(Continued from previous page)

nationwide had registered as participants. Registration usually took place at the rally sites.

Opponents countered that rally presence did not translate into street presence.

"They can turn people out for speaking engagements," said Katherine Spillar of the Feminist Majority Foundation. "But very few people are willing to join them on the line."

In most cases, rally attendance did far exceed active street numbers.

But pro-aborts were not the only critics. A number of nationally recognized pro-lifers said the cities were poorly organized and that the multiple locations tended to scatter the forces. Others said that the de-emphasis of rescue posed a problem. These leaders did not want to be named, but preferred to discuss any problems in detail with ORN leaders.

Wright, however, points to what she regards as the true measure of success — babies saved. The ORN office has confirmed 40 children saved from abortion during the 10-day period.

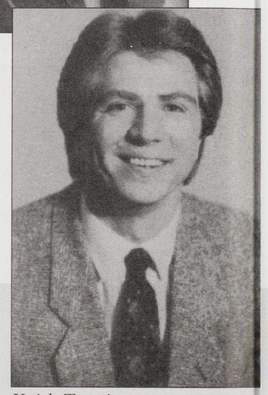
"That's more than we had at the end of Wichita," she said referring to the 1991 siege of Wichita, Kansas abortion clinics for 49 days. "Wichita — at the end — showed 34 saves with 2,600 arrests. We had more saves this time with only 600 arrests. Being arrested is not our goal so that is a good thing."

Wright indicated that they expect to find out about more babies saved after some time has passed. One year after Wichita, she says, 94 women were identified as having changed their minds during that event.

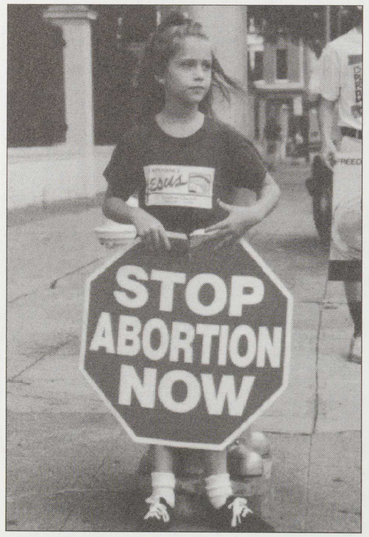
"We had the largest number of people for any event and the largest number of babies saved. So that translates to our largest success," Wright added. ■

Robert A. Brothers

A barricade separates "Cities of Refuge" participants from an abortion clinic in Philadelphia, July 10, 1993.



Keith Tucci



Paul deParrie

A small girl stands vigil outside the Mississippi Governor's Mansion.

ORN leader pursued across state lines

Keith Tucci, Director of Operation Rescue National and organizer of the Cities of Refuge campaign was subpoenaed by abortionists to testify at hearing in Florida during the week of the campaign. Tucci claims the timing was deliberate to keep him from speaking at the rallies throughout the country.

The trial date was changed after it was made public when Tucci would be out of state.

Tucci decided that the rallies were more important and flew out of Florida. An enraged Brevard County Judge John Rudd cited Tucci for contempt of court and sent out a fugitive warrant asking police in the seven cities where Tucci was to speak to pick him up and have him delivered back to Florida. Contempt of court is not a criminal offense but rather is viewed as an insult to the court which is punishable by up to six months imprisonment in Florida.

