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92-105

**CLC's Land, Whitehead
decry ruling on Casey**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The executive director and general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission have issued the following statements in response to the Supreme Court's Planned Parenthood vs. Casey decision June 29 upholding the Pennsylvania's abortion-restriction law, except for spousal notification, but reaffirming the 1973 Roe vs. Wade opinion.

CLC Executive Director Richard D. Land said, "I am pleased that the Court has affirmed the right of states to require parental consent for minors, ban sex-selection abortions and abortions on babies viable outside the womb. It's also encouraging that the Court has upheld the right of states to require that pregnant women receive information about fetal development and abortion procedures that give them the basis upon which to give truly informed consent to an abortion procedure.

"I am perplexed, however, that the Court concurred in striking spousal notification. This is an anti-marriage, anti-family decision, not to mention blatantly anti-male. It is a mystery to me how justices, all but one of whom are married, can fail to understand how destructive this ruling is to the marriage relationship. It denigrates spousal and paternal responsibilities.

"Pro-life America is increasingly weary with a Court that continues to do an excellent imitation of a youngster on his first trip on the high-diving board in dealing with the abortion issue. They tip-toe out to the end of the board, looking cautiously from side to side, sometimes even curling their toes over the end of the board and gingerly bouncing up and down, but they just can't summon the nerve to jump. Now three justices are crawling back down the ladder. It's well past time to take the plunge."

Michael Whitehead, the CLC's general counsel, said, "The Supreme Court took four baby steps in the right direction and one giant step backward. It upheld four of five restrictions on abortion under the Pennsylvania law and struck down the spousal notice rule. We expected the Court to toddle timidly towards a reversal of Roe. Instead, a new majority has stumbled backward by expressly reaffirming the abortion on demand thinking of Roe.

"It is extremely disappointing to read the majority opinion of Justice O'Connor, joined by Kennedy and Souter, which does not just begrudgingly uphold, but vigorously defends Roe's philosophy of convenience abortion 'when contraception fails,' or in order to help women stay in the economic marketplace.

"The practical result of the backward step is the voiding of the spousal notice rule. At least 73 percent of Americans believe that it is common sense to require a wife to at least inform her husband before having an abortion. The Pennsylvania law didn't require the husband to consent, just to be given notice.

"Under state laws, a wife can't even sell a used car owned with her husband without getting his signed consent. Surely state laws should be able to ask a wife to inform her husband before she takes the life of a child they co-generated.

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"Pro-life America's hopes that Roe will be reversed next year have been dashed by so-called pro-life justices. Reversing Roe will require another, real pro-life justice to help Rehnquist, White, Scalia and Thomas, who remain committed to stopping the convenience killing of pre-born babies."

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J. Everett Sneed, 61,
Arkansas editor, dies

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--John Everett Sneed, editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine for 20 years, died June 26 at his home in North Little Rock of a heart attack.

Sneed, 61, had complained of a bad cold and co-workers said he left the paper's office at about 3 p.m. Friday to go home to rest. Shortly after 6 p.m. his wife, Mary Ellen, found him on the bathroom floor and called the emergency number. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Services will be July 1 at 10:00 a.m. at Sneed's home church, Park Hill Baptist, in North Little Rock. The church's pastor, Cary Heard, will conduct the services. Internment will follow at Kyler Cemetery in Batesville, Ark.

In addition to his wife of 36 years, the former Mary Ellen Maynord of Birmingham, Ala., he is survived by two daughters, Chere' Sneed and Mary Catherine Sneed, both of North Little Rock, and one grandchild, Erika Michelle Rice of North Little Rock.

Sneed had announced he would retire Oct. 30 following his 62nd birthday Oct. 21. Memorials may be made to the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark., 72203, according to family members.

Prior to his editorship, the longest tenure of any editor in the publication's history, Sneed had been director of Christian social ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. An ordained minister, he also was director of missions for the Independence County Baptist Association in Arkansas and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church and Yall Baptist Church, both in Commerce, Texas.

Sneed held a B.S. degree in education from Arkansas College at Batesville; a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; an M.A. degree from Baylor University, Waco, Texas; and a doctor of philosophy degree in biblical theology from the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

He had been president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the organization of Baptist state paper editors; on the steering committee for the Arkansas Billy Graham Crusade; and a member of the Christian Civic Foundation executive committee in Little Rock.

