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The Australian Church Record 1981

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USA Pro-life now law
The United States Senate Subcommittee has approved a bill declaring that human life begins at conception has delighted pro-lifers in Australia.

The Right to Life in the States has been working tirelessly for several years towards a Human Life Amendment and this Bill is seen as a possible alternative to an amendment to the L-Life States Constitution.

The voting on this Bill came after several days of hearings before a Senate Judiciary sub-committee in which, several internationally known geneticists appeared to give evidence. Six of the seven experts who testified agreed that human life begins at conception. One of the experts was Professor Jerome Lejune from the University of Notre Dame in Paris whose testimony before the sub-committee will appear in full in the internationally known geneticists programme. Similar display boxes can be found in garages, chemist and hardware/gift shops. The follow-up "The Touch of His Hand" is a gospel correspondence course, and there is also a film strip and accompanying literature for discussion. It has recently been translated into Chinese and finds ready acceptance amongst the Chinese Vietnamese refugees in Cabramatta.

"We looked around for areas where people have to sit and wait," said Rev. Neil Howler, a minister in the area. Some of the Christian businessmen involved on paying for their own stock.

"Now we are aiming at a copy of the New Testament in every school classroom's library. Already we are half way through this project."

Threat to Christian hospitals
The Leader of the National Country Party in NSW, Mr. Leon Panch, today challenged the Wran Government to deny that it planned to socialise the NSW public hospital system.

"The Wran Government is committed to the Labor Party platforms to socialise the hospital system," Mr. Panch said.

"The socialist policies of the Labor Government dictate that the Christian influence be removed from the field of hospital care.

"Many hospitals in country areas conducted by religious orders are threatened by Labor's socialisation scheme. There is no doubt the Wran Government wanted to conceal its plan until after the election last year but Bishop Muldoon forced the Government's hand and made Health Minister Stewart admit that the Government intended to close the Mater Misericordiae Public Hospital down at North Sydney and convert it into a geriatric unit. "Hospitals run by religious orders fulfil a very vital role in providing hospital care to thousands of patients in country towns and cities. "Should any of them be closed down or restricted then an intolerable burden would be thrown upon regional hospitals and thousands of patients would be deprived of specialised comfort and care in their home towns."

"I challenge the Premier to deny his Government plans to socialise the public hospital system in New South Wales. Mr. Wran should come clean once and for all to the religious public what his Government intends to do in the review of the public hospital system."

"We use official Soviet publications, as well as other sources, and thus get the most accurate view possible in such a consummated society. A surprising amount comes to us in the ordinary mail, as not all mail leaving Russia can be censured. We only print a story if we get information from several unconnected sources. However, information from psychiatric hospitals is rather rare."

"There is a religious renaissance amongst Soviet youth, which is causing concern to high official circles. At first they thought it was just a fad. In the last two years there has been a definite stepping up of pressure against Christians in the Soviet Union, which sets the tone in Eastern Europe. They are very different persecutions from those of Stalin, so one cannot organise themselves, and they have founded the Christian Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights.

The two Christian families who sought asylum in the US Embassy are now facing a new problem. The Embassy is being moved to a new location. Once they leave the present premises, in order to move to the new building, they will be under Soviet jurisdiction and thus lose their immunity. Their continued safety is therefore in jeopardy.

20 years to register
If a group of 20 believers wish to open a church, they are advised to seek the authorities, and most people don't know even of its existence," Mrs. Kojevnikov said.

"No church may act without the approval of the Minister for Religious Affairs. But the contents of the book of the trial of a 19-year-old, charged with "spreading anti-Soviet slander, on the sole grounds of having religious books in her flat. It was given to a tourist, who wrapped it around his body, under his clothes, and brought it to Keston College."

"No religious instruction of children is permitted, except parent to child. But Christian parents can be declared unfit to bring up a child, and their child is taken away from them. From that declaration there is no appeal, and no further access to the child.

"A school teacher found to be a Christian can be charged with "spreading religious propaganda," which is an offence.

Any charitable activity undertaken by anyone other than the State is punishable.

Any building becomes the property of the State. Thus Churches may build a church building out of their own resources, which, when completed, becomes State property, and which the State can then close."
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will it be a sin to vote A.L.P.?

The threat by the Roman Catholic Bishop Middlebrook to see the Roman Government would be "thrown out of its nest" if at this year's election a Labor Party not fundamentally one.

The point at issue is not the Left wing influence on the A.L.P. as it was in the 1959 and Cardinal McKechnie of Melbourne when he declared that it was a sin to prefer A.L.P. in politics. This matter relates to the clear decision of the N.S.W. Government to turn the Metropolitan Hospital into a general hospital. This decision, it is based on shortages of funds to upgrade the hospital to the tune of $25 million and also the need for the hospital to be taken over by the State.

It is doubtful that the Roman Catholic Church really has the clout to use with its adherents. The thinking workers will realize that the hours involved in finding hospitals demands that the maximum efficiency be exercised so that significant funds are not taken away from the needs of the community. It rightly believed that the needs of the community take precedence over the needs of the individual, for example, $25 million from Government Hospitals to upgrade a hospital whose services are required. Therefore, it is no longer possible to use the theological argument.