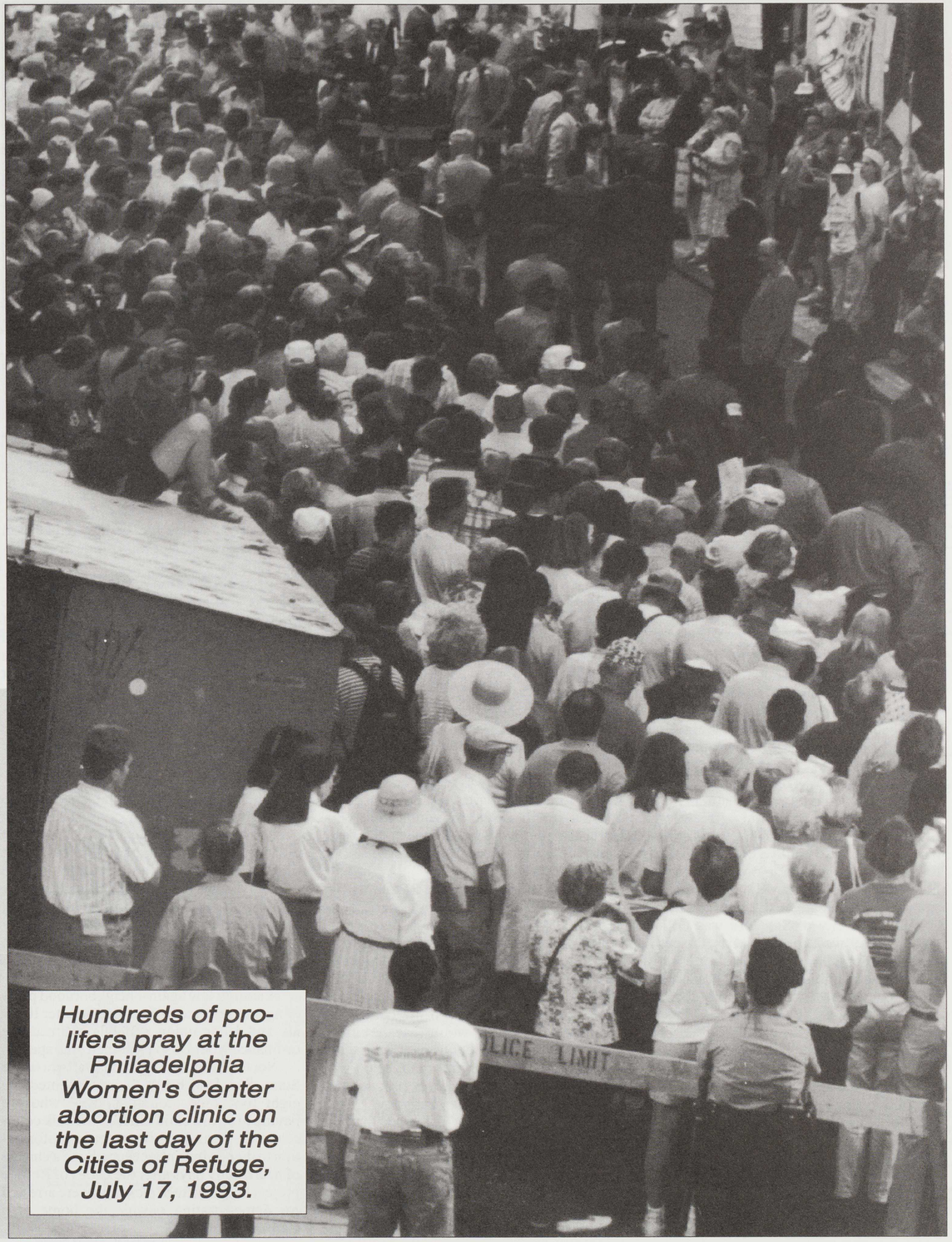
It wasn't until after Tucci finished his July 15 rally speech in Philadelphia that local police arrested the ORN leader. He was held on $200,000 bond.

"The other prisoners were wary of me," Tucci said. "They knew that only organized crime figures get bonds like that."

ORN attorneys immediately filed a Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus and, at the immediate hearing, demonstrated that Pennsylvania law did not allow for extradition for non criminal offenses and for those punishable by less than one year imprisonment.

They also argued that the police acted on a faulty fugitive warrant since it was merely a fax copy of the warrant.

The court agreed, issued the Writ, and released Tucci in time for him to catch a flight to his next rally. ■



Robert A. Brothers

Hundreds of pro-lifers pray at the Philadelphia Women's Center abortion clinic on the last day of the Cities of Refuge, July 17, 1993.