Noted for his exegesis of the Scriptures and skill in biblical languages, Sneed had led a number of educational excursions for archaeologists, theology students and laypeople to Israel, Jordan and other biblical countries. He had conducted more than 100 revivals, spoken at more than 400 churches and led more than 200 Bible studies.

Sneed had been a professor for the Boyce Bible School since 1972 and a facilitator for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary earlier this year.

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**'Holman Family Worship Bible'
wins Gold Medallion Award**

DALLAS (BP)--A Bible published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board received one of Christian publishing's top prizes June 27 at the Christian Booksellers Association International Convention in Dallas.

The Family Worship Bible, released in October 1991 by the board's Holman Bible Publishers, won the Gold Medallion Award in the Bibles category at the 15th Annual Gold Medallion Book Awards Banquet. The awards, presented annually by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, are given for "exceptional work in the areas of content, significance of contribution, literary quality and design of Christian books."

This year's win marks the first time Holman has received the award in more than a decade, last taking home the prize in 1981 for the New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance.

"This award really takes the Family Worship Bible to a new level of recognition in the Bible publishing world," said Trent Butler, general editor for the publication. He credited the success of the project to a "team effort" among several components at the Sunday School Board, including the family ministry, discipleship training and marketing planning and promotion departments and the Sunday school division.

Designed as a Christian education and worship resource for families, the Family Worship Bible includes the entire text of the Old and New testaments in the New International Version. Also featured in the publication are plans for daily and weekly family devotions; articles on family issues, spiritual and moral growth and ways each Bible book applies to family life; a section of songs and choruses; a concordance; and Bible maps and pictures.

The Family Worship Bible beat out some well-known publications to capture the Gold Medallion Award in its category. Also nominated were: "The Spirit-Filled Life Bible," and "The Explorer's Bible," both published by Thomas Nelson Publishers; "The Youth Bible (New Century Version)," published by Word, Inc.; and "Psalty's Kids Bible," published by Zondervan Publishing House.

Three other Sunday School Board products were nominated for Gold Medallion Awards in different categories but did not bring home the prize. They were: Holman Bible Dictionary, reference/text category; Talking to the World in the Days to Come, missions/evangelism category; and Journey to Amanah, youth category. The latter two books were published by Broadman Press.

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House sustains Bush veto
on lifting fetal tissue ban

By Tom Strode

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Supporters of a Bush administration ban on federal funding of transplantation research using tissue from induced abortions won a critical battle recently only to discover shortly thereafter the war may not be over for 1992.

A day after President George Bush vetoed the National Institutes of Health reauthorization bill (H.R. 2507), the House of Representatives failed by 14 votes to override his action. The House favored the bill by 271-156 but fell short of the two-thirds votes required to overcome a veto. Bush has vetoed 30 bills without being overridden.

"I am delighted that President Bush's veto of the bill lifting the fetal tissue ban has been sustained," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Using fetal tissue from elective abortions is barbaric and immoral.

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"Even if there were therapeutic uses for such tissue that could not be accomplished through present research with fetal tissue from non-elective abortions -- and that is a doubtful prospect at present -- it would still be wrong."

On June 24, the same day the House failed to override, Rep. Henry Waxman, D.-Cal., introduced a new version of the NIH bill (H.R. 5495). His bill will end the ban while requiring researchers to obtain tissue from the fetal tissue bank established by Bush in May. The bank will use tissue only from ectopic pregnancies and miscarriages. Such tissue already is allowed to be used under the moratorium.

Under Waxman's bill, if there is not enough appropriate tissue in the bank, researchers will be free to use tissue from induced abortions.

"If the president cares about Americans with Parkinson's, diabetes, Alzheimer's ... he will meet us halfway and support the bill," Waxman said in a written statement. "If he only cares about the most extreme opponents of abortion, he will oppose it again, but at least the public will know that's what he stands for."

"Waxman's new bill is a not-so-veiled attempt to buy votes under the banner of compromise," said James A. Smith, the CLC's director of government relations. "Pro-life Southern Baptists should not be fooled. The underlying premise of the wholesale harvesting of human babies' parts remains, despite what Mr. Waxman may say.

