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MEETING OF FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILDS

The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds met in annual session in Atlantic City on June 10th, during the Convention of the American Medical Association. This selection was made at the suggestion of the New Orleans Guild, which was represented at the meeting by Doctor P. B. Salatick.

Through the efforts of the Atlantic City Convention Bureau and the courtesy of the Crane Company, a spacious and well-equipped room in their National Exhibit Building, Boardwalk and Georgia Avenue, immediately adjoining the Convention Hall, was at our disposal.

The Executive Committee had cards posted on the Bulletin Boards of the hotels and a notice placed in the *Daily Convention Bulletin*.

Catholic physicians attending the Convention were welcomed to this gathering. These included representatives from Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, District of Columbia, Maryland, Louisiana, Rhode Island, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, Minnesota and Iowa.

The President, Dr. Joseph A. Dillon of New York, was in the Chair.

The occasion was opportune, for it had just been broadcast

through the Press that the American Medical Association, in Convention assembled, had approved of contraception.

The assembled delegates, whilst considering that the interpretation put upon the action of the American Medical Association with regard to universal approbation of contraception was untrue, and whilst waiting for the text of the committee reports, nevertheless felt that it was necessary to make some statement to the public in regard to birth control and contraception. Any approval of artificial methods of contraception by any groups does not mean that 100 per cent of physicians whether Catholic or not subscribe to that approval. The delegates affirmed that in the quest for health it should always be remembered that there are some things of greater importance, such as honor, family, country and the attainment of our supernatural destiny. For these things, even loss of health is to be suffered in those rare cases where child-bearing might be detrimental to the mother. Experience has shown that in the vast majority of cases women are healthier, both physically and mentally during the child-bearing period, if they bear children. We profess that the practice of artificial contraception for any reason is a perver-

sion of the moral right order of things, productive of mutual distrust on the part of spouses using it and its use even for medical reason is a potential if not an actual weapon for the undermining of the virtues upon which Christian civilization is based.

The Federation made the following statement through its committee:

"The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds re-affirms its intellectual acceptance of the sound principles of scientific ethics and Christian morality with regard to human life in its source, continuance and end. It declares that God alone is the absolute master of man and his destiny; that man is only the responsible steward of life, individual and social; and that man is subject to the eternal laws, natural and supernatural.

"The Federation rejects as untrue and unscientific the current widespread pagan philosophy of Life which has cynically reduced man to the level of the beast or to that of a cog in the social mechanism, thus destroying the essential dignity of man as a child of God and destined for God in heaven.

"On these pagan and irrational philosophies are based the modern Creeds of unlimited Sex indulgence, neo-Malthusian perversion of nature by positive contraception, sterilization, whether voluntary or compulsory; abortion,

therapeutic or under whatever form proposed, and other fads which under semblance of promoting health and happiness only succeed in the long run in destroying both. There is no human necessity which can confer on the doctor the right to take Life or to prevent it. As a matter of fact no method of artificial contraception is known to medicine which is 100 per cent effective. Whatever legal rights may exist with regard to these now or may be granted in the future, the Federation asserts that legal rights are not necessarily moral rights and are not infrequently in direct opposition to God's rights.

"The Federation by its philosophy and practice refused to align itself with any doctors who by their adherence to a pagan philosophy and even by their action can in reality tend to make the medical practitioner the gravedigger of the nation and by abortion and euthanasia its social executioner."

The Executive Committee hopes that the spirit displayed by those present will result in the formation of new Guilds, thus aiding in a very substantial way, the work of Catholic Action, so pleasing to our Holy Father. It is believed that the Federation movement has gained a great impetus as the result of the Atlantic City meeting. The address of the Secretary, Dr. William F. C. Steinbugler, is 515 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.