our private - non-profit schools have provided and must continue to provide, two essential ingredients to our education system: Diversity and Competition.

Over the last several years, many attempts have been made to find a constitutionally sound approach to provide aid to non-public schools. None have been successful.

You have stated that you are committed to the ideas of diversity and competition in our education system and will review with interest any new ideas that are developed that meet the test of constitutionality.



INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY

I am proud to say that the United States has a strong record at responding positively to the world food problem, in keeping with both the long tradition of humanitarian concern of the American people in improving the lot of the world's poor and alleviating human suffering and the sense of responsibility which this, the richest nation in the world, feels toward those less fortunate.

We have addressed constructively the two main aspects to the world food problem:

--First, there is the immediate need for food assistance to hungry people. The U.S. will be able to furnish this year about six million tons of food assistance, 6 million of the 10 million ton annual food aid target set at the World Food Conference in Rome. (Our obligation was only 1.8 million tons.) Through our PL-480 program we are able to use the enormous productivity of the American farmer to meet human needs with grain which the poorer nations could not otherwise afford to import.

--Second, our foreign assistance is addressing the fundamental causes of the food problem. We are working to improve agricultural production in the developing countries, particularly those which suffer major shortfalls in food. This is of critical importance to the prospects for economic growth.

Private voluntary agencies also play an important role in the

overall U.S. assistance effort, and have made a major contribution in alleviating world hunger, providing inputs of both food and economic assistance -- as inspiring demonstration of the humanitarian zeal of the American people.

Last year, this country proposed the creation of an international system of nationally held food reserves which would provide against the human and economic disaster which could result from a global shortfall in grain production. We are continuing to push for conclusion of an agreement on this proposal in the International Wheat Council.

F

RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The search for better ways of dealing with the issues between the developed and developing nations and a major effort to play a constructive role in the international development effort are high priorities in my Administration's foreign policy, and must be a high priority for the U.S. in the coming decade:

--It is in the best moral and historical tradition of the U.S. to assist the poorer nations in their efforts to achieve economic development and meet the human needs of their people. By far the largest portion of our development assistance goes to the poorest people in the poorest countries -- over 75% of bilateral development assistance goes to nations with per capita GNP of less than \$300 per year, and 83% of all bilateral development aid goes to programs such as food production, rural development, and nutrition which focus on the central needs of the very poor. And we have strongly supported multilateral aid -- especially IDA, the World Bank's soft loan window.

--Also the developing nations are economically important to us as they account for over one-fourth of our exports (\$39 billion out of \$107 billion last year), provide us with vital imports and wield increasingly important financial and commercial influence. It is important that they realize that the best prospects for continued economic growth lie with an orderly and prosperous world economy. Thus, they must be able to see the benefits of economic cooperation. As we insist that they be responsive to our concerns, so must we find ways of responding to theirs.

-- It is in our political and security interest to resolve the issues between us constructively. Economic confrontation is in the interest of no country, but cooperation will help to build the more peaceful and prosperous world of shared responsibility which we all seek.

We have played the leadership role in the search for mutually constructive solutions to potentially divisive issues, as our record shows.

-- Last September Secretary Kissinger's UN's Seventh Special Session launched an important US effort to find specific ways of dealing with the major issues in a realistic and constructive manner.

-- The meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Jamaica reached agreement on expansion of the compensatory finance facility of the IMF, which has provided well over \$16 billion to reduce the financial impact of export short-falls of developing nations.

-- In the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva we have joined other industrialized countries in improving access to our markets through a system of generalized tariff preferences.

-- At the meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held in Nairobi in May, Secretary Kissinger again emphasized our determination to pursue realistic and constructive solutions to specific problems, but also pointed out that certain blanket solutions which have been proposed are not acceptable to us.

-- At the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC) begun in Paris last December, we have continued our leadership role in

improving the dialogue between the developed, developing and oil exporting nations, working through separate commissions on energy, raw materials, development and financial issues.

The CIEC has now completed the discussion phase of its work and is in the process of designing a work plan for the second "action-oriented" half of the Conference. We continue to look forward to progress in this important forum.

G

U.S. Policy Toward Eastern Europe

The United States interest in Eastern Europe is due not only to considerations of foreign policy but also to the fact that millions of Americans' ancestral homelands, relatives and friends are there. Your policy has been guided by the belief that efforts to settle political conflicts and improve relations with the countries of Eastern Europe contributes to their peaceful evolution toward more openness and to their efforts to define their own roles as sovereign nations in the affairs of Europe.

Your policy toward Eastern Europe is fully, clearly, and formally documented. It is a policy of positive action and a policy embracing America's most important ideals. It is a policy you have repeated in messages to Americans of Estonian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian ancestry in recent months. The United States strongly supports the aspirations for freedom and national independence of peoples everywhere -- including the peoples of Eastern Europe. You have stated your total opposition to so-called spheres of influence by any power. You have manifested this policy in your visits to Eastern Europe and in your meetings with Eastern European leaders in the United States.

United States policy in no sense accepts Soviet "dominion" of Eastern Europe nor is it in any way designed to seek the consolidation of such "dominion." On the contrary, the United States seeks to be responsive to, and to encourage as responsibly as possible, the desires of East Europeans for greater autonomy, independence and more normal relations with the rest of the world.

Talking Points

1. It is the policy of the United States and it has been my policy ever since I entered public life to support the aspirations for freedom and national independence of the peoples of Eastern Europe, with whom we have such close ties of culture as well as blood, by every proper and by every peaceful means.
2. My policy, America's policy, toward Eastern Europe is fully, clearly and formally documented. It is a creative and cooperative policy toward the nations of Eastern Europe. It is the policy that embraces our most important ideals as a nation -- including the ideal of freedom of religion.
3. I have followed this policy in my visits to Eastern Europe -- to Poland, Romania and elsewhere -- and in my meetings with Eastern European leaders here as well as overseas. Our policy in no sense -- and I emphasize this -- in no sense accepts Soviet dominion of Eastern Europe.... Nor is it in any way designed to permit the consolidation of such dominion.

