August 1970

Letters to the Editor ...

Catholic Physicians' Guild

Follow this and additional works at: http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol37/iss3/13
Letters To The Editor...

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

Perhaps there is no need to remind an older generation of the medical experiment ghouls and the murders of "useless stem" committed against Jews, non-Jews, 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. Bruno Guett, in 1935, in his book entitled "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 the future generations, the 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