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The President's Page

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Dr. James H. Masterson

Things have not changed much since my last note in these pages. There is still the massive effort to liberalize abortion laws successful in some instances, unsuccessful in others. There is a subtle change in the attitude of those states with liberal laws and a beginning revulsion in some circles over the number of abortions especially in New York State. As predicted some physicians have been able to reap large financial benefits and unethical advertising has even been recognized and reacted to by our medical societies. Colleges have set up funds to send coeds who find themselves pregnant to states where liberal laws exist. Social planners are finding American medicine is lacking in delivery of health care to the masses. The drug problem is still growing especially in our suburban areas. Inflation is still growing although more slowly. The only answers to many of these problems is to turn them over to the government which has never been noted for its person-to-person relationship. No concerted effort has been made to bring the forces of good will together by the church, medicine or ourselves.

William F. Buckley, Jr. recently suggested that the Catholic Bishops of America should assume the leadership in gathering other religions and new religious leaders who agree that abortion ought not to be civilly sanctioned any more than infanticide should be and these groups should form a non-denominational council who would first propose a manifesto outlining the arguments and then implement it politically by all means.

The Association of Physicians and Surgeons for about twenty years has alerted medicine of the dangers of socialized medicine. It deserves all of organized medicine's support for its only desire is to keep American medicine dedicated to the patient.

In a lighter vein, I wish to personally thank the many guilds who have continued to help us underwrite the XII International Congress of Catholic Medical Associations. I would request that the American Bishops take a very close look at the newly formulated "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Hospitals" which they will be asked to approve at their Spring meeting and return it to a representative committee that will include all facets of Catholic medicine. It is our plan to have, if possible, a position paper ready at that time incorporating our views.

James H. Masterson, M.D.
President