

**The original documents are located in Box 35, folder “M. Mecklenburg Federal Positions” of the American Citizens Concerned for Life, Inc., Records at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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# Federal officials reject pro-life leader for post

National Catholic Reporter  
May 25, 1979

By MARY BADER PAPA  
Special to the National Catholic Reporter  
Minneapolis

FEDERAL OFFICIALS' REFUSAL to approve the appointment of a pro-life leader as a consultant to the government's new teenage pregnancy program indicates again how the politics of abortion has polarized this country's politics and its policy-makers.

Marjory Mecklenburg, president of American Citizens Concerned for Life, had been sought as a consultant by

the program's director since last December. Her appointment, however, apparently was vetoed by Dr. Julius Richmond, assistant secretary for health of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

A public relations spokesman for Richmond's office said that the office opposed hiring anyone who was the national leader of an interest group, although consultants reflecting a range of opinions on the abortion issue would be hired. He said Mecklenburg was informed of this two months ago.

*Continued on page 20)*

## Job eludes 'pro-lifer'

*(Continued from page 1)*

Mecklenburg, of suburban Minneapolis, refused to comment. Also refusing to discuss the matter was Dr. Lulu Mae Nix, head of the new program to provide services to pregnant teenagers and their babies. A spokeswoman for Nix in her Washington, D.C., office, would say only that Nix does not consider the matter settled, even though decision-making authority rests with Richmond.

Mecklenburg, 43, considers herself a moderate within the pro-life movement and even groups that oppose her on abortion admit to being able to cooperate with her on other issues. Her group, ACCL, was one of only a handful of pro-life groups that accepted the National Organization for Women's (NOW) invitation to talk earlier this year.

It was the only pro-life group to testify last year for the teenage pregnancy bill during a congressional hearing. Mecklenburg testified, urging, among other things, support for health and counseling services to pregnant adolescents, contraceptives for sexually active teens, and better approaches to sex education.

Late last year Congress passed the Adolescent Health Services and Pregnancy Prevention and Care Act of 1978, but the \$7 million funding for the act in fiscal year 1979 has still not been approved. The act, supported by President Carter and HEW Secretary Joseph Califano, is criticized by those favoring freedom of choice on abortion because it does not permit those who provide services to pregnant teens under the act to

counsel them on the abortion alternative to pregnancy. Pro-choice critics say counseling should be available on all options. Under the act, service providers must refer pregnant adolescents to other agencies for abortion information.

A spokesperson for the National Abortion Rights Action League in Washington, D.C., told NCR that although NARAL leaders had "grave feelings" about Mecklenburg's being named a consultant to the teenage pregnancy program, NARAL representatives did not write or telephone Richmond's office to protest her appointment formally. Their concern was that Mecklenburg would be wearing two hats at the same time — a consultant to the pregnancy program and an anti-abortion leader.

An estimated one million adolescent girls become pregnant each year. More than a third have abortions, but more than 600,000 give birth, leading to a complicated web of problems that includes poor pre-natal care, low birth weight, school dropouts and repeat pregnancies. The program Nix's office is trying to launch is an effort to set up programs to deal with these problems on a comprehensive basis.

HEW staff members in the past have objected to such services being labeled "alternatives to abortion." In late 1977 the head of an HEW task force said the only alternatives to abortion are "suicide, motherhood, and, some would add, madness."

Mecklenburg's moderate ACCL group has sought to find some common ground between the two sides of the abortion issue, according to one ACCL source, but "it's so hard because you operate in this minefield of extremists on both sides."

ACCL began when Mecklenburg and others withdrew from the National Right to Life Committee in 1974 to try a broader approach to pro-life issues than just opposing abortion and narrowly related issues. Mecklenburg had been NRLC's first chairperson.

Unlike NRLC, ACCL is a relatively small organization of about 3,000 persons. It has no local affiliates and does not have the "grassroots" structure of other pro-life groups. Its headquarters are in a Minneapolis suburb rather than Washington, but Mecklenburg frequently lobbies in the capital.



