



MEET NEWSMEN—Democratic Congressional leaders are shown talking with newsmen at the White House following their weekly meeting with President Kennedy. From left, they are House Speaker John McCormack, Vice President Lyndon Johnson, Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield and Sen. George Smathers (D-Fla.) (UPI)

Religion in America

Moral Aspects of Euthanasia Argued by Doctors, Ministers

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

"Please, doctor, don't keep him alive any longer. Just take out those tubes and let him die."

That plea from the relative of a hopelessly ill patient is not unfamiliar to members of the medical profession. Whenever it is made, it confronts a physician with an agonizing moral dilemma.

What is a doctor's duty toward a patient who is slowly dying of untreatable cancer or some other disease from which there is no hope of recovery?

He could take positive steps to bring about death, and thus release the patient from suffering. This is called euthanasia or "mercy killing" and it has some advocates, both in and out of the medical profession. But the overwhelming majority of physicians are strongly opposed to medical murder, however "merciful" it might appear in a particular case. And in this stand they are supported by moral theologians, who condemn euthanasia as a blasphemous usurpation of God's prerogatives.

At Great Cost
The obvious alternative is to keep the patient alive as long as possible. Most physicians feel instinctively that this is what they ought to do. And modern medical science has made it possible for them to maintain a spark of life in a dying person for days, weeks and sometimes months.

It is done, however, at great cost. And not the least of the cost is the prolongation of suffering, both for the patient and for his loved ones.

In recent years, many doctors and religious leaders

who adamantly reject euthanasia have come around to the conviction that indefinite, artificial prolongation of life is not much better from a moral viewpoint.

At an American Medical Association symposium on medical ethics a few months ago, Dr. Edward H. Rynearson of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., argued eloquently that there comes a time in the handling of terminal cancer cases when the only humane thing for a doctor to do is to "step back and let God take over."

Physician Supports View
His view is emphatically shared by Dr. John R. Cavanaugh, a Washington, D.C., physician who also lectures on moral theology at the Catholic University of America.

"There is a point at which the physician not only should refrain from prolonging life, but should actually withdraw extraordinary measures of keeping the patient going," says Dr. Cavanaugh.

"It is my conviction that when death is inevitable, when the dying process is beyond doubt, the patient should be allowed to die unencumbered by useless apparatus."

Dr. Granger Westberg, a Lutheran clergyman-physician who serves on both the theological and medical faculties of the University of Chicago, also upholds the hopeless patient's "right to die." And he points out that cancer victims are not the only persons for whom death may be a merciful release.

At a recent medical meeting in Minneapolis, he said it is a disservice to keep very old and infirm people alive

"just for the sake of becoming vegetables."

In an address before the International Congress of Catholic Doctors in London, Dr. Frank Ayd Jr., a Baltimore physician, contended that it is "neither scientific nor humane" to stretch out the dying process with artificial means once it has clearly become inevitable.

"Only when there is a reasonable hope of sustaining life for several weeks or months during which time the patient is comfortable should we exert every effort to delay death," he said.

"Otherwise, life preserving treatment ceases to be a gift, and becomes instead a scientific weapon for the prolongation of agony."

These are weighty arguments. But there still are many physicians who cannot bring themselves to let a human life expire so long as there is any medical means of forestalling death. And there are religious leaders who applaud their instincts.

"I have seen enough 'dying' people recover to understand why a physician would be unwilling to write off any patient," says the Rt. Rev. William F. Creighton, Episcopal bishop of Washington.

"I agree that it is hard to see any merciful purpose in maintaining a spark of life in some far-gone cases. But I don't think we should ask doctors to play God."

Man Sentenced to Institute on Charge

Gregory Brian Wolfe, 35 Quince st., Medford, yesterday in Jackson county circuit court was sentenced to 2½ years in the Oregon State Correctional institute on a charge of burglary not in a dwelling.

Wolfe had pleaded guilty earlier to entering the offices of the American Cancer Society in Medford last Dec. 8.

Paulette Bone, 99 Motel, 816 North Riverside ave., was placed on probation and her sentence suspended for three years on charges of forgery. She had pleaded guilty to

the charge, which involved a check.

Stephen Lee Fowler, 1136 Court st., was placed on probation and sentence suspended for five years on a charge of larceny from a person.

Fowler was ordered to make immediate arrangements to move to Colorado.

AVOIDS RED TAPE

London - (UPI) - John Glyn Barton, who said his family has been waterless for five days because officials refused to see what's blocking a water main in front of his suburban Hampstead home, today hired workmen with picks, shovels and pneumatic drills to dig for water in the street.

"I've had enough red tape and regulations," he said.

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MEDFORD TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1963

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BPA Asked To Hike Rates for Power

Washington - (UPI) - Rep. John P. Saylor (R-Pa.) Wednesday called on the Bonneville Power Administration to increase its electric power rates to pay its own way. He cited a \$13 million annual loss.

Saylor told the House it is "almost inconceivable" that Congress could be asked to consider a federal budget requesting over \$107 billion in new appropriations, while at the same time being asked to consider a rather sizable decrease in federal taxes.

The congressman read a letter he has sent to Bonneville Administrator Charles Luce saying the Bonneville project act provides for rate adjustments at "appropriate intervals not less frequently than one in every five years."

SCHOOL NEWS

Jackson School

The fifth and sixth grade students of Jackson school had a talent show recently.

The program presented included the following: Meeting called to order, Don Sample, student body president; color guards, Elizabeth Rogers and Karen Trefren; master of ceremonies, Steve Fixsen; magic stunts, Ronnie Phillips, Jim Mercer; skating routine, Clark Curtis, Ralph Peterson, Gary Stamps, Keith Schaefer; shadow act, Keith Fouts, Stan Christensen, David Bailey, Mike Murray; duet, Nancy Hendrickson - clarinet, Janet Brinson - saxophone; style show, Leslie Lippert, Sandra Nicholson, Dolores Mathews, Karen Webb, Terry Ray, and Linda Hansen; trombone solo, Mark Van Sickle; song and dance, "Little Green Men from Out of Mars," Candi Sloper and Mary Rolls; accordion solo, John Lee; comedy skit, Gary Singler, as Frankie Fontaine and Nick Jones, as Jimmy Gleason; piano solo, Cheri Hawkins; and rhythm band concert, 6-M class.

Each home room teacher helped the students organize the material.

The second half of the school year has started. The slogan we adopted early is "At Jackson School, Learning is our most important product."

The listening post in the library is used many times every day. Children listen to stories, music and phonetic drill. This can be done on an individual basis as the phonograph is equipped with earphones.

The fifth and sixth grade classes have almost completed the first 44 lessons in SRA reading program; 10 review lessons will be done later in the year. All fourth grades have begun this phase of reading.

Students are receiving and writing letters to pen pals in Eastbrook School in Lexington, Mass.

Art Jennings, known as Happy Daze, performed for the children and teachers recently. Happy Daze is a clown, but he gave advice on safety and good manners through his jokes.

The basketball season is on a full schedule. The varsity team play games on Thursday, and the Junior Varsity on Friday. All games are at 4 p.m.

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