

P.S. The Pro-Life Federation
Conversion is 9/17-19/93 at Shroton
Valley Forge. [redacted] Federation add: [redacted]
[redacted] Hanover, Pa. 18505. Chris [redacted]
Smith will speak at dinner (730-9) [redacted]
Dear [redacted], is duly registered
PAC. Havertown, Pa 19083

Adelpha Communications has included
A-Span II in addition to A-Span I in our new
lineup! Alleluia!

Just some notes -

Senator Bill Bradley visited constituents
on the beach ^(walking to) Sea Isle City, N.J. one day
last week. He was "proceeded" ^{on the beach} by 10 mins. by
two young fellows carrying a large banner
stating "Come meet U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley."
Considering the thousands on the beach,
he was barely received. During the course of
2 blocks' observation, I saw about 20 people
greet him. Don't think he'll be an asset to Florio.

Thank you for carrying the Pope's arrival
to the U.S. I was half-starved for news of
what was going on in Colorado because the
major news networks not unsurprisingly
felt compelled to focus on the dissent of
every "Catholic" dissident they could scrape up.
They erroneously believe that they have the
right to pass judgment on the moral doctrines
of the faith. The Church is universal,
not subject to the rules of this American democracy,
and she has only one boss here on earth,
an absolutely wonderful representation of Christ,
the Pope. (over)

Why in God's name did Clinton show up at the place with Dr. Sheldale (sp.?) Why did Clinton invite dissident "Catholic" group representatives to the White House? He seems to be determined to alienate mainstream Catholics, and he's doing a good job of that. In connection with this, I've enclosed an article by Bishop McHugh of the Camden diocese from our Catholic Standard + Times.

I'm beginning to think this administration is downright Bolshevik, and waging class warfare, using "rich" and "poor" ^{constantly}.

I also believe Sen. George Mitchell is pulling most of the strings, Clinton's in the Executive branch, and Foley's in the House of Representatives. I can't help but think of Peter Sellers' portrayal of Dr. Faulstich ^{constantly} everytime I hear him speak.

The Democrats are also using the ploy of saying the Republicans are lying ("distorting the truth"); ^{Republicans} not presenting the traditional difference of opinion.

I hope the next 3+ years pass without too much damage. Sincerely,

Commentary

Church Dissenters Get Hearing in White House

By BISHOP JAMES T. McHUGH

A recent news story reported on a meeting of White House staff and an organization which claims to represent Catholics but which openly rejects specific teachings of the Catholic Church. This group spoke for a coalition of organizations that is diametrically opposed to specific Catholic doctrines or moral teachings, often hostile and openly political in trying to undermine Church teachings and policies.

They seek to destroy the unity of the Church, particularly here in the United States, where they engage in a misrepresentation of Church positions and seize upon half-truths and bitter criticism of Church leaders as their preaching tools.

In the forefront of this coalition was "Catholics for a Free Choice" (CFFC), whose main reason for existence is to oppose the Church's teaching on abortion. This group is well-funded, not by its small membership, but by sizeable grants from foundations that have a pro-abortion stance.

CFFC was launched with the help of Planned Parenthood, which has supported and assisted CFFC through the years. It has

received funds from the Ford Foundation, the Playboy Foundation and others. There is little question that a highly visible pro-abortion position by a group claiming to be Catholic will be used by those promoting easy abortion.

Much debate and some dissent exist

orthodox teaching? Of course, meeting with those on different sides of public policy matters is accepted political behavior. Meeting with groups contesting internal matters of Church teaching is not. And has it not occurred to the White House that entertaining a group that is openly antago-

ligious institutions from interference by government agencies and officials.

One principal is that a church's internal law, doctrinal commitments and organizational structure are the clearest expressions of its religious identity and autonomy. Government has no right or purpose to override or compromise that religious identity and violate First Amendment freedoms.

While every citizen and group of citizens have a First Amendment right to speak out and petition the government on public policy issues, it is incumbent upon government officials to avoid even the appearance of taking sides in matters of Church policy or doctrine.

Federal officials should listen to the views of churches on policy issues but they must look to those with the authority to properly present Church teaching. To look elsewhere is to risk undermining the constitutional autonomy afforded churches under the First Amendment.

Bishop McHugh is Bishop of Camden and a member of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

Life-Line

within the Catholic Church on many issues. How far one goes in dissent without severing one's bond with the Church is a serious theological question, but not a civil matter.

What I cannot understand is how the White House gets into this. Certainly, the White House cannot claim ignorance since the coalition representatives in question were quite clear in stating their purpose: to present views different from those of the Pope and bishops and to claim credibility as spokespersons for Catholicism.

Is the White House staff now in the role of theological arbiter as to what constitutes

the religious teaching of its Church places the administration in the position of associating itself with — and giving honor to — those rejecting Church leadership? Would this be done to other religious groups on matters of doctrine and institutional policy?

For a considerable part of our history, the precise meaning and application of the First Amendment have been a source of public and judicial debate. But some clear principles, based on First Amendment values, have developed regarding the mutual roles of church and state. These principles are intended to safeguard churches and re-

HAVERTOWN, PA. 19083



Mr. Brian Lamb
444 N. Capital St., N.W.
Suite #412
Washington, D.C.
20001

CO. 594 SEP 18 93

in letter

I forgot to mention - Gov. Casey is scheduled speaker
Sat. night 9/18; that seems incredible to me