

Moral perspectives

Right-to-life issue in news

Three recent incidents pertaining to the worldwide abortion debate have highlighted the moral principle of right-to-life.

They are the well publicized ruling of manslaughter against Boston gynecologist Dr. Kenneth C. Edelin; the recent public reversal of opinion by Dr. Bernard Nathanson, originally an early leader in the campaign to make abortion legal in New York State, who has

now resigned his directorship of a large abortion clinic and publicly concludes "Human life exists within the womb from the very on-



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set of pregnancy," and, thirdly, the decision of the West German Constitutional Court that struck down a liberalizing abortion law allowing such action during the first 12 weeks.

The decision of the German Con-

stitutional Court and the public reversal of New York physician Bernard Nathanson's viewpoint deserve further comment because both decisions are based upon the moral principle of "right-to-life."

The post-war German constitution was written in an atmosphere of reaction to the horror crimes which destroyed life during the time of Nazi Germany. Respect for life hit an all-time low with the holocaust of 6 million Jews. Wiped out with these 6 million men and women of dignity were innumerable persons who were declared unfit members of the "master race" due to physical, mental or governmental reasons.

THE POST-WAR West German government wrote into its new constitution a strong right-to-life clause which would forbid the destruction of human life in any form. The new German nation would not tolerate even the possibility of dismissing human life in any form.

Thus, the West German High Court rendered by a six-to-two decision that abortion violated the right-to-life principle of the German constitution. As a matter of

fact, the presiding justice of the court stated, "The phrase 'interference of pregnancy' cannot disguise the fact that basically abortion is a homicidal act."

The interesting fact of this decision is the point that the life of a fetus is protected by the right-to-life moral principle of the West German Constitution.

THE DECISION of New York's Dr. Nathanson is important because he has arrived at his personal moral conviction of the right-to-life principle based upon his experience as a doctor who had performed thousands of abortions and has now been morally confronted with his conscience. He now states, "I am deeply troubled by my own increasing certainty that I presided over 60,000 deaths."

The impact of these three recent incidents should cause all of us to reflect more deeply about the continuing emerging moral principle of the right-to-life in the abortion debate.

The words of Dr. Albert Schweitzer are worth recalling: "If a man loses his reverence for any part of life, he will lose his reverence for all of life."

The judicial decision of the West German Constitutional Court and the personal conviction of reformed pro-abortionist Dr. Bernard Nathanson re-enforce the moral commitment of Albert Schweitzer.

Fashion Calendar

Special Fashion Events
March 12—Informal modeling of the "Hitch" collection at Clair Peasone, Somerset Mall.

March 12—Informal modeling of the Jerry Feder for Francine collection at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall.

March 13—Formal and informal modeling of the Gerald McCann collection at Hudson's, Oakland Mall. Formal show is at 2 p.m. in the Contemporary sportswear department.

March 13—"How to" glamour and fashion show-and-tell at 7 p.m., Somerset Mall. Packing seasonal vacation gear will be demonstrated.

March 14-15—Personal appearance by Adolfo and his spring collection at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall.

March 14-15—Informal modeling of the Anne Klein collection at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall.

March 14-15—Informal modeling of the Clio Sportswear dresses at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall.

March 14-15—Coordinating spring and summer wardrobes at the Pontiac Mall. Five shows will be given: 7 p.m. Friday; 1, 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

March 17-31—Informal modeling of Clinique cosmetics at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall.

CLUB SHOWS

March 13—The Mount Carmel Guild sponsors a luncheon fashion show by Don Thomas Sporthaus at 11:30 a.m. at the Troy Hilton. Proceeds benefit Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital for the development of intensive care facilities.

March 13—The Greater Detroit Council of Pioneer Women sponsors its annual membership tea and fashion show by the Jacqueline Shop of Birmingham at 12:30 p.m. at the Labor Zionist Institute, Middlebelt Road, Farmington.

March 13—The Meadowbrook Country Club sponsors women's and men's fashions by Crowley's at 11 a.m. at the club.

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