"We will never compromise on the value of human life and how the unlimited harvesting of fetal tissue undermines this fundamental value."

Support for overturning the ban on fetal tissue use has resulted from promising, though unproven, results reported in curing such diseases as diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

The Bush administration and nearly all pro-life advocates support the moratorium for reasons including concerns about a potential increase in the number of abortions and possible abuses in securing the tissue. Opponents of the ban, who include a few pro-life senators, say safeguards in the bill would prevent such occurrences.

Opponents of the moratorium say tissue from miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies will not be effective. The Department of Health and Human Services says the bank will provide enough ethical tissue to meet research demands.

Messengers to the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention approved a resolution supporting the moratorium. The convention also endorsed the ban in a sanctity of life resolution last year.

The moratorium was instituted during the administration of President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and continued by President Bush's new HHS secretary, Louis Sullivan, in 1989.

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ANALYSIS

Clinton's criticism of veto strikes at own denomination

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
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WASHINGTON (BP)--When Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton criticized a recent presidential veto as "an ugly bow to the far right," he, perhaps unknowingly, labeled his own denomination's actions as representative of an extreme fringe group.

On June 23, President George Bush vetoed a medical research bill lifting the ban on federal funding of transplantation research using tissue from induced abortions. The same day, Clinton released a statement decrying the veto.

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"President Bush's refusal to sign this vital piece of legislation is politics -- pure and simple," said Clinton, who is a member of a Southern Baptist church in Little Rock, Ark. "He has turned what would have been a very important step forward in the fight to save the lives of millions ... into an ugly bow to the far right. I urge Congress to override the president's veto."

On June 24, the House of Representatives sustained the veto of the National Institutes of Health reauthorization bill (H.R. 2507) by 14 votes.

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meetings in both 1991 and 1992 passed resolutions supporting the moratorium on fetal tissue research. The SBC's Christian Life Commission has worked to see the ban maintained.

"I am distressed that any presidential candidate would describe the president's veto as 'an ugly bow to the far right,'" Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard D. Land said. "This is not a question of right or left, but of right and wrong."

"As a nation, we decided not to use medical research obtained from human experiments on prisoners in Nazi death camps, even if it proved to be beneficial. The source of the information so contaminated it that it was unusable by civilized society. The same thing is true of using fetal tissue from elective abortions. The source -- voluntarily taking a baby's life -- is unacceptable in civilized society," Land said.

A Clinton campaign spokesman said she was uncertain if the governor of Arkansas knew of the SBC's resolutions before criticizing the veto.

After being informed of the resolutions, national press secretary Avis LaVelle said, "We understand the sensitivity of the issues and we understand the position of the Southern Baptist Convention, but as a national and international leader Governor Clinton felt it was important" to take a stand on behalf of scientific research.

"I think that sometimes people in public life in positions of public policy making are forced to take positions that are counter to the position taken by their religious affiliation," LaVelle said. "I'm sure that he wrestled with his conscience before making this decision."

Resolutions passed at the SBC's annual meeting are not considered position statements of the convention but reflections of the messengers' opinions at that gathering.

Clinton's description of the veto as a concession to the "far right" was responded to quickly in Washington.

"Does Clinton regard the Southern Baptist Convention and the Catholic Church as part of the far right-wing fringe?" said Douglas Johnson, the National Right to Life Committee's legislative director, in a June 24 written statement. "Clinton himself is a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, which is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention."

The United States Catholic Conference also has supported the veto.

During House debate prior to the attempted override vote, pro-life Rep. Henry Hyde, R.-Ill., referred to Clinton's criticism, saying "the Southern Baptist Conference [sic] supports the president's veto, and if they are the far right, I would like to know... ."

Support for overturning the moratorium on funding of fetal tissue transplantation has resulted from promising, though unproven, research reported in curing such diseases as diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

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The Bush administration and nearly all pro-life advocates defend the four-year-old ban for reasons including concerns about a potential increase in the number of abortions and possible abuses in obtaining the tissue. Moratorium opponents, who include a few pro-life senators and representatives, say safeguards in the bill would prevent such occurrences.

