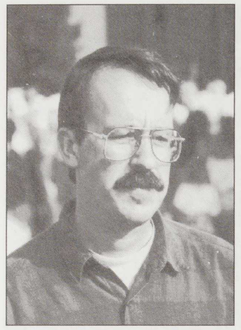

How pro-life leaders recruit the shooters and bombers

A tongue-in-cheek look at a part of the use of force debate

by Rev. Joseph Foreman

1. FRUSTRATE
2. POLARIZE
3. ALIENATE
4. CALL NAMES

Folks, there is a method of recruiting others to shoot abortionists which is so effective, so foolproof, that if I truly thought that the answer lay in seeing baby-killers shot or burned out, I would not write this article exposing it. But I am willing to expose it because even if I believed that shooting abortionists was what we as a movement ought to do —and I do not—this method of recruiting people to shoot is immoral. Those using it need to be exposed if they are doing it on purpose. If they are not, then they need to be corrected.

Now, what I do not know is whether those who use this method to provoke violence are doing it on purpose or out of sheer ignorance, sloth, or fear of how the world will mischaracterize them if they hammer out a true full-blooded position on violence and nonviolence. But when you read this four-step plan you will see that wittingly or unwittingly there is a group of pro-life leaders who are using it almost step by step and are, like it or not, producing a field of both potential and actual shooters. *The amazing thing about their method is that though it will produce shooters as surely as night follows day, those who recruit and commission the shooters can never be indicted for the killing!*

Their method involves four simple steps: frustration, polarization, alienation, then a demand that their opponents be consistent and shoot someone. Watch:

1. Draw an extremely pacifistic philosophical line in the sand to *frustrate* activists with endless debate of nonessentials. To begin this process it is crucial to make the issue revolve around what people *think* rather than what they *do*. Convince everyone that the only way to recruit shooters is to take a philosophical position other than yours. *Argue that any position other than extreme Pacifism is the same as shooting.* Then, buttress your theoretical position by condemning your opponents—activists who want to think through the issue—with bold-sounding slogans which are debatable at best. For instance, "*All* killing is wrong," or "Jesus was *never* violent," or "To kill the abortionist *is the same as* killing a child in his mothers womb." Keep your press releases focused on opposing violence, rather than calling people to positive concrete nonviolent solutions— things which used to characterize pro-life activism. If you must propose a non-violent solution, make it as vague as possible, like "Take up your cross, not your sword." It sounds great, no one can really argue against it, but in reality it gives you absolutely nothing concrete to do. This creates a fertile field of frustration.

2. *Polarize* the pro-life world by labeling everyone who philosophically disagrees with you a "shooter." If you tell people often enough that *their* position leads logically to killing an abortionist, or bombing the death-camp where he kills, they just might begin to believe you and explicitly take that view themselves rather than stay in the middle of the road or search for a sound, workable philosophical position. Once they actually take that shooting position fully, then voila! your seed is planted. But whether they do or not, the pro-life world is segregated into two hostile camps with those you now call "shooters" in the distinct minority, easily vilified.

3. *Alienate* those who are the slightest bit outside of your philosophical orbit, by condemning them as shooters and by warning others not to associate with them. Alienation is as important as polarization. Create the impression that because he disagrees with you about his *opinions* on force, then *any nonviolent activity* he might engage in is suspect and therefore worthless. By ostracizing him you prevent him from either joining or initiating any organized nonviolent course of action. By cutting off the person you have falsely labeled you leave him with no way to fight abortion short of violence, because no one will associate with him in a nonviolent project. He feels all alone. It's the old "idle hands" principle. Works every time for the Devil; it'll work for you too! Don't worry that most people will just drop out of activism altogether from the fear that you've planted and from disillusionment over all the senseless division you have fostered. The shooters will finish the job with or without an activist movement.

