

January 30, 1973

Louisiana Right to Life Association
Robert E. Winn, President
310 Sena Dr., Metairie, La. 70005

The Louisiana Right to Life Association said today the United States Supreme Court's pro-abortion decision is unsound legislative action rather than sound interpretation of the Constitutional rights of human beings.

The association, which withheld its views on the decision until after a review of the full text, said the seven concurring judges of the court have issued an opinion far more sweeping than earlier press reports indicated.

Robert E. Winn, New Orleans attorney and president of Right to Life, said the association would continue its fight for the right to life of the unborn child.

The child, Winn said in behalf of the association, is not protected at any time from conception to birth, despite earlier reports that the decision hinged largely on the question of what could be done during the first three months of pregnancy.

Right to Life, its statement declared, would "intensify its efforts to build a society wherein abortion does not appear necessary and in which a woman, married or single, will not feel compelled to seek such a drastic and dehumanizing solution to a most difficult human problem."

He said the association would also:

1. Work to insure that the rights of the unborn child are protected to the fullest extent legally possible and will work to strengthen and improve such protections.
2. Continue its educational efforts to inform the public regarding abortion - what it is, what it requires of the mother, and what it does to society.

1 ad - right to life

The association statement said in part:

"In an unprecedented exercise of judicial power, seven judges of the Supreme Court have taken over the function of the Congress and of the legislatures of the fifty states and have enacted legislation declaring that the unborn child has no rights and may be killed on the demand of the mother with the concurrence of any doctor for any reason - or for no reason.

"Although early news reports indicated that only unborn children up to three months of age could be killed on the demand of the mother, a reading of the decision reveals that the seven concurring judges seemingly intend to permit the killing of unborn children through the first six or even seven months of pregnancy without any regard or consideration for the unborn child's rights or life and with the only consideration the wish of the mother and her medical care.

"The seven judges would even permit abortion through the entire nine months of pregnancy if the mother's mental health suggests the need for the child's death. Experience in states which have allowed abortion to preserve a woman's mental health has shown that such a provision amounts in fact to abortion on demand.

"By its decision the Supreme Court went further than any state legislature has ever considered going and by enacting their pro-abortion legislation the seven appointed judges ignored the will of the people. In recent elections in North Dakota and Michigan abortion was voted down overwhelmingly on November 7, 1972, and in recent actions many state legislatures have steadfastly refused to relax state abortion laws.

"Even the New York legislature, just last year, voted to repeal New York's abortion on demand law although Governor Rockefeller vetoed the repeal. The Supreme Court, however, has declared the actions of state legislatures and the attitudes of citizens of no importance by its pre-emptive legislation declaring

2 ad - right to life

that the life of the unborn child is of no value and is expendable on the wish of the mother...

"One must...doubt any claims for legal scholarship that might be made for the opinion. The court accepts uncritically the view that the only reason that laws were passed in the United States restricting abortion was the medical danger that abortion procedures presented to the mother's health. Such a position is unfounded and is supported only by references to certain pro-abortion tracts of dubious accuracy and objectivity...

"The Louisiana Right to Life Association considers abortion a great evil not only because it involves the killing of the unborn child but also because it endangers and brutalizes the mother and has a dehumanizing effect on society and a destructive effect on society's values. The Louisiana Association, along with Right to Life Associations throughout the country, will continue its opposition to abortion.

"With the greatest respect for our judicial system, with an abiding faith in America and with due recognition of the views and limits expressed by the Supreme Court, the Right to Life Association will work to insure that the rights of the unborn child are protected to the fullest extent legally permissible and will work to strengthen and improve such protections. The association will also continue its educational efforts to inform the public regarding abortion - what it is, what it requires of the mother, and what it does to society.

"Most importantly, the Association will intensify its efforts to build a society wherein abortion does not appear necessary and in which a woman, married or single, will not feel compelled to seek such a drastic and dehumanizing solution to a most difficult human problem. To these ends we are dedicated and we ask the public's support and assistance.

"It is indeed sad that in the very same week that a long overdue peace was finally achieved in Viet Nam, the Supreme Court unleashed the war on the

3 ad - right to life

unborn. The history of civilization is its gradual and inevitable progress away from barbarism. The great pride of America is that we are at last, at great cost and with much travail, working to eliminate the twin scourges of discrimination and poverty. Hopefully, we are also beginning an era in which war is at last being recognized for the horror that it is and will never again be resorted to as a means of resolving disputes between nations.

"It must sincerely be hoped, and for this we fervently pray, that any current movement toward abortion on demand will only be a temporary regression of mankind's progress to an even greater humanity and civilization, and that the great energy and enormous good will of all Americans will be devoted to finding positive, humane solutions to our problems, and that we will not resort to such essentially negative and destructive measures such as abortion. We ask that America choose life, love, humanity - not abortion."