MECKLENBURG

Mecklenburg and her husband Fred, an obstetrician-gynecologist who is a member of the Association of Planned Parenthood Physicians, have actively opposed abortion for 13 years. They helped organize and served as presidents for the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, but later left that group, apparently in disagreement with some of its policies. The Mecklenburgs are Methodists, and the heavily Catholic support MCCL has received has apparently been one factor in preventing that group from supporting birth control programs as preventive measures for abortions.

Last month MCCL unsuccessfully tried to stop the Minnesota legislature from allocating any funds for family planning if Planned Parenthood (which also provides abortions) was included in the allocation. Fred Mecklenburg was the only pro-life representative to oppose the move during a four-hour hearing.

Like other pro-life groups, ACCL supports a constitutional amendment that would prohibit abortion, but unlike some groups, ACCL's position is that such an amendment is years away from reality and will not become a reality until public attitudes change and supportive services are widely available to women with problem pregnancies.

Besides lobbying, ACCL has helped organize such groups as Lutherans for Life and Baptists for Life in an effort to downplay the Catholic image of the pro-life movement, an image ACCL believes seriously hinders pro-life effectiveness, according to Joseph Lampe, a Catholic who is ACCL executive director.



FEB 16 1979

St. Paul Dispatch 2/9/79

# Mecklenburg may be pregnancy consultant

Associated Press

Marjory Mecklenburg, a long-time abortion fighter from Minnesota, is being asked by the Carter administration to serve as a consultant to develop a manual for a prototype community health service for pregnant teen-agers.

Mrs. Mecklenburg, Edina, is a former president of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life and now president of a similar national organization.

She will be hired as a part-time consultant at \$125 a day by Lula Mae Nix, head of a new federal aid program for pregnant teen-agers, according to the Public Health Service in Washington.



The new program is the result of the Adolescent Health Services and Pregnancy Prevention and Care Act of 1978.

The law is to provide counseling on all choices open to pregnant girls, except abortion. Although money has yet to be provided, the law will fund prenatal care, delivery and postnatal services.

It provides no money for contraceptive family planning, although another federal program does support contraceptives and family planning clinics.

Family planning and abortion-rights groups generally support contraceptives and pre-pregnancy counseling as the best means of combating unwanted teen-age pregnancies. Anti-abortion groups, such as Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, usually emphasize prenatal care and assistance for the newborn and the mother.

Thomas Webber, executive director of Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, said the new program is needed, but said it is "seriously misleading to call it a pregnancy prevention piece of legislation."

Her appointment is subject to approval by Dr. Julius Richmond, assistant health secretary in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.





St Paul Pioneer Press 2/9/79

# Abortion: bitterness with no middle ground

By Mary McGrory

Washington

Nellie Gray, head of March for Life, the anti-abortion group that marched on the Capitol, has drafted a "nice letter" to Ellie Smeal, head of NOW (National Organization for Women), who invited her to a summit meeting on abortion to be held here Feb. 16.

When she first heard of the bid in the middle of the march, Gray gave a characteristically sulfurous reply: "I will not negotiate with babykillers." After she had time to study the text of Smeal's telegram of invitation, she decided that it warranted a more civil reply, although the answer was still no.

Carolyn Gerster, director of the National Right to Life Movement, responded by dispatching a counter-invitation to a Feb. 14 parley — to any participants, that is, who would first issue a

statement condemning abortion as "the greatest violence afflicting our society today."

Smeal's idea was to bring together both sides of the increasingly ugly argument to discuss certain questions of possible agreement, such as the need for sex education among teen-agers and the provision of contraceptives.

"Sex education is blown out of proportion," says Gray. "It is teaching them how to become fodder for the abortion industry."

The pro-lifers were not assuaged by their victory in the last Congress, which limited the use of public funds for abortions to cases of rape, incest and danger to the mother's life. They are now going for a constitutional amendment that would guarantee full rights to a "human being from the moment of fertilization."

To Karen Mulhauser, leader of National Abortion Rights Action

League, this represents an effort to impose religious dogma (pro-lifers are predominantly Catholic) on the rest of society and could mean, if interpreted literally, that a pregnant woman and the doctor who performs an abortion could be prosecuted for premeditated murder.