The field is plowed and planted, the sprouts are coming up and watered. Now the last key step is to take the potential shooter—whom you have created—and push him to bear fruit in a fully-actualized shooting. Here's how:

4. Take every public and private opportunity to call those who disagree with you cowards for failing to shoot abortionists—baby-killers—as their philosophy demands. Whatever you do, stay off the issue of the babies except to shame your outcasts for failing to protect them by the violence which they refuse to condemn and which they claim is theoretically justifiable. Of course the people whom you have carefully frustrated, polarized, vilified and ostracized actually do not embrace violence as their own course of action. Even the most outspoken among them simply say that lethal defense of human beings is not always wrong, so that lethally defending innocent helpless babies in the womb cannot be condemned out of hand as always wrong. *To push them over the edge you must never let on that you know this because your qoal is to build that frustrated desire to go out and kill the baby-killers, while at the same time keeping your own hands clean.*

When you debate them, refuse to consider the babies. Talk only about the "bigger issues," using those bold-sounding slogans like "*All killing is wrong.*" Let the people you have made outcasts be the ones who push the baby issue and justifiable homicide in general.

Then, by condemning them for failing to protect the babies with the violence which they say is theoretically legitimate, suddenly challenge your outcasts to be consistent. Tell people who have devoted their lives to defending children that to be consistent they must be either violent or gutless. Tell them again and again in your most emphatic and unctuous voice, "If you *really* believe what you say, then you should be willing to kill an abortionist yourself." Refuse to listen to any response they give, then follow up with, "See, not even *you* really believe your own words are true. So either be willing to follow your own logic, or just be honest and condemn violence." That's it! Shame them for not protecting children. Call them cowards and liars for saying it but not doing it.

The diabolical beauty of these four steps is that the more pro-lifers use this method of goading others to shoot, the less they themselves can be blamed for being in conspiracy with or even sympathetic toward the shooters. Sooner or later more and more will shoot baby-killers; meanwhile by speaking out in defense of abortionists while recruiting more and more shooters to go kill those abortionists a leader can make a well-paying career on both sides of the fence.

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I struggled long and hard with whether or not to report these four steps as if they were the result of a gleeful, deliberate choice. I finally decided to put it that way in hopes that many pro-life leaders and activists would see how their *actions* have followed these four points as if they knew exactly what they were doing and secretly were gloating over it. I'm sure that their intent is in no way to use deception to recruit shooters. But intentions are thin gruel when linked to faulty actions.

Let their foolishness be a warning to all of us to take the time to work through issues, thoroughly rather than letting the media and public pressure force us into half-baked boxes from which there is no good exit—self-righteous boxes that drive others to shoot child killers.

Hey, you feds looking for a conspiracy to do violence to abortionists? You're looking in the wrong place. But it really doesn't matter. You can't convict someone of conspiracy when they follow the four-step plan which most of the pro-life movement has unwittingly embarked on. All you can do is shake your head and marvel at such simplicity and wonder if they know what they're doing. They have invented the "foolproof crime." What will you arrest them for? Conspiracy to condemn homicide and arson too vigorously?

CONCLUSION: The way most of today's pro-life leaders are opposing violence is doing more to promote, groom and unleash the future shooters and bombers of America's child-killing industry than anything that Paul Hill could ever do with his Defensive Action Statement and the handful who signed it.

WARNING: the more someone demands that in order to work with him you must agree with his nonviolent *theories and arguments over who is the most passive,* rather than with a positive nonviolent game-plan, the more you should be suspicious of him as an agent provocateur—regardless of how well intentioned he might be.

MY ADVICE: The issue is not whether or not violence is justifiable. That will be argued until the end of the age. The issue is whether or not you will commit to nonviolence as the long-term answer you will give to the desperate need to reform the Church and stop our nation from murdering 4,500 innocent babies a day. I urge you to draw the line there in non-violent action and not in words—and to get to work.

And stop taking your eyes off the babies by arguing with these types or even by reading articles like this. Shoo, go on with you, get back to the business of saving innocent defenseless children. ■