

Protestants To Draft Policy on Birth Control

Syracuse, N. Y. — (AP) — The nation's largest Protestant church group takes its first policy action today to approve use of birth control devices as a part of the Christian responsibility of family planning.

The draft resolution presented to the 250-member General Board of the National Council of Churches also called for opposition to both laws and institutional practices that restrict information or use of contraceptives.

It recommended that the federal government be prepared to provide birth control information and assistance to any other government which might request it in the interest of population control.

First Such Statement

It becomes the first interdenominational statement of the Protestant theological position which is in direct conflict with the long-standing opposition of the Roman Catholic Church to artificial means of birth control.

The pronouncement was drafted as a consensus of Protestant opinion; at least seven of the council's member churches, representing two-thirds of the constituent church membership, had previously issued similar endorsements of birth control. Eastern Orthodox churches abstained from formulation or action on the policy statement in preparation for more than a year.

One fundamental affirmation of the Protestant consensus is that motives rather than means form the primary ethical issue in regard to family limitation," said one of the drafters of the pronouncement. "If the motives are right, there is considerable latitude as to appropriate means."

Requires Decisions

Responsible parenthood requires specific moral and ethical decisions of each couple on family planning, the pronouncement said.

Spokesmen said there were some instances in which a couple might properly decide to have no children, but the draft resolution cautioned couples to "remember that having children is a venture in faith, requiring a measure of courage and confidence in God's goodness. Too cautious a reckoning of the costs may be as great an error as failure to lift the God-given power of procreation to the level of ethical decision."

The board Wednesday night approved, 83-1, a strong policy pronouncement favoring federal aid to public schools and warning that extension of such aid to private and church-related schools "would destroy the public school system" or fatally weaken it.

Support Heard For Tax Exemption On Fishing Boats

Salem, Ore. — The House Tax committee heard strong support Wednesday for a bill that would exempt commercial fishing boats from property taxes.

There was no testimony against the measure, H.R. 134 sponsored by Rep. William Holmstrom (D-Gearhart).

Holmstrom said commercial boats should be on a tax par with pleasure boats, already exempt.

He said the burden shifted from commercial boats to other classes of property would be "very small."

Robert Rittenhouse, Oregon Marine director, concurred and said commercial fishermen pay a host of other taxes. Besides this, they are generally "good Samaritans" and their very presence on waterways is a safety factor for pleasure boaters in distress.

Under the bill, commercial boats would be exempt only if they were licensed by the state. The license fee would be in lieu of a property tax, as it is with cars.

William Waterhouse of Astoria put the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Association on record for the bill. He is executive secretary.

Also for the bill are the Oregon Marine Trades Association, Columbia Basin River Operators, and Coos Bay Tug and Barge Co.

Speaking for all three, Portland Attorney Thomas J. White said the bill would be an incentive for licensing of boats in Oregon, keeping Washington state from picking up fees.

GETS ROCKET FREQUENCY

Manchester, England — (AP) — The Soviet Union has given British scientists at the Jodrell Bank Observatory near here the frequency to tune in on its Venus rocket. But observatory director Sir Bernard Lovell said the Russians did not say what time the signals could be expected.

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Plains Region Gets Snowstorm; Floods in South

By United Press International

A blinding snowstorm barreled down the east slopes of the Rockies today where it met a rain cover across 22 eastern states.

In the South, the Weather Bureau at Montgomery, Ala., said floodwaters from swollen creeks and overtaxed sewers were approaching the "critical stage" and Louisiana's flood threat turned to the sordid Bogus Lusa creek north of New Orleans.

Rain and snow were divided along a giant cold front that sliced out of eastern Canada across Lake Huron into northern Illinois. Fog along the front contributed to two fatal plane crashes at Rockford, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa.

Southwest Balm

The cold front leveled off in Kansas and Utah north of balmly weather in the Southwest. Stiff winds lifted Los Angeles' smog and lifeguards worked overtime at crowded southern California beaches.

The Pacific Northwest enjoyed its first clear coastal weather in days. The mercury rose to 62 at Seattle and little rain was in sight west of Idaho.

The Weather Bureau forecast little relief from eastern rains that extended from Florida west into the Midwest Valley and north through New York state.

In Alabama, Gov. John Patterson Wednesday called the flood situation "alarming" and recalled National Guard troops for emergency duty at Birmingham. More than 1,200 persons left their homes at Birmingham, 100 at Northport and 72 at Tuscaloosa.

U. S. Gold Sales Fall Off Since Inauguration Day

Washington — (AP) — Sales of U.S. gold have fallen off sharply since inauguration day. Treasury officials give much of the credit to President Kennedy's approach to the gold-and-dollar drain problem.

In the first four weeks of the Kennedy administration, gold sales totaled \$115 million dollars. In the preceding month, under former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, gold sales amounted to \$437 million and \$384 million in the month before that.

Uncertainty Evaporated

Treasury officials said much of the uncertainty about the dollar, which boiled up last autumn, has evaporated. They said this was indicated by these developments:

—Comments of British and German government officials who have been in Washington in the past two weeks.

—A decline in the price of gold in the London market, an apparent signal that speculation against the dollar has subsided.

—More favorable quotations for the dollar on European money exchanges.

Doubters Thought Convinced

Officials in Washington believe Kennedy has convinced the doubters that he opposes devaluation of the dollar and he intends to shrink, if not wipe out, the deficit in the U.S. balance of international payments.

Jury Being Picked For Trial of Carbo

Los Angeles — (AP) — The trial of Frankie Carbo and four others on extortion charges continues today with the selection of a jury.

Court was in recess Wednesday because of Washington's birthday. On Tuesday, defense attorneys claimed Negroes have been excluded from the jury list, but U.S. District Judge Ernest L. Tolin denied the accusation.

Carbo, 37, a man in a Gibson, Frank (Blinky) Palermo, Louis Tom Dragna and Joseph Sica, the latter two of Los Angeles, are accused of threatening the former manager of ex-weight-boxing champion Don Jordan in trying to grab part of the fighter's contract.

Carbo two days ago finished a two-year prison sentence in New York for acting as an undercover manager of boxers there.

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