Furthermore it is a real challenge to a Roman Catholic Bishop to threaten the ruling government because they will not be responsible to the Roman Catholic Church.

Attempts to blackmail the Government into changing a well thought out decision are deplorable. The Minister for Health for a Roman Catholic, Bishop Middlebrook and Archbishop Meehan, and as such, they have a duty to act in the welfare of the community at large. The Government has nothing to fear from a threat of this nature.

There is Christ's way to make the point, and using ungodly tactics is not one.

The Bishop's letter is not an argument against the A.L.P. but an argument that was based on the needs of the community. It rightly believed that the needs of the community take precedence over the needs of the individual, for example, $25 million from Government Hospitals to upgrade a hospital whose services are required.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Noffs' Nippon Nuptials

The statement of the Rev. Ted Noffs of the Wayside Chapel clearly have drawn the condemnation of Christian people when he launched a campaign to encourage his marriage business of Japan. He notified that he is engaged in the Christian marriage service to assist the needs of those being married to a non-Christian.

"Jesus, Steno embraces all faiths, so why should our Christian Religion give us no hope to non-believers in things like things and holy spirits?"

"Would it be for the Leunen church to have a non-Christian wedding service?"

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The Sydney Morning Herald, 10th March 1981

AFES Day Conference

The annual Sydney Area Conference for the AFES (Australia Friends of Evangelical Students) is to be held in association with the Uniting Church, 3rd September, 1981.

"I would appreciate being let into the system and probably going on to become a minister in the Church.

A conference for students, graduates and friends of the AFES will be held at St. Martin's Airport West and at the Glenroy Community Centre, Mooroolbark on 8th September, 1981.

"I was impressed by the way the Brother-in-Christ had been preached and I would like to be more serious about the Church.

The AFES is committed to smashing and destroying the "flthy propaganda" to which he referred in his letter. The letter seemed to be an attempt to influence the government to change its policy. The letter was written by a non-Christian who has opted out of the community, and it is difficult to see how its message can be of benefit to the community. The letter referred to the lack of religious observance among non-Christians, but it is not clear how this lack of observance can be changed. The letter also referred to the need for more non-Christian services, but it is not clear how these services can be provided.

"May be we will be able to call the non-Christian to adopt a simple lifestyle, but there is no evidence of this in the government policy.

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Australian to head African relief work

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity

When the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity closed its doors last September, one hopes that its activities and varied activities have a lasting impact on the world. The Institute was founded in 1966 by Dr. John Stott, the late Bishop of London, and has since become a major center for theological and religious studies in the United Kingdom. It has been a home for many of the leading figures in the world of Christian thought and practice, including Dr. Runcie, who has declared himself to be a Jew. The Institute's mission is to promote joint and shared activities. Now that the Institute has been released by the Rev. John Stott, its aim will be to help them apply the lessons of history to their own lives. The new departure, in which Mrs. Lyne will act as secretary, will leave H.M.S. Women's Auxiliary Enterprise.

Tolstoy influences Christian actor

The Crusader Union — a Protestant organisation — has been appointed project director for all development projects was made by the International Council and confirmed at the second, presidential meeting of ministers in general and ministry. The new departure, in which Mr. Lion will act as secretary, will leave the evangelists free to concentrate on ministry. The secretary will be based in Nairobi.

Tolstoy influences Christian actor

In a call to the Roman Catholic Church to take serious discussions with a new, united, made at Westminster Abbey, the Archbishop of Canterbury called upon Church of England ministers to express their concerns. Dr. Runcie commented on Dr. Runcie's call. The leader writer focused his address "notable", but on the issue of papal privilege in the Church of England and other Anglican churches and episcopal conferences. The new departure, in which Mr. Lion will act as secretary, will leave the evangelists free to concentrate on ministry. The secretary will be based in Nairobi.

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TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER

Lovers or leeches?

Dr. Alan Craddock

In his book "The Leech," R. H. Chapman offers a fresh and penetrating analysis of the dynamics of relationships, particularly those between lovers. The book has become a classic in the field of interdisciplinary studies, blending insights from psychology, sociology, and theology to offer a comprehensive understanding of human connection.

Chapman distinguishes between three types of relationships: lovers, leeches, and dependents. He argues that while lovers are passionate and fulfilling, leeches are parasitic and destructive. Dependents, on the other hand, are those who are too emotionally dependent on their partners, often leading to a sense of suffocation and resentment.

Chapman's analysis of the "Hanoverian" relationship, which he terms "the leech," provides a case study that highlights the power dynamics within such relationships. He explores the ways in which partners can find themselves trapped in a cycle of dependency and control, leading to a disintegration of the relationship.

Chapman's book has been praised for its clarity and depth, offering readers a new perspective on the nature of relationships and the importance of self-awareness in navigating them. It is a must-read for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of human connection and the complexities of intimate relationships.

At the end of the book, Chapman calls on readers to reflect on their own relationships and to consider the impact of their actions on those around them. He encourages readers to cultivate healthy, satisfying relationships that are built on trust, mutual respect, and genuine concern for each other's well-being.

Chapman's book has been described as a "powerful and insightful" examination of the ways in which people interact and the consequences of those interactions. It is a book that challenges readers to think deeply about the nature of love and the role it plays in our lives.