Father shoots at sidewalk counselor

by Paul deParrie

Baton Rouge, LA — "Twenty-one murders were attempted today," said sidewalk counselor Richard Mahoney. "Twenty were murdered and one escaped to tell about it. And I happened to be that one."

That's how the father of eight described his day in front of the Delta Women's Clinic on Thursday, October 6.

When 22-year-old Ernest Robertson, Jr. first drove his wife into the abortuary lot, he simply dropped her off. After escorting his wife inside the clinic, Robertson left the lot cursing and playing loud rock and roll music.

Mahoney and two others continued trying to sidewalk counsel.

At approximately 10:30 a.m., Robertson returned. When he returned, he immediately pointed to Mahoney and said, "If you say one word, I'm going to kill you."

Having heard such threats — usually empty — before, Mahoney replied, "If you're here for an abortion, this will not make you *not* a father and mother, but the father and mother of a murdered child."

At this, Robertson jumped into his car and spun his tires trying to run Mahoney and the others down. Failing that, Robertson got out of the car and tried twice to take a swing at Mahoney, but the sidewalk counselor was too elusive.

Meanwhile, the clinic owner, L.T. Brinkley, came out and shouted "Stop this and get back in your car" at Robertson.

Mahoney said, "Boy, I feel sorry for you" to the man.

This is when Robertson pulled out a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol and began to fire at him.

Mahoney heard the first shot whiz past his ear as he turned to run. Another sounded like it went over his head. Then, while trying to go over a fence, he slipped. Robertson took careful aim.

"The gun jammed," Mahoney said. "I heard four clicks."

In frustration, Robertson jumped back in his car and drove off. Later, he surrendered to police. He was charged with second-degree attempted murder and held on $75,000 bail.

Local media came and interviewed witnesses, but when it became apparent that Mahoney had not been an aggressor or an inciter of the shooting, they, according to Mahoney, told witnesses that they didn't want their stories. Instead, they interviewed Brinkley, the clinic owner, who insisted that Mahoney was screaming and shouting at Robertson and his wife.

Robin Rothrock, administrator for another local abortuary, chimed in, "Having protesters be very antagonistic toward family members can lead to this kind of problem."

No denunciations of the violence were forthcoming from national or local pro-abortion groups. ■

Protester Richard Mahoney, arm extended, talks to police in the grass lot near Delta Women's Clinic.

Suspect Ernest Edward Robertson Jr. is escorted to the Parish Prison by Detectives Eugene Smith (left) and Charles Armstrong.

Baton Rouge, LA — The Delta Women's Clinic, site of the attempted murder of a sidewalk counselor, may not be open much longer, according to reports. Not only is the place deadly for unborn babies — and apparently sidewalk counselors — but it also poses a danger to the mothers seeking abortions there.

Three former employees, Robin Beilkiewicz, Annette Higgins, and Mary Wilcox, have lodged complaints with the state health department about unsafe and unsterile conditions in the abortuary.

Among the claims are that the clinic regularly lets waste accumulate for weeks at a time; employees are not properly trained and are allowed to perform medical procedures; and patients in the recovery room are supervised by aides instead of nursing staff.

The clinic was formerly housed in a building which is now owned by pro-lifers and is being converted into an American Holocaust Museum. ■