

Unlike the debate over abortion that has been ongoing for decades, this procedure is clearly the brutal taking of a human life. The right-to-choose position of the Democratic Party has largely been driven by the belief that a fetus cannot survive outside the mother's womb. But in this case, medical evidence is clear that these babies could survive—but are destroyed in the most vicious and inhumane way possible. Our society demands that even dogs be destroyed in a more humane fashion.

For what purpose, Mr. President, did you do this? To satisfy a minority of extremists whose votes you would have gotten anyway? And please, consider again your rationalization that you acted to "protect the safety of the mother", when the bill permitted an exception if a doctor deemed the procedure necessary to save a mother's life. You know full well the bill would not have received the support of the Council on Legislation of the American Medical Society and 73 Democrats in the House if it did not. Mr. President, with all due respect, there is no valid reason for your action, ethically or politically. And, it is certainly inconsistent with other positions you have taken.

Your presence and comments in Oklahoma last week on the anniversary of the bombing tragedy reflected your deep concern for those who perished, especially the children. Yet, you signed the death certificate on Wednesday for countless, equally innocent children. Several weeks ago I saw you visibly shaken when speaking of the mass murder of children in Scotland. You had a chance, with your vote, to prevent a much greater tragedy. Mr. President, you chose instead to trade those future lives for votes that you perceived are crucial for your re-election.

In the past three years I have seen you time and time again speak out to the thousands, maybe millions of young Americans who have been lost to the streets in a life of murder, destruction and mayhem, of drugs and disease. You have pleaded with them to have respect for human life. But with this veto, you did the opposite. And we, as party officials, have been put in the untenable position of having to live with that decision.

Mr. President, I cannot and will not support this action. Therefore, I cannot in good conscience support your candidacy.

As I contemplated this matter over these past days, I was reminded of the words of the late President Kennedy when he said, "Sometimes party loyalty asks too much." Thus, it is with regret and sorrow that on this date, I have submitted my resignation as a member of the Texas State Democratic Executive Committee and Chair of the Mexican-American Caucus. I have informed our State Chairman, Bill White. While I do not intend to actively support of vote for any Republican or Independent candidate. I will be asking other Democrats to consider withholding their support of your candidacy while continuing to support Democrats for other offices.

Very truly yours,

JOSE R. KENNARD,
State Committeeman, District 29.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. ENGLISH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. TALENT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. TALENT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MORELLA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I noticed how many of my fellow colleagues here this afternoon had been speaking about the outrageous and repugnant veto of the legislation overwhelmingly passed in both Houses of the U.S. Congress regarding partial-birth execution-style abortion.

During the debate I tried to get pro-life Members on both sides of the aisle in the oldest party of America, the great Democratic Party, and the grand old party over here, I tried to get them all to use this expression execution-style because the attack to the child, and it is a child that is almost always viable, can survive outside the womb even if it is what we called disabled, that the attack is similar to the Cosa Nostra, or organized crime, attack, sometimes with a .22 pistol, to keep down the sound to the base of the skull. This is a common assault, whether it was with sword, ax, or during the Chinese revolution, Stalin's purges, or Hitler's henchmen.

For example, at the trench at Babyar in the Ukraine, or many of the labor camps with sick people, Japanese warlords directed soldiers executing our men and our Filipino allies on the Bataan death march 54 years ago.

This execution to the base of the skull, it was used in the Balkans all this last 4-year period of horrible ethnic cleansing and human rights violations, a bullet or a knife to the base of the skull.

And here in debate in one of these two houses was a woman, no less, an elected woman, talking about defend-

ing that this was important to the life of the mother. And somebody got up who served in this House honorably for 8 years, Senator BOB SMITH, and said, wait a minute, if it is for the life of the mother, why is the abortionist holding the baby in the birth canal? Why is he interrupting the birth process? This is conversely to what you are saying, endangering the mother's life. It is truly infanticide.

And I think that to let people know how unprecedented it is, as it says in a front-page story in the Washington Times, and I have not looked at the Post today and the New York Times to see whether they buried it, but it is a front-page story about all eight U.S. Catholic cardinals hitting Clinton on abortion, and I am going to yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] and then read as much as I can of the bishop's letter and submit the rest, ask unanimous consent to submit the rest, for the RECORD, and I will return to the floor, as I am sure the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] will and the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] will many times on this.