Dismayed bystanders who had hoped, without reference to their own sentiments, that abortion would become a matter of individual conscience, are dreamers. It seems unlikely that the two groups will go their separate ways in a positive fashion: that the pro-choice people will raise private funds to make abortion available to all classes, or that the Right-to-Lifers will content themselves with providing prenatal care and adoption services for unwanted babies.

One side sees abortion as a crime and the other regards it as a right; there is no middle ground.

The pro-lifers are not abashed

at the prospect that they will polarize the nation by depopulating the Congress of its enlightened members and replacing them with cavemen who vote right on "right to life." For them there is only one issue.

Their ferocity plainly unnerves the pro-choice people.

Abortion is going to be major issue in the 1980 election. The pro-lifers tasted blood at the polls last November — in the upset defeats of Sens. Clark of Iowa and McIntyre of New Hampshire.

Already, they have declared war on six more liberal senators. Unless John Culver, Birch Bayh, Bob Packwood, George McGovern, Frank Church and Patrick Leahy come out in favor of the Life Amendment, they are going to get the full treatment — graphic leaflets distributed at Sunday masses, phone banks and door-to-door urging of people to "cross party lines to save a baby's life."



WFO 1/23/79

# Abortion Passions Rise on Both Sides

By B. D. Colen  
and Judy Mann

Washington Post Staff Writers

Chanting "Life, Life," and "No Compromise," an estimated 60,000 people marched down Pennsylvania Avenue past the White House to the Capitol yesterday in the sixth annual protest against the Supreme Court's 1973 decision legalizing abortion.

Fresh from what they claim are "prolife" victories in unseating several congressmen who supported abortion, the marchers renewed their call for a constitutional amendment outlawing abortions under any circumstances and vowed to defeat other proabortion candidates at the polls.

Earlier in the day, the National Organization for Women held a press conference to announcing it has invited some 40 antiabortion and "pro-choice" organizations to a meeting in Washington on Feb. 15 in an attempt to establish a dialogue between the two sides in the increasingly bitter dispute.

The invitation was immediately rejected by March for Life President Nellie J. Gray, who, speaking from the steps of the Capitol, declared to cheering supporters, "I do not sit down and negotiate with baby killers."

The rhetoric and rancor resounded across the city throughout the day as various groups vied for center stage to be heard on the sensitive issue.

"We believe it is time for both sides of the abortion controversy to seek ways to lessen the need for abortion, to reduce the incidence of unwanted and troubled pregnancies, and to end the increasing polarization and violence that surrounds this issue," said NOW president Eleanor Smeal at her press conference.

"We are convinced that the leadership on both sides of the issue have a

responsibility to meet and begin a dialogue, although we know our respective positions on abortion itself will not change," she said.

The NOW invitation was sent out by telegram to some 19 organizations, including the March For Life, sponsors of yesterday's rally at the Capitol, and about 5 other major antiabortion groups.

The spurning of the NOW offer by Gray of the March for Life was greeted with enthusiastic chants of "No Compromise" by the almost all-white crowd estimated by U.S. Capitol Police at 60,000. Their ranks included large numbers of school-age children, many bused from Catholic schools, according to march participants, as well as individuals and antiabortion groups from across the country.

As in past years, there were varying unofficial estimates on the number of marchers. It was clear this year that many people, particularly women with young children, dropped out of the march before it reached the Capitol, apparently as a result of the 36-degree temperatures and heavy winds.

About two dozen marchers who were interviewed at random said they were from out of town and were Roman Catholics. Religious banners identifying marchers as members of such Catholic societies as Knights of Columbus and as representatives of various Catholic dioceses and schools were visible throughout the crowd.

Some 150 people from the Pittsburgh area marched behind a huge banner that said "Stop the Murders, Catholics for Life, iPittsburgh Archdiocese, Byzantine Rite." They were lead by the Rev. Robert Bayusik who said the delegation was "traveling as family units" and that a third of the marchers were children. Many of them carried high in the air red and black pictures of an infant crucified on the

cross. Asked about the possible effects of the pictures on the general public, Father Bayusik said, "As far as I'm concerned, it tells the message as it is."

"This is my sixth march," said Diane Trombley, a member of Michigan Citizens for Life, who said some 200 people came from that state by plane and bus for the march. "We're obviously becoming a political force."

