

Rev. Lester Kinsolving's

Religion Update

The two top leaders of the Republican National Convention, Kansas Senator Robert Dole and Michigan Congressman Gerald Ford, told this writer during exclusive interviews that they definitely favor legalized abortion in such cases as the atrocity reported by the Associated Press this summer in Chicago.

One of eight children of a mother living on welfare was raped on a school playground. She was impregnated. She is 11 years old.

Fortunately an abortion referral service was able to provide the funds to get the girl to New York, where the abortion law is not so barbaric as to require this child to come to full term pregnancy, as is the case under Illinois law.

controversial of all religious issues, to a subcommittee, whose members were apparently bound and determined "not to embarrass the President," who has repeatedly opposed abortion law liberalization during the past year.

They disregarded testimony from women's groups, religious denominations and California Congressman Paul McCloskey, among others. McCloskey, when asked whether he thought that the issue could be discussed on the convention floor, replied:

"It depends on whether there are any women delegates with any guts."

and that no person's participation is coerced."

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE Chairman John Rhodes of Arizona, when asked during a press conference to provide some explanation as to the specific meaning and intent of this puzzling plank, replied irritably that he would discuss it after the press conference was over.

At that time he explained: "If you try to be too specific, you run into all kinds of problems!"

When pressed for at least one specific he replied: "Yes, well we should allow atheists to officiate," at such services - although he appeared discomfited when asked if he thought that Satanists should be allowed to lead the prayer sessions.

However, he was no clearer about the specific meaning and purposes of this preposterous plank than were 12 other members of the committee, as well as two PhDs on the committee staff. Yet this, as part of a 78-page Republican Platform, was adopted by the convention without dissent, and after just 20 minutes of debate.

Commented Congressman McCloskey:

"This is not a convention at all. It is a carefully staged scenario written in the White House."

CONGRESSMAN FORD, as permanent chairman of the convention, told this writer that a pro-abortion amendment to the platform would definitely not be arbitrarily quashed from the chair by non-recognition of the proposer.

But no such amendment was even offered.

Instead of dealing with such cases as the street rage on a school playground, the platform committee came up with a stirring defense of a child's right to pray voluntarily.

In delving into this other red hot religious issue, the committee resolved:

"Voluntary prayer (does this mean silent or verbal - and by whom?) should be freely permitted in public places (undefined) - particularly by school children while attending public schools (In class? Before class? After class? During recess? In the locker room, cafeteria, or athletic field?) provided that such prayers are not prepared or prescribed by the state."

DESPITE the expressed conviction of both Dole and Ford (as well as Julie Nixon Eisenhower and Tricia Nixon Cox) that abortion should not be invariably illegal, the GOP convention pointedly ignored this compelling moral issue.

Its platform committee relegated this, one of the most



MACLD Plans Joint Meeting

The Farmington chapter of the Michigan Assn. for Children with Learning Disabilities is recruiting parents looking for assistance.

Dr. Harry Overline will address a joint meeting of the Farmington and Livonia chapters Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 8 p.m. in East Junior High, 25000 Middle Belt, Farmington, on "Parents and Schools Helping the Learning Disabled Child."

Overline is a co-operating faculty member at Wayne State and Central Michigan Universities and is also serving as program chairman for the 1973 international convention of ACLD to be held in Cobo Hall March 14-17.

"A learning disabled child may exhibit disorders in thinking, talking, listening, reading, writing, spelling or arithmetic. He may have behavior problems, but he is not primarily emotionally disturbed, physically crippled, blind, deaf or retarded," says Mrs. Pat Hill, of the Farmington chapter.

Dr. Overline is director of the Downriver Learning Disabilities Center in Wyandotte. This is a model center used to diagnose children with learning problems as well as provide in-service training for teachers.

"His is a hidden handicap. He can be helped. That's what we are all about."

HAROLD R. ELLISON, 51, of Royal Oak, has joined Greenfield Construction Co., Livonia-based heavy construction firm. Ellison attended Lawrence Institute of Technology, earned a degree in civil engineering at Michigan State University, served three years as a B-24 navigator during World War II and spent 25 years with Darin & Armstrong, general contractors. He is a member of many professional societies.



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DAVID H. PFLUKE of 29892 Woodbrook, Farmington, has been appointed an associate of Rosetti Associates, Inc., architectural and planning firm of Detroit. A graduate of the University of Michigan's College of Architecture and Design, Pfluke will be responsible for the Wolverine Tower under construction in Ann Arbor and the Hunter's Square Shopping Center in Farmington.

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