After the veto, Rep. Henry Waxman, D.-Calif., introduced a new version of the NIH bill. Waxman's bill, H.R. 5495, requires researchers to use tissue from a bank established by Bush unless there is not enough appropriate tissue in the bank. In that case, tissue could be used from induced abortions. The recently established bank will use tissue only from ectopic pregnancies and miscarriages.

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Court bans solicitation,
upholds leafletting

By Tom Strode

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6/29/92

WASHINGTON (BP)--In a significant religious liberty case, the Supreme Court recently ruled a ban on solicitation of contributions in an airport terminal is constitutional but a ban on literature distribution is not.

On June 26, the Court ruled 6-3 the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey was within the law in prohibiting requests for immediate donations in its three airports by the Hare Krishna, a form of Hinduism. In a second opinion, however, the court ruled 5-4 the ban on leafletting was unconstitutional.

The decision was a mixed blessing for many religious groups, including Christians concerned about evangelism.

"We are pleased the court found that free speech in this forum includes freedom to talk and pass out tracts or books, even though the Court said this was not a traditional public forum," said Michael Whitehead, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's general counsel.

"The ban on in-person solicitation is problematic. The court has drawn a puzzling, crooked line that includes the freedom to talk and give away tracts but excludes the freedom to solicit donations for the tracts or books. With all the other money that changes hands in airport terminals, it seems odd to discriminate against persons who ask for a donation for a religious tract or political book. Disinterested airport patrons can simply say no and walk on by," Whitehead said.

"Granted, most Christians who pass out tracts will not be soliciting. But in principle, we do not need the speech police in airports to draw such fine lines between sales of books versus donations to cover the cost of books. The right to communicate a message in this jet-aged town square should not be limited to those who can afford to give away their works."

The court, with Chief Justice William Rehnquist writing the opinion, found airport terminals are not public forums like public parks, sidewalks and streets. Airports historically have not had the purpose of free speech activity, Rehnquist said.

Therefore, the regulation must only meet a test of reasonableness, he said.

"It is uncontested that the solicitation in this case is a form of speech protected under the First Amendment," Rehnquist said. "But it is also well settled that the government need not permit all forms of speech on property that it owns and controls.

"Where the government is acting as a proprietor, managing its internal operations, rather than acting as lawmaker with the power to regulate or license, its action will not be subjected to the heightened review to which its actions as a lawmaker may be subject."

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Solicitation and literature distribution are allowed by the Port Authority outside the terminal on the sidewalks, which provides access to "an overwhelming percentage of airport users," Rehnquist said.

In a concurring opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy agreed with the ban on solicitation but said airport terminals are public forums.

Justice David Souter, joined by Justices Harry Blackmun and John Paul Stevens, dissented, arguing the terminals were public forums and the ban on solicitation should be struck down.

"I do not think the Port Authority's solicitation ban leaves open the 'ample' channels of communication required of a valid content-neutral time, place and manner restriction," Souter said.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor joined Blackmun, Kennedy, Souter and Stevens in holding literature distribution should be protected. Rehnquist, joined by Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Byron White, dissented in the second opinion, concluding the distribution ban, like the solicitation ban, is reasonable.

The court's decisions followed by only two days its opinion in the Lee v. Weisman case banning prayers at a junior high graduation.

The solicitation decision came in the Krishna Consciousness v. Lee case, while the leafletting opinion was in Lee v. Krishna Consciousness.

The court's rulings upheld those of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

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Penn/South Jersey executive
to head Beeson doctoral work

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6/29/92

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Wallace A.C. Williams, executive director of the Pennsylvania/South Jersey Baptist State Convention, has been appointed the first director of the proposed doctor of ministry program at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, in Birmingham, Ala.

Williams, at the Penn/South Jersey post for five years, will join the Beeson faculty on Aug. 24.

Beeson officials anticipate the first doctor of ministry class will be admitted in January. The divinity school currently offers only the master of divinity degree.

Williams holds degrees from Georgetown College, the University of Kentucky and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of churches in the New York City area.

He and his wife, Judith, have two children: Cynthia Alice Insko, a 1991 Samford graduate and Peter Anson, a sophomore at Samford.

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