Told of NOW's overture, Trombley, who favors abortion only when the life of the mother is in danger, said she believes there are areas apart from the abortion question where the two sides could find common ground. "There are these collateral areas where I'm sure dialogue is possible. As far as (sex) education, I'm sure there's dialogue to be had there. As for artificial birth control, there's dialogue to be had there. There's always room for dialogue when you're not considering destruction of human life."

Lucille Canty, a Catholic mother of two from Worcester, Mass., disagreed. "Our basic values are in conflict," she said.

Like the marchers themselves, several members of Congress speaking at the rally all hit hard at abortion as the "killing of babies."

Some, like Rep. Robert K. Dornan (R-Calif.), laced their messages with sarcasm not lost on the enthusiastic crowd.

"Are we here to save the snail darter?" asked Dornan, referring to the congressional battle to save a tiny species of fish. "No!" roared the crowd.

"Are we here to speak out for those cute little seals who are killed in Canada? . . . We are here to stop the abuse of children," Dornan thundered, "an abuse that's always fatal. The official death toll that we are here to stop

is 1,300,000 that are killed in their mothers' wombs.

"The unofficial total is closer to three million," said Dornan, "and that's a war! We are now asking for a moratorium on the death toll in that war raging across America before we will sit down at any peace table and negotiate the terms of what will be the parameters for the respect for life in our nation in its future."

"[Sen. Richard] Dick Clark [D-Iowa], where are you now?" Rep. Robert E. Bauman (R-Md.) asked rhetorically to the delight of the crowd. "Where are you now, [Sen.] Ed[ward] Brooke [R-Mass.]." The antiabortion movement is claiming credit for defeating both Clark and Brooke in last November's election and has publicly stated it has a "hit list" of six other senators and six representatives, including Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) and Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) whom it wants to defeat because of their proabortion voting records.

The antiabortion forces have also been instrumental in getting federal Medicaid funds for abortions cut off.

The National Abortion Rights Action League announced yesterday the formation of the Rosie Jimenez Fund to help impoverished women obtain legal abortions. The fund will start off helping 10 women in Texas, where Jimenez lived. "Prochoice" forces, who believe a woman is entitled to choose whether to terminate a pregnancy, claim that Jimenez was the first of several women to die following illegal abortions since Medicaid abortion funds were cut off.

Yesterday's march ended on an emotional note as the crowd held hands and sang songs such as "Ave Maria." As marchers dispersed to go into the Capitol and lobby members of Congress, a group of several hundred people remained behind to say the rosary on the steps of the Capitol.



## Abortion views opposite but groups hope to talk

By MARLENE CIMONS  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON—"We feel you have to stop screaming 'murder' at each other and start sitting down and talking," said Arlie Scott, national vice president-action for the National Organization for Women.

To accomplish that, NOW plans to sponsor an unusual meeting Feb. 15—perhaps the first of its kind—in which representatives from opposing sides of the emotional abortion controversy will come together to attempt to begin a peaceful dialogue.

**THE OVERTURE** from NOW almost immediately spurred a counter invitation issued by the national Right to Life Committee for a similar meeting to be held a day earlier. But pro-choice groups are not likely to attend, since the Right to Life Committee, as a condition for attendance, has asked all participants to make a public anti-abortion declaration before the meeting.

"Although we know our respective positions on abortion itself will not change, we believe it is time for both sides to seek ways to lessen the need for abortion, to reduce the incidence of unwanted and troubled pregnancies and to end the increasing polarization and violence that surround the issue," said Eleanor Smeal, president of NOW.

**NOW OFFICIALS** say they have received many acceptances to their invitation, including one from Dr. Mildred F. Jefferson, immediate past president of the National Right to Life Committee, who heads the Right to Life Crusade.

Jefferson said, "We do not define issues in the same way. The principal problem will be finding honest language with which we can speak to each other. There is an absolute necessity to understand the difference between needs and demands, rights and privileges, as well as responsibilities and self-centered indulgences."

Not all responses have been positive.

**DR. CAROLYN F. GERSTER**, an Arizona cardiologist-internist who is president of the National Right to Life Committee, said she decided to call her own meeting because the NOW invitation read "like an ultimatum."

