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## Letters to the Editor ...

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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## Letters To The Editor . . .

To The Editor:

In 1947, following World War II with Hitler Germany, I testified as the expert medical witness for the prosecution before the Nuernberg Tribunal in the trial of Nazi war criminals for medical crimes against humanity.

Perhaps there is no need to remind an older generation of the medical experiment atrocities and the murders of "useless eaters" committed against Jews, non-Aryans, the weak and the defenseless in the name of legislative enlightenment, medical progress and the overall good of the state and society. I recall the new goals expressed by the Nazi Director of Public Health, Dr. Arthur Guett, in 1935, in his book entitled *The Structure of Public Health in the Third Reich*:

The ill-conceived 'love of neighbor' has to disappear, especially in relation to inferior or asocial creatures. It is the supreme duty of a national state to grant life and livelihood only to the healthy . . . in order to secure the maintenance of a hereditarily sound and racially pure folk for all eternity. The life of an individual has meaning only in the light of that ultimate aim, that is, in the light of his meaning to his family and to his national state.

Because the socio-economic rationalizations of the Nazi's infringements of the rights of individual human beings still remain so vivid in my mind, because I witnessed the downfall of the most esteemed medical group in the world - the German medical profession - as it added human extermination to the experimental and 'therapeutic' spectrum, I am impelled to make the following comment on the argu-

ments of today's proponents of relaxed abortion laws.

With their talk of unwanted human beings, of human beings as economic burdens, of people as pollutants; with their promotion of physicians as instruments of population control through murder of the human fetus; and with their attack against religion defending the rights of human beings to life (ironic, given our recent applause of the play, *The Deputy*, which indicts German bishops for their alleged failure to defend human life during the Hitler holocaust) - their arguments become so painfully reminiscent of Nazi Germany that I am literally horror stricken with the change in thinking that has taken place in our great democracy in one generation. I am scandalized to see some legislators and sociologists posing as moralists, substituting moral expediency for authenticity under the guise of relevancy.

I plead, therefore, to advocates of abortion to soberly reconsider their position. Life has become very cheap in modern times without adding medical blood-baths to other blood-baths. In dedication to mankind, the medical profession took its stand against abortion centuries before Christianity came into existence. I urge advocates of abortion not to mask this fact by subtle appeals to religious bigotry. Medicine reaffirmed this stand in the Geneva rewriting of the Hippocratic Oath following the inhumanity of the Nazis. It must not be forgotten in this connection that, contrary to other interpretations, medicine only tolerated abortion in the past to rescue one life when two - the mother and infant - would otherwise die.

Sincerely

Andrew C. Ivy, Ph.D., M.D.  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus  
of Physiology  
University of Illinois