

CARL LEVIN
MICHIGAN

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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Dr. C. Everett Koop
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Rm. 716-G
Washington, D.C. 20201

Robert Seltzer
224-6221

Judy Parker

Dear Dr. Koop:

I am writing concerning your article "The Sanctity of Life", which appeared in the Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey in January of 1978. Since I am not a member of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and did not have an opportunity to ask any questions regarding your nomination during the hearings, I thought you might be willing to respond to my inquiry prior to the Senate vote on your nomination.

In the article you made the following closing statement:

There is much, much more that I could say but I would close by indicating to you that the way we are going is the way that Germany went before Hitler. At the close of World War I Germany was in a despondent state; although abortion was illegal in Germany it was widely practiced. There arose from that liberal thinking the euthenasia movement and it was not long before the mentally ill, the retarded, criminals, and defective babies were being gassed and then destroyed by cremation. Eventually, this destruction extended to patients with tuberculosis, to amputees, and to those with senility. Two-hundred sixty-seven thousand people were destroyed this way in Germany before Hitler came to power. It could have never happened if the medical profession had not been in the forefront of its advocacy.

Could you produce for me documented evidence in support of your concluding remarks? Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this rather urgent request.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin

Carl Levin

CL/ja

1970 - Karl Binding / Alfred Hoche: The Pleasure of the Destruction of Life *Der Untertan*

Signif. Cases - *Waltmann*

The Currency of History - Mass Deaths & the American Future - *Richard L. Rubenstein*
Harcourt Brace 1975

Allyn/ Medical Science under Dictatorship - NEJM 241:39 7/14/79
Valuing Human Rights July