"If we were placed on the defensive in accepting or not accepting, we definitely felt they should also have to decline or accept," she said. "They said if we decline, it meant we subscribe to violence and are opposed to contraception and sex education. We don't disagree with them on these views. The one we do disagree on is accept-



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—Eleanor Smeal

"We do not define issues in the same way. The principal problem will be finding honest language with which we can speak to each other. There is an absolute necessity to understand the difference between needs and demands, rights and privileges, as well as responsibilities and self-centered indulgences."

—Mildred Jefferson



ing abortion or euthanasia as a solution to social problems. We are anxious to meet with all people of goodwill interested in the problems of women and children."

**TO BE ADMITTED** to the Right to Life conference, however, participants must publicly denounce abortion and call for a moratorium on abortions while any conversations between both sides are taking place. This is not acceptable to the pro-choice organizations, so they will not attend Gerster's meeting.

"When you ask for negotiations, during the period of negotiations, there should be a ceasefire," Gerster said. "The killing should stop."

Gerster is not expected to attend the NOW meeting, since she does not think it will be valuable unless abortion is directly addressed.

"**IT WOULD** be futile," Gerster said. "There is a parallel with the abolitionists. It would be as if the slave owners and the abolitionists got together to discuss only the issues they could agree on, such as improving the quality of life for slaves, better housing, food, etc. It's apparent, however, that it would be impossible for abolitionists to accept

this as long as the malignancy of slavery continued."

Nellie J. Gray, president of the March for Life, which organizes the annual anti-abortion march on Washington on the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision on abortion, also refused the NOW invitation and sent a blistering five-page letter to Smeal.

"**YOU WANT TO** meet 'to seek ways to lessen the need for abortion,'" she wrote. "There has never been a 'need' for killing innocent preborn children, and there never will be. Abortion is an abomination and always will be. It is the grossest act of man's inhumanity to man and saps the vitality and sensibility of society."

She adds in her response to NOW, "You say in your mailgram that you will not change your position on abortion. You are for abortion. I am pro-life and against abortion. The positions are polarized, and you want to leave them that way, while you talk about something else. I view this as fiddling while the babies are being killed, and, of course, I shall not participate in such fiddling."

**SCOTT, OF NOW**, said she is not discouraged by these reasons.

"They do not speak for everyone," she said. "It's clear that there are people who are interested in family planning and research into contraceptives and a way to discuss the alternatives and get to the root of the problem. Those who have not accepted the invitation are obviously not interested."

Jefferson, the Boston surgeon who served three terms as president of the National Right to Life Committee, explained why she decided to accept. "Although I believe in the dictum 'know thyself,' I consider it equally important to know thy opposition," she said.

**SCOTT QUOTED** from some of the letters she has received from other members of pro-life groups who have agreed to come.

"I'm so delighted you had the courage and good sense to issue this invitation," one said. "I hope other right-to-life groups, in their concern for the unborn, don't forget the pregnant woman."

"(We are) gratified at the reasonableness exhibited by NOW in calling for a 'summit conference' to discuss the subject of abortion," said another. "We, too, realize that little can be gained by solely exchanging epithets. (We are) convinced that common ground exists upon which we can build mutual trust and understanding and with which we can substantially reduce the number of elective abortions being sought in the United States."

**ANOTHER SAID**, "I have been extremely distressed by the polarization surrounding this issue and the rift that has developed in the community of women—indeed, in the entire community. I feel that we must have a great deal to learn from each other and that together we could begin to chip away at the causes of abortion and to provide the kind of human community in which everyone feels worthwhile and welcomed."

While reading this last letter aloud, Scott stopped in the middle of a paragraph.

"I can't tell you how touched—how heartened—I am by this," she said.

"Everyone is talking about 1979 as the International Year of the Child," she said. "We want it to be the international year of the wanted child—the healthy, educated, wanted child."

"That's what she means, I think, when she says, 'The kind of human community in which everyone feels worthwhile and welcomed.'"



# Foes of abortion taking over key federal positions

By Bill Peterson  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — While the headlines have been going to budget cuts and El Salvador, anti-abortionists have quietly won several key positions in the Reagan administration and launched an effort to alter federal policy not just on abortion, but sex education, family planning and world population control.