This has got to rip apart Stephanopoulos' so-called Catholic plan to win the election in 202 days.

Mr. HUNTER. I do not want to take much time from my friend.

Mr. DORNAN. You are not taking it from me, but from eight cardinals; go ahead, though.

Mr. HUNTER. In that case, I feel better.

But let me just thank him, thank BOB DORNAN, for all the great work that he has done on behalf of unborn children and the fact that you are carrying this fight, as you have carried it for many, many years on the House floor, and I agree with you that the President has gone too far, that he stepped too far even for people who are able to look the other way on this issue in his party, and I hope that it is going to pull people off of this bandwagon that the President is putting together for his 1996 presidential campaign.

Mr. DORNAN. Well, you know our colleague, Mr. SMITH from New Jersey, has been here. He is a classmate of yours, for 16 years almost, but he has this angelic face. I almost said he looked like an acolyte, and, therefore, he can stand where you are at this mike or down in the well and say tougher things than most of us can say.

He has been calling Clinton for 3½ years the abortion President. Nobody has ever jumped up and taken down his words, and I have refrained from doing that until this moment. But this shows, beyond all shadow of doubt, that Mr. Clinton is not a new Democrat, he is not a moderate Democrat, he is not even a run-of-the-mill liberal like many of our honorable friends on the other side of the aisle who are proud of their liberal philosophy, believe in a larger Federal Government than we do, basically to help the poor, to help children.

We have hurt children more on this House floor in the last 2 years than I ever dreamed it here in the House, and I do not question their good will, but I noticed that most of them who are sincere liberals of principle, classic liberals, are also against this partial birth.

So I will put in the cardinal's letter, Mr. Speaker, and then read it slowly tomorrow from today's RECORD.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,

Washington, DC, April 16, 1996.

President WILLIAM CLINTON,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON: It is with deep sorrow and dismay that we respond to your April 10 veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Your veto of this bill is beyond comprehension for those who hold human life sacred. It will ensure the continued use of the most heinous act to kill a tiny infant just seconds from taking his or her first breath outside the womb.

At the veto ceremony you told the American people that you "had no choice but to veto the bill." Mr. President, you and you alone had the choice of whether or not to allow children, almost completely born, to be killed brutally in partial-birth abortions. Members of both Houses of Congress made their choice. They said No to partial-birth abortions. American women voters have made their choice. According to a February 1996 poll by Fairbank, Maslin, Aullin & Associates, 78 percent of women voters said No to partial-birth abortions. Your choice was to say Yes and to allow this killing more akin to infanticide than abortion to continue.

During the veto ceremony you said you had asked Congress to change H.R. 1833 to allow partial-birth abortions to be done for "serious adverse health consequences" to the mother. You added that if Congress had included that exception, "everyone in the world will know what we're talking about."

On the contrary, Mr. President, not everyone in the world would know that "health," as the courts define it in the context of abortion, means virtually anything that has to do with a woman's overall "well being." For example, most people have no idea that if a woman has an abortion because she is not married, the law considers that an abortion for a "health" reason.

Similarly, if a woman is "too young" or "too old," if she is emotionally upset by pregnancy, or if pregnancy interferes with schooling or career, the law considers those situations as "health" reasons for abortion. In other words, as you know and we know, an exception for "health" means abortion on demand.

You say there is a difference between a "health" exception and an exception for "serious adverse health consequences." Mr. President, what is the difference—legally—between a woman's being too young and being "seriously" too young? What is the difference—legally—between being emotionally upset and being "seriously" emotionally upset? From your study of this issue, Mr. President, you must know that most partial-birth abortions are done for reasons that are purely elective.

It was instructive that the veto ceremony included no physician able to explain how a woman's physical health is protected by almost fully delivering her living child, and then killing that child in the most inhumane manner imaginable before completing the

delivery. As a matter of fact, a partial-birth abortion presents a health risk to the woman. Dr. Warren Hern, who wrote the most widely used textbook on how to perform abortions, has said of partial-birth abortions: "I would dispute any statement that this is the safest procedure to use."

