Pro-Life Pastors and Leaders Declare Justice of the Use of Force

Pensacola, FL — Pro-life leaders from numerous states in the nation are publicly taking a stand with Defensive Action, a Pensacola organization which defends the use of force to stop abortion, in favor of defending the unborn with force if necessary. A statement on defending the unborn was produced and perfected by several pro-life leaders and is now circulating in the pro-life community.

The purpose of the declaration is to give leaders an opportunity to publicly stand for a much neglected Biblical truth which may eventually result in the saving of millions of unborn lives.

The declaration being circulated is as follows:

We, the undersigned, declare the justice of taking all godly action necessary to defend innocent human life including the use of force. We proclaim that whatever force is legitimate to defend the life of a born child is legitimate to defend the life of an unborn child.

We assert that if Michael Griffin did in fact kill David Gunn, his use of lethal force was justifiable provided it was carried out for the purpose of defending the lives of unborn children. Therefore, he ought to be acquitted of the charges against him.

Mike Bray, Roy McMillan, Matt Trewhella, Paul Hill, Regina Dinwiddie, Paul deParrie, Cathy Ramey, Andrew Burnett and others are standing behind the statement and are encouraging others to do likewise.

This statement has been developed for release to the masses of media expected to be present at the December 6 trial of Michael Griffin in Pensacola, Florida. Demonstrations and other efforts in support of those who defend the unborn with force are also planned for the Griffin trial.

All pro-life leaders and pastors who are interested in standing with Defensive Action should contact Paul Hill at Defensive Action at (904) 494-9441 for more information. All pro-life individuals willing to participate in the pro-life activities during the Griffin trial or be on the mailing list should call the same number or write to Defensive Action, P.O. Box 2243, Pensacola, FL 32513-2243.

Paul Hill

Griffin Changes Mind, Gets Attorney, Delay

Pensacola, FL — An anti-abortion protester charged with first degree murder in the shooting death of an abortion doctor outside a clinic has won a delay in his trial after agreeing to hire an attorney.

Michael Griffin, 31, was scheduled to go to trial September 20 for the shooting of Dr. David Gunn, but the trial has been postponed to December 6.

Griffin was denied an earlier motion for a delay based upon pre-trial publicity and lack of time to examine evidence.

Griffin has changed his mind several times on whether to use an attorney or defend himself in the case. He will now be represented by Robert Kerrigan, who asked for the delay to prepare for the trial.

Circuit Judge John Parnham granted the continuance on September 8, less than a week after refusing to postpone the trial. The judge did not issue a written order explaining his decision.

Griffin could face the death sentence if he's convicted in the killing.

Euthanasia Group Assists 2nd Suicide; Plans More

Seattle, WA — A Washington state euthanasia group recently helped two terminally ill patients commit suicide and is working with about a dozen other people who are also considering taking their own lives, a spokesman said on September 1.

The Seattle-based group, called Compassion in Dying, is the first group in the United States dedicated to assisting terminally ill patients commit suicide without pressing for changes in the law.

The group provides the patients with information about drugs and ways of taking them to assure a painless death, said Ralph Mero, executive director of Compassion in Dying.

But he said the group informs the terminally ill about hospice care, pain control, and other options besides suicide.

"We are not trying to promote suicide. We are providing the information to help these patients have a more humane and gentle death," Mero said.

Citing the group's policy of providing confidentiality, Mero would only reveal that the first person the group helped die was a cancer patient in his seventies. The second patient, he told a Seattle newspaper, was a well-known local resident.

Both persons died in August, the spokesman said.

According to the group's guidelines, to obtain help, a patient must be rational, terminally ill, and experiencing "severe, unrelenting suffering which the patient finds unacceptable and intolerable."

Mero said that during the suicides, he and other volunteers stay with the patients and their families, reading scripture, praying and providing comfort.

Mero said he expects the number of suicides to grow.

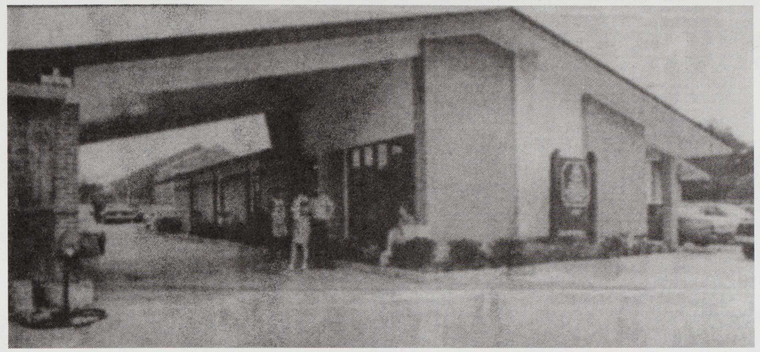
John McCoy, a spokesman for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle, condemned the group's activities.

"It creates a culture in which if you have AIDS, if you're disabled, if you're elderly, if you're terminally ill, you have less value — so why not lights out?" McCoy said.

Kenneth Vanderhoef, spokesman for Washington Human Life, a right-to-life group, called for a police investigation.

Under Washington state, it is a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a $10,000 fine to promote suicide or aid a person to attempt suicide, said Dan Donohoe, spokesman for the King County Prosecutor's office.

Clinic Closes in Louisiana



Delta Women's Clinic on Bennington Avenue closed on Sept. 3 and will not reopen until the clinic officials find a new doctor.

Baton Rouge, LA — Delta Women's Clinic, where activists on both sides of the abortion issue have squared off regularly in heated confrontations closed on September 3 when the clinic's doctor retired.

Clinic Administrator Esther McGuire said that, although the clinic's 10 staff members will be laid off, the closing and the layoffs are temporary.

She promised the clinic will reopen and all employees will be rehired — probably at another location — when a new doctor is found. McGuire said the clinic is expected to be closed for three to four weeks.

"I'm at the point where it's time for me to get on with my life," Dr. Richardson Glidden said in an interview Friday at the clinic, where more than 30 women packed the waiting room for appointments.

Pro-life activists expressed elation at the news. The director of Operation Rescue Louisiana called the closing "fantastic."

The clinic announced last month that it would be forced from its Bennington Avenue location because one of two out-of-town owners of the property has filed for bankruptcy, resulting in a sheriff's auction of the property.

"It's especially said for the women who are calling up this week," McGuire said. "We can't help them. That's hard."

She said patients have the option of going to Baton Rouge's other clinic — Acadian Women's Clinic — or to one of several clinics in the New Orleans area.

Glidden and McGuire said abortion protesters had nothing to do with the decisions.

Pro-life activists have been a fixture outside the clinic for years.

The protests climaxed in the summer of 1992 when the national anti-abortion group Operation Rescue staged a week-long series of protests at the clinic.

When the national group left town, Operation Rescue Louisiana (ORL) was formed to continue the cause.

ORL Director Bill Shanks said he wasn't aware that Glidden was retiring until contacted by the media.

"That is fantastic," Shanks said. "We had some idea that he may retire or relocate with the clinic. We're just rejoicing in the fact that the man has stopped."

Shanks said he hopes the closure turns out to be permanent, and that no doctors take Glidden's place.

"If they do, we will bring all the forces of God against them" he said. Operation Rescue will keep doing "exactly the same thing," he said. "Jesus said the gates of hell shall not prevail.

Abortionist Richardson Glidden

Silent Rescuers Held Longer

Cherry Hill, NJ — Two rescuers jailed since March after their arrest at a Cherry Hill clinic continue to defy a court order to disclose their names to authorities.

Municipal Court Judge Fred J. Levin sentenced the women to an