The anti-abortionists have as their targets a long list of obscure and small but controversial federal programs that distribute contraceptives both here and abroad, teach teenagers how to prevent pregnancy and provide a wide assortment of similar services.

Largely ignored in previous administrations, anti-abortionists have found a friendly ear at the White House during the early weeks of this one. According to spokesmen, they personally asked the president in an early meeting to appoint one of their own as surgeon general and to revamp the world birth control programs administered by the Agency for International Development (AID).

At a second meeting, Reagan and Office of Management and Budget Director David Stockman were given a "white paper" prepared by two anti-abortion groups saying that \$3.9 billion a year could be saved by scrapping most of the government's family planning, birth control, sex education, teen-age counseling and world population control programs.

Reagan subsequently chose Dr. C. Everett Koop, a leading anti-abortionist, as deputy assistant secretary of health and human services. Koop, a Philadelphia surgeon, is said to be in line to become surgeon general in a pending departmental reorganization. Among other things, this would put him in charge of programs administered by the Center for Disease Control, the Population Research Center and the National Institutes of Health, all frequently attacked by anti-abortionists.

A fundamentalist Christian with a Lincolnesque beard, Koop has been a board member of at least two anti-abortion groups, the National Right to Life Committee and Americans United for Life, and is the narrator of a controversial anti-abortion film, "Whatever Happened to the Human Race?"

A second anti-abortionist, Marjory Mecklenburg, president of American Citizens Concerned for Life, is awaiting clearance to be named head of the Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs which gives grants to aid teen-age mothers and counsels them on birth control. Mecklenburg has said her organization believes teenagers should be taught to "postpone sexual involvement" rather than to use contraceptive devices.

HHS Secretary Richard Schweiker, who would supervise Koop and Mecklenburg, is a longtime supporter of a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion and has said he

would lobby for such an amendment in his present post. He also has said, "I don't think the federal government should be in the sex education business."

Congress has already moved in recent years to block federal funding of almost all abortions under Medicaid and other programs. Now pro-abortionists and family planning experts are worried Congress and a sympathetic administration could go further.

Several pieces of legislation affecting family planning and world population control come up for renewal this year, and proponents are concerned that with the current emphasis on budget-cutting these programs may become expendable. There are some reassuring signs. As a senator, Schweiker supported family planning programs, and in his confirmation hearings, W. Peter McPherson, the new AID administrator, said he generally supports population control efforts financed by his agency.

But in recent weeks there have been the following developments:

- OMB director Stockman has told at least one newsman he would like to eliminate population control programs financed by AID. Stockman also has proposed to combine a series of health, social service and family planning programs into block grants for states and cut their funding by \$2.5 billion, or 25 percent next year.

- McPherson in an interview said he has assured Sen. Jesse Helms, R-S.C., one of the Senate's leading anti-abortionists, that he will "make sure" none of the agency's funds are used for abortions, and he will eliminate a \$750,000 AID abortion research program. Part of this money has been used for finding ways to deal with botched abortions, a major health problem in Third World countries.

- A potentially powerful anti-abortion caucus has been formed on Capitol Hill with liberals and conservatives from both House and Senate joining forces. The caucus is headed by Helms and Sen. Thomas Eagleton, D-Mo., in the Senate and Reps. Romano Mazzoli, D-Ky., and Charles Dougherty, R-Pa., in the House.

- Anti-abortion legislators, led by Helms, Mazzoli and Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., have introduced a "human life bill" which would define life as beginning at the moment of conception and therefore would make abortion murder. Karen Mulhauser, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League, argues this would make the use of several kinds of popular contraceptives the equivalent of murder, a charge anti-abortionists dismiss as a scare tactic.

Traditionally, anti-abortionists have been a fragmented minority in Congress. Now, anti-abortion groups claim they can marshal from 200 to 250 votes in the House and 41 firm votes in the Senate.

Two documents are noteworthy in

the current attack for the way they expand the targets of the anti-abortion groups to birth control activities.

The first document is a "white paper" prepared by the Life Amendment Political Action Committee and the American Life Lobby which the groups say was given to Reagan and Stockman in a White House meeting Feb. 17.

