

University of Notre Dame
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Thanks For The Lift.

Catholic sociologists, in their fight against euthanasia (painless killing) and sterilization of the unfit, have for many years been asking the question: "Who is to determine the unfit?" The Chicago Tribune recognizes the force of this practical argument in the following editorial which appeared Sunday, November 19:

In a Planned Society.

German gynecologists, discussing the Nazi sterilization law at a meeting of their society in Berlin, approved the measure, which goes into effect Jan 1. It is a Hitler principle that approval shall follow political action. Scientists and clergy, jurists and journalists understand that. It simplifies discussion and makes for unity. Dr. Eugene Fischer, anthropologist of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, observed that the eugenics law would make a fundamental change for the surgeon. Heretofore he had considered the personal interests of the patient. Hereafter he will consider the public weal.

The public weal might make a neat complication in the operating room. As surgery the case might be quite simple, but as public policy much in doubt. Probably the operation safely could follow the election returns. It would be one thing for Dr. Einstein and another for a good storm trooper, but there would be border line cases. If the patient did not come certified, with a government stamp such as is on inspected meat, and this might be the case in many an emergency, the surgeon would be more interested in the dialectics than the diagnosis. A decision as to what was good for the public weal would precede and determine what was good for the patient. This would indeed be double jeopardy.

The citizen's appendix might give him a break, but his political opinions destroy him. His case might be an extreme one of erroneous idea, whereupon the surgeon would open a vein and the public weal would be served. When the question affects the perpetuation of the nation the problems do not lose their acuteness. There have been few other times when there was so much difference of opinion regarding fit and unfit. Opinions are not only diverse but they are high. Although widely apart they do not admit of doubt or compromise. The number of people unfit to perpetuate the nation is very large in the opinion of an equally large number of other people. If sterilization followed the election returns it might be advisable to reduce the number of elections.

As Catholics we thank the Tribune for lending a hand in the fight against the encroachments of the state on the inherent rights of the individual. Too often the Church is left to "go it alone" in the defense of the rights of the individual and of society. Exaggerated individualism gives us divorce and birth control; exaggerated nationalism would make the citizen the mere creature of the state. Against both extremes the Church wages the battle of common sense and the Ten Commandments. From those who fail to recognize the Ten Commandments and the divine authority behind them she expects, but too seldom receives the aid of common sense.

See This Catholic Movie.

"Through the Centuries," a new picturization of the history of the Catholic Church, will be shown in preview in Washington Hall Friday evening at 8:00; if possible, there will be a showing Thursday evening as well. Appreciate this opportunity to see something worth while.

PRAYERS: Deceased - R. Crnkovic's grandmother; relatives of Father Ill, John Prentice, and Sister Frances Jerome (St. Mary's); a friend. Operations - Bill Lord's mother; Jos. Fitzmaurice's brother; August Church. Ill - Frank Koppelberger's grandmother. Three special intentions; two thanksgivings.