

350,000 rally to defend sacredness of human life

by Linda Everett

Just as we witness the courageous battle for democracy and the dignity of man sweep through the nations of Eastern Europe, and now more quietly in China, hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens have launched another civil rights battle—one that defends the innate right to life of each and every individual human being. Both movements are united in their fight to save civilization itself.

Over 350,000 Americans attested to this, when they poured into the nation's capital on April 28 to join in the Rally For Life. They came to deliver a powerful message to the nation's politicians: No longer shall we abide by the notion that human life is expendable, that every six seconds of every day, an unborn child is killed. No longer shall we watch as every year in this country more Americans are wiped out by abortion than all the Americans who lost their lives in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War combined.

The national, political, and religious leaders of the pro-life movement gathered on the podium with the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), which organized the event through its several dozen state affiliates. A petition, signed by about 1 million voters who oppose abortion on demand, was presented by Right to Life Committee Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.). Hyde, referring to all those politicians who "personally oppose abortion," but who say they won't impose their views on others, retorted, "Well, somebody's morality is being imposed on 25 million babies."

Hyde introduced President Bush, who, despite the fact that his history of support for Planned Parenthood and population control is becoming better known by the hour, managed to mumble a few words to the crowd by telephone hookup about his "deeply held views on abortion-on-

demand."

But Mr. Bush's actual views are not so much deeply held, as they are deeply buried. He told the crowd that their presence on Washington, D.C.'s Mall "reminds us all in government . . . to preserve the sanctity and dignity of human life." But there exists a growing list of heinous activities by the President's own Justice Department to intimidate and destroy political individuals and organizations, such as Lyndon LaRouche, and Operation Rescue's Randall Terry, who have committed themselves to the defense of human life. Bush's sentiments rang all the more hollow when Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) tore into another current Bush campaign, called "worship the environment," which has set a "new pretense for abortion—children as pollution." The environment, he said, "must not be allowed to diminish our respect for human life."

Vice President Dan Quayle told the gathering that in poll after poll, the great majority of Americans object to infants being aborted, for any reason, up to the time of birth. "No one can be proud that, here in our nation's capital, abortions outnumber live births. No one can be comfortable with the way minority children, especially black and Hispanic babies, are lost in greater proportion than others. And the loss of some 25 million children . . . to abortion since 1973 has been unspeakable."

Perhaps most eloquent was Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.), who called up the profound memory of the civil rights march on Washington in 1963, and demanded that we continue the struggle. "We have truth on our side," he said. "The offspring of human beings are human beings, and that's the truth. Every abortion kills a human being. The truth is that abortion is the worst civil rights abuse in history. That is the

truth. . . . We cannot cease, and we will not cease [the fight] . . . because a lie cannot endure.

Among the other speakers was James C. Dobson, founder and president of Focus on the Family, which produces a nationally syndicated radio programs. Beverly LeHaye of the 600,000-member Concerned Women for America made the cogent point that the likes of Molly Yard, president of National Organization of Women, and Jane Fonda, do not represent the majority of women in America. Several representatives from the sports and entertainment industry pointed out that the reason more of them were not up on the podium is that Hollywood blacklists celebrities if they come out as pro-life.

Refuting the Death Lobby

The Rally For Life, three times the size of the pro-abortion feminists' rally held last year, soundly refuted the argument propounded by the National Organization for Women and the National Abortion Rights Action League, that the pro-life movement is collapsing. The huge numbers showed that the commitment to stop the rampant killing is growing, despite the crazy pragmatic strategies employed by the leadership of the National Right to Life Committee in an effort to place further restrictions on state abortion laws, which has left the membership splintered. Besides scores of busloads of Catholic parishioners from across the country, there with contingents of the Methodists for Life, Presbyterians Pro-Life, the National Association of Evangelicals, the Christian Action Council, the Orthodox Church of America, the Baptists for Life, Lutherans for Life, American Baptists for Life, the National Organization of Episcopalians for Life, and the National Association of Evangelicals.

Although thousands of organizations, families, and individuals from 50 states overflowed the Washington Memorial Park onto the grounds of the Ellipse and Reflecting Pool, and even stretched toward the Lincoln Memorial, the pro-abortion lobby and media did their best to conceal the fact that this rally was one of the largest and most significant in the city's history. The media also continued their own lie that pro-lifers are interested only in fetuses, not people on welfare or the homeless. (When was the last time anyone saw Planned Parenthood open a soup kitchen, or arrange an adoption, or take in pregnant teens?)

The media deserved the philippic which John Cardinal O'Connor of New York delivered them on this issue. The Cardinal wondered out loud, just how much of what was said would be reported, explaining that in 1984 he had invited any pregnant woman, of any color, religion, or ethnic background who needed help to come to the Archdiocese of New York to receive free medical care, housing, and whatever she needed, along with assistance to keep her child or arrange an adoption. Despite his countless interviews with the press since 1984, in which he always mentioned his offer, the Cardinal said his pledge has never been covered. The Cardi-

nal again challenged the media to cover it—at which point hundreds of thousands roared, "Tell the truth!"

Call off Justice Department dogs

Randall Terry, founder of Operation Rescue, addressed a gathering of over 500 the evening before the main rally. He said that his movement is not just fighting for the children, but for civilization and the nation. He argued that the current scale of mass murder through abortions presages the collapse of civilization, and vigorously attacked those who have decided to wait until the assault hits them personally. He quoted the famous statement of Martin Niemöller, a Protestant pastor who lived under Hitler. The quote frightened him, because it is what is happening right here in America today: "First, they came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist; then, they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a Jew; then, they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a trade unionist; then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up, because I was a Protestant; then, they came for me, but by that time, there was no one left to speak up."

If we continue to let the current process continue, Terry said, we will live to see forced abortions in the United States—just as they have in China. In fact the ideology for forced abortion is already there through environmentalism, he said, pointing to the cultural change over the past 30 years: from "sex education," to pornography, the killing of handicapped infants, to discussing euthanasia, to promoting homosexuality, to the mockery of Christianity.

Some 150 people are currently imprisoned around the country because of police-state actions against Operation Rescue. Terry concluded with a vigorous attack on those who sit back and let the assault on life proceed—such as Neville Chamberlain, whom he described as the second most culpable man of Nazi Germany, because he retreated constantly and watched the Nazi takeover happen.

Following the rally, over 1,500 people attended another Operation Rescue meeting in Lafayette Park across from the White House. Terry again asked that pro-life congressmen be challenged to stop U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and the Justice Department's use of RICO (racketeering) laws against citizens whose only wish is to protect life, and called on President Bush to stop the brutality perpetrated against pro-lifers around the country.

George Grant, author of several books on Planned Parenthood's atrocities, told the crowd that George Bush wants to be known as the environmental President, to make the land safe for future generations. Grant observed that George Bush wants to be known as promoting 1,000 points of light, for calling on people to sacrifice to do good. "We ask: Do you mean it, Mr. Bush? If we are to do good, Bush, call off the dogs and allow us to do good." The rally ended when police dispersed a solid line of people kneeling in prayer from one end of the White House to the other.