Dealing primarily with domestic programs, it lists a series of specific grants for sex education activities and six major pieces of legislation mandating family planning activities. These are programs, the paper says, "that can be cut and at the same time do a great deal to advance the family and take the U.S. government out of the abortion and anti-family business."

The paper maintains that the "Planned Parenthood Federation of America receives untold amounts of funding through the federal government" from these programs and suggests some of that money goes for "abortion, abortion referral, contraceptives to minors, sex education, etc." Planned Parenthood representatives say this is untrue.

The second document is "Abortion and American Foreign Policy," authored by Patrick A. Trueman, executive director of Americans United for Life, a Chicago-based group. It is a wholesale attack on AID which Trueman claims is "foremost among the abortion-promoting organizations in the U.S."

AID has been prohibited by law from using money to pay for abortions or "motivate or coerce any person to practice abortion" since 1973. But AID is authorized to spend \$190 million on programs to control population growth around the world this year.

Trueman argues these programs promote abortion by (a) financing abortion research, (b) giving large grants for birth control activities to International Planned Parenthood, the Pathfinder Fund and the U.N. Fund for Population Activities and (c) distributing intrauterine devices (IUDs) and Depo-Provera, an injectable contraceptive that is effective for up to six months but is not allowed in this country because of potential health risks.

The stakes in the battle plan laid out in the two documents are exceedingly high. With population growing faster than food supply in many countries, about \$1 billion is spent annually on birth control programs in developing countries. The U.S. is the largest single source of that money, supplying about 20 percent of it annually. Some 800 million women use the programs.

# The Boston Globe

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## A right-to-life pair

It should come as no surprise that President Ronald Reagan chose right-to-life advocates like Dr. C. Edward Koop and Marjory Mecklenburg to serve in the Department of Health and Human Services. After all, the President and department Secretary Richard Schweiker have both been outspoken in their opposition to abortion.

Although neither candidate would have been the first choice of those who believe as we do that abortion is a private matter between a woman and her physician, it's a mistake to paint them into the same corner as some have done.

Koop, a 64-year-old pediatric surgeon from Philadelphia, has been asked to be Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health. He is also expected to be named Surgeon General. Mecklenburg will be head of the Office of Adolescent Pregnancy. She has served as director of the American Citizens Concerned for Life, an anti-abortion group headquartered in Minneapolis.

Koop is a dogmatic Christian fundamentalist with the kind of tunnel vision that limits bureaucrats of any ideological stripe. He reduces complex questions to easy solutions. He puts pro-choice advocates in the same category as the Nazis, but fails to see that an individual's right to choose anything was hardly germane in Hitler's Germany.

Mecklenburg is one of the more open, articulate and thoughtful right-to-life advocates around. Make no mistake, she is against abortion. But she has shown a willingness to listen to the opposition, to explore differences in mutually constructive ways. Her organization believes it's essential to reduced the need for abortion,

and ACCL has pushed for humane public policy to make it easier for women to carry a pregnancy to term, including pregnancy disability benefits, increased AFDC benefits for pregnant women and better contraceptive research.

Opposition to Koop runs beyond his stand on the abortion question. The public health community is rightly troubled by his limited understanding of a range of national health issues. Traditionally, the Surgeon General brings a strong public health background to the job and is thoroughly grounded in the philosophy of preventive medicine. Koop is a clinician and it's naive to assume that he's qualified for the job simply because he's a doctor. The Senate would do well to press him on public health matters during confirmation hearings expected once the House knocks out the post's 65-year old mandatory retirement age.

In contrast, Mecklenburg has shown that she understands the dimensions of the problem she will have to face in the Office of Adolescent Pregnancy. In testimony before a Senate subcommittee six years ago, she said, "New efforts must be launched to find ways to reverse the trend of increasing teenaged pregnancy. Provision of contraceptives to young children is not an adequate answer to the problem, though that may minimize conceptions which would result in still further problems. The promotion of responsible sexuality and parenthood and a stable family unit must be given a high priority if we wish to turn the tide."

It's simplistic to put her in the same fanatical, one-track category as Dr. Koop, as simplistic as the thinking that so clearly makes him the wrong man for the job.