On the contrary, the United States seeks to be responsive to and to encourage as responsibly as possible the desires of Eastern Europeans for greater autonomy, independence and more normal relations with the rest of the world.

4. This is the policy that I will continue to pursue with patience, with firmness and with persistence -- a policy from which the United States will not waiver.

H

U. S. Policy Toward Africa

Background

The United States seeks no African bloc of its own, no paramount influence in Africa. Africa's destiny is for Africans to determine.

In Southern Africa we are speaking to all sides in the current conflicts, offering help in negotiating resolutions to these conflicts. On my behalf, Secretary Kissinger has met twice with South African Prime Minister Vorster, most recently last weekend in Zurich, and he is prepared to make a second trip to Africa commencing next week to speak with Black African leaders.

Talking Points

1. We are supporting majority rule in Rhodesia and have offered to assist a new Rhodesia -- Zimbabwe -- to overcome economic dislocations. We think it is essential as well that minority rights be guaranteed.
2. We have urged independence for Namibia at an early date, with negotiations to include all political groups, under UN supervision.
3. We are using all our influence to bring about peaceful change, equality of opportunity and basic human rights in South Africa itself. Such just internal arrangements must come about in a reasonable period of time.

In the rest of Africa we are prepared to join with other free, developed countries:

1. To undertake a long-term effort to reverse the economic and ecological decline of the Sahel.
2. To address crushing balance of payments and debt burdens faced by many poor African nations.
3. To participate in producer-consumer forums on key commodities.
4. To foster private investment, trade benefits and the flow of modern technology to Africa.

I

U.S. Policy Toward Italy

Background

As a result of the June elections in Italy, the non-Communist parties maintained a majority in both houses of the Italian Parliament. The Christian Democrats maintained their electoral strength at about 38 percent, but their smaller coalition partners generally lost votes to the Communists. These former coalition partners refused to join in a new coalition and made the Christian Democrats dependent on the Communists to form a new cabinet. In August, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti was able to form a minority government of Christian Democrats after the Communists agreed to abstain in a Parliamentary vote of confidence. In exchange, the Communists increased their influence in Parliament. The Andreotti government will remain dependent on continued Communist abstentions in key Parliamentary votes as long as its former coalition partners refuse to support the government.

The Church played an important and positive role during the elections by reminding voters that government should be based on certain moral and spiritual values. In this connection, you discussed with Pope Paul the importance of moral and spiritual leadership in both national and international politics during your June 3, 1975 meeting with His Holiness at the Vatican.

The United States continues to oppose Communist participation in the Italian cabinet. Such participation would raise serious questions about Italy's role in NATO. Past actions and statements by European Communists demonstrate that their influence in allied governments would hamper Western defense efforts essential to Europe's freedom and independence.

Talking Points

1. I have a deep personal interest in Italy and have met on several occasions with President Leone and the leaders of the Italian government. Italy is a most important ally.
2. We share with Italy important interests as members of NATO and as industrialized nations. Our close cooperation has been mutually beneficial and I will see to it that this cooperation continues.
3. The non-Communist parties won a majority of the vote in the June elections and Prime Minister Andreotti has been able to establish a government without Communist participation.

4. I continue to oppose Communist participation in the Italian government. Past actions and statements by European Communists demonstrate that their participation in the government of a major NATO ally would change the character of the Alliance and hamper Western defense efforts essential to Europe's freedom and international stability.
5. I am aware of the church's views and positive role on this issue. When I talked with Pope Paul at the Vatican in June of 1975, we agreed on the importance of moral and spiritual leadership in both national and international politics.
6. After the recent Italian earthquake, the United States immediately sent \$25 million in assistance to help rebuild schools and homes for the elderly in the earthquake area. On July 17, Pope Paul sent me a warm letter thanking the American people for this assistance.

March 28, 1973

93d CONGRESS
1st Session

H. J. RES. 468



IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 1973

Mr. WHITEHURST (for himself, Mr. ARCHER, ~~Mr. BEVILL~~, Mr. BROYHILL of Virginia, Mr. BUTLER, Mr. DERWINSKI, Mr. GERALD R. FORD, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HUBER, Mr. HUNT, Mr. KETCHUM, Mr. MAZZOLI, Mr. PARRIS, Mr. SIKES, Mr. STEIGER of Arizona, Mr. WONG PAT, and Mr. ZION) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of*
2 *the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-*
3 *thirds of each House concurring therein), That the follow-*
4 *ing article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution*
5 *of the United States, to be valid only if ratified by the*
6 *legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within*
7 *seven years after the date of final passage of this joint res-*
8 *olution:*

"ARTICLE —

1
2 "SECTION 1. Nothing in this Constitution shall bar
3 any State or territory or the District of Columbia, with
4 regard to any area over which it has jurisdiction, from
5 allowing, regulating, or prohibiting the practice of abortion."

98th CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 468

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
the United States.

By Mr. WITTENBERG, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. BEVILL,
Mr. BROYNIE of Virginia, Mr. BULLER, Mr.
DERWINSKI, Mr. GERARD R. FORD, Mr. HAST-
INGS, Mr. HUBER, Mr. HUNT, Mr. KETCHUM,
Mr. MAZZOLI, Mr. PARRIS, Mr. SIKES, Mr.
SPENGLER of Arizona, Mr. WONG PAV, and Mr.
ZION

MARCH 28, 1973

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary