

Birth Control Views Told by Roman Catholics

New York — (UPI) — The Planned Parenthood Federation of America says a number of prominent Roman Catholics who adhere to their church's opposition to birth control believe that non-Catholics should be able to do as they please about contraception.

The federation announced the results of a poll of 166 signers of a statement on religious liberty who on Oct. 6 announced their support of a broad policy of religious freedom.

Several questions were submitted to the 166 on Oct. 7. By Oct. 27, replies had been received from 79 of them.

Freedom of Conscience

As broken down, 47 of the 79 said that "non-Catholic doctors and laymen should have equal freedom of conscience and action concerning birth control."

In answer to another question, 40 agreed that "public officials should respect such freedom of religious belief in policies affecting medical institutions."

Eleven persons did not specifically state their views on these two points but instead stated their vigorous opposition to restrictive legislation on birth control, such as the present laws in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

A total of 87 of the signers of the original Catholic statement — 52.4 per cent — did not reply to the planned parenthood poll.

Permission to Quote

In a press release, the association said it had been given permission to quote from replies sent in by some respondents. One of them, Clare Booth Luce, former ambassador to Italy, said that "the private practice of birth control is of course a matter of individual conscience."

Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.) said that "government should not legislate concerning so private and personal a matter as birth control practices. This is a matter of private conscience and religious conviction which should be approached through persuasion rather than compulsion."

Proxmire Urges Broader Nuclear Arms Agreement

Washington — (UPI) — Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) says that America must make a nuclear arms agreement a greater objective in foreign policy because 10 to 20 nations are likely to have nuclear weapons within four years.

He said that Sen. John F. Kennedy fully understood the urgency of the need and would use the full powers of his office as president to achieve such an international pact.

Process Developed

Proxmire said that West Germany already has developed a revolutionary new process for separating fissionable uranium which requires far less cost than "our enormous gaseous diffusion plants."

Several countries are negotiating with West Germany for patents to use this process, he said.

"Time is now clearly on the side of a fantastically destructive war in view of this vast breakthrough in cheapening the cost of producing these infinitely destructive weapons," Proxmire said.

He also said, "The time for a stand-pat, we're doing fine, wait-and-see attitude by our state department has gone."

Proxmire expressed his views in a speech prepared for the annual conference of the Jewish National Fund council in Los Angeles.

He said the election of Kennedy would bring:

— "A rapid and immediate build-up in American military strength as the prime prerequisite on which any effective negotiation must rely."

— "A final, determined effort to persuade the Russians to agree to workable, inspection-enforced suspension of nuclear testing."

— "An invitation to leading nations having an industrial capacity for production of nuclear weapons to a conference to seek and — if possible — agree upon means of international control of both the production and use of weapon-grade fissionable material and also the production of nuclear weapons."

— "The creation of a peace agency in our government to mobilize the greatest possible competence to solve the immense problems involved in meeting the complex problems of arms control."

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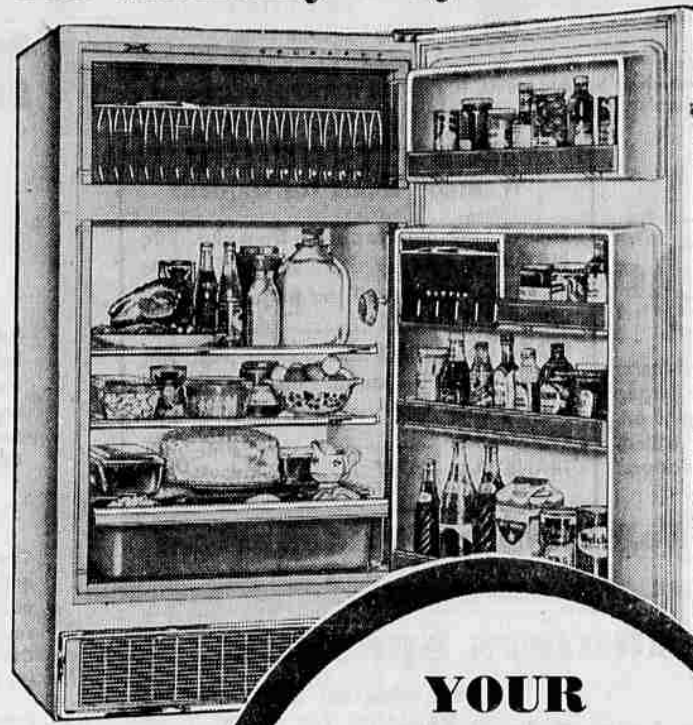
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