

The inalienable right to life proclaimed by Thomas Jefferson, and the equal protection of the laws, secured to us by the 14th amendment, are not selective grants of governmental benevolence; they are inherent properties of each human being, whether unborn or aged or unable to care for himself. The glory of our constitutional system is that we recognize these principles as essential parts of man and not as gifts of the state. When misguided and illinformed advocates of women's rights or States rights seriously suggest that a mother, whether for economic, therapeutic or social reasons, or out of plain selfish self-indulgence, has an absolute right to kill her unborn child, or indicate that an elderly person who makes no contribution to social progress can be a candidate for murder with state approval, all Americans must be vitally concerned with how the Supreme Court of the United States will deal with these violent and distorted assaults upon human life and human dignity.

I urge this committee, therefore, to very scrupulously examine the views and philosophies of Mr. Powell and Mr. Rehnquist. I ask as well, to testify in response to those views.

Thank you.

**TESTIMONY OF ELIZABETH CORBETT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY,
N. Y.**

Mrs. CORBETT. My name is Elizabeth Corbett from Yonkers, N. Y., and I represent the Westchester County Right to Life Committee.

In recent years, when Presidents have submitted Supreme Court nominations to the U. S. Senate, or to the American Bar Association, a number of questions have immediately been raised about the nominations. These questions have included: Does the nominee have judicial experience? Does the nominee have any history of conflict of interest during his legal career? What are the nominee's views on civil rights?

Westchester Right-to-Life Committee appears before you now to raise an additional question. What are the views of Mr. Powell and Mr. Rehnquist about life itself?

Are the nominees persons who believe that the unborn child may be destroyed at will? Are they men who believe that the life of an aged or crippled or sickly person may be destroyed if that person is no longer able to work or produce for society?

Westchester Right-to-Life emphatically and categorically opposes any nominee to the Supreme Court who would hold such beliefs.

We raise these questions before you and ask you to inquire into this matter with regard to Mr. Powell and Mr. Rehnquist, because we are firmly convinced that the awesome power over the life of millions of Americans which is held by the Supreme Court Justices should not be entrusted to any man or woman who would write or join in an opinion which would allow the destruction of thousands of lives, whether of unborn children, or of the crippled or maimed, or of the elderly or of the sickly.

With great regret Westchester Right-to-Life notices that a clever, subtle campaign has been conducted within the Federal Government to promote abortion and other programs which seek to reverse the view of the sacredness of human life, the foundation of Judean-Christian civilization. Federal moneys support planned parenthood's

abortion and sterilization programs, and pay for abortions under the New York medicaid program.

In Congress the Cranston resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 108, seeks to set the stage for eventual governmental control over life. It would make zero population growth a national policy.

The Presidential Commission on Population Growth and the American Future, headed by John D. Rockefeller, seeks to lead American opinion into the belief that life is not really so sacred after all, and that the destruction of the unborn life must be accepted as a social necessity to stabilize population and solve social problems.

In courts, suits are pending to overturn longstanding statutes which afford legal protection to the unborn.

We protest. We oppose any nominee to the Supreme Court who doesn't hold any efforts to destroy life as repugnant. We approve only those nominees who are totally committed to the preservation of human life. We approve only those who will defend the unborn.

Thank you very much.

I wonder if we could have this included with our testimony?

The CHAIRMAN. It will be admitted.

(The document, "Life Before Birth" was filed with the committee.)

The CHAIRMAN. That is a rollcall vote and we will have a recess.

(A short recess was taken.)

The CHAIRMAN. You may proceed.

TESTIMONY OF ANNETTE GARKOWSKI, L.I.F.E. COMMITTEE, NEW YORK

Mrs. GARKOWSKI. My name is Annette Garkowski and I represent L.I.F.E., New York.

The Lutheran theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, martyred by the Nazis, summed up the viewpoint of Judeo-Christian society on abortion when he wrote—

To raise the question whether we are here concerned already with a human being or not is merely to confuse the issue. The simple fact is that God certainly intended to create a human being and that this nascent human being has been deliberately deprived of his life. And that is nothing but murder.

L.I.F.E. is an organization of over 2,500 women in New York State, who recognizes that the viewpoint expressed in Dr. Bonhoeffer's words, is being seriously challenged in American society. L.I.F.E. is convinced that the overwhelming majority of American women regard the woman's role, now and in the future, to be the protection and care of the weak, the defenseless, and those who cannot care for themselves.

We have come before you today to respectfully ask you to consider that your decision on the pending Supreme Court nominations bears directly on whether a certain class of weak and defenseless persons—unborn children—will live or die.

The Supreme Court is being asked to strike down laws prohibiting the destruction of unborn life, laws which have been in effect for many years. The ground being asserted by abortionists who seek to strike down these laws is that they are "unconstitutional."

What is "constitutional"? What is "unconstitutional"? Is a particular Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court to feel free to strike down a statute of long standing prohibiting or restricting abortions because