Mr. President, all abortions are lethal for unborn children, and many are unsafe for their mothers. This is even more evident in the late-term, partial-birth abortion, in which children are killed cruelly, their mothers placed at risk, and the society that condones it brutalized in the process.

As Catholic bishops and as citizens of the United States, we strenuously oppose and condemn your veto of H.R. 1833 which will allow partial-birth abortions to continue.

In the coming weeks and months, each of us, as well as our bishops' conference, will do all we can to educate people about partial-birth abortions. We will inform them that partial-birth abortions will continue because you chose to veto H.R. 1833.

We will also urge Catholics and other people of good will—including the 65% of self-described "pro-choice" voters who oppose partial-birth abortions—to do all that they can to urge Congress to override this shameful veto.

Mr. President, your action on this matter takes our nation to a critical turning point in its treatment of helpless human beings inside and outside the womb. It moves our nation one step further toward acceptance of infanticide. Combined with the two recent federal appeals court decisions seeking to legitimize assisted suicide, it sounds the alarm that public officials are moving our society ever more rapidly to embrace a culture of death.

Writing this response to you in unison is, on our part, virtually unprecedented. It will, we hope, underscore our resolve to be unrelenting and unambiguous in our defense of human life.

Sincerely yours,

1 Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, Archbishop of Chicago; Cardinal James Hickey, Archbishop of Washington; Cardinal Bernard Law, Archbishop of Boston; Cardinal Adam Maida, Archbishop of Detroit; Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia; Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore; Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles; Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York; Most Rev. Anthony Pilla, President, National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

MILITARY AIRCRAFT SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I convened a panel of the procurement subcommittee of the Committee on National Security to investigate the series of tragic mishaps with respect to F-14 crashed and Aviate B Harrier Marine Corps fighter aircraft crashes that have occurred since the beginning of the year, and, Mr. Speaker, it is very clear to us and to my friend, Mr. DORNAN, who has quite a bit of time in an Air Force cockpit, and my good friend, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, my seatmate from San Diego, that it is dangerous to be a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps; it is more dangerous to be a pilot when you have

a government that will not pay the money that has to be paid to make that aircraft as safe as it can possibly be made.

The testimony from the U.S. Marine Corps yesterday was that Harriers are tough aircraft to fly. Almost one-third of the entire Harrier air inventory, aircraft inventory, has crashed since its inception, and we have had three tragic crashes this year of these Harrier Jumpjets. The Marine Corps told us yesterday that we could make that plane 50 percent more safe than it is right now, and we do that by remanufacturing the aircraft and adding safety features. They told us that the Clinton administration has decided not to make 24 of those aircraft as safe as they can be, and when we asked why, we were told because of budgetary constraints.

So, Mr. Speaker, for the first time, we are seeing the Clinton defense budget come apart at the seams. We are seeing a defense budget which is costing us; it has been cut so drastically, by 72 percent in the area of modernization, that we are not able to make these aircraft, these Harrier aircraft, as safe as they can be for Marine pilots.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are coming to their rescue. I have talked with the chairman of the full committee, our good friend, FLOYD SPENCE, and he concurs that we will fix all 24 of those aircraft that right now the Clinton administration does not plan to upgrade with safety upgrades so that the pilots will be more secure than they are flying the aircraft right now.

So I want to announce, as the chairman of the procurement subcommittee, that the Republican markup will reflect upgrades, it will cost about \$26 million per plane for all 24 of the Harrier aircraft that the Clinton administration has decided, in their infinite wisdom, not to fund.

Additionally, on the F-14, and an F-14 crashed today, the Republicans are going to be adding about \$83 million for several items that will make that aircraft safer. We are going to come up with a digital flight control system; we are going to install that. We are also going to come up with a system that indicates when the engine is getting overloaded and will advise people in the cockpit that they have to take action fairly quickly. Those are two safety upgrades that we will be funding in the procurement subcommittee for the F-14.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are riding to the rescue in national defense, and Mr. Perry, Secretary Perry, has come down to the House Armed Services Committee and told us that everything is fine with defense. These massive cuts that the Clinton administration has been making according to Dr. Perry have not harmed national defense at all.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Clinton defense budget is coming apart at the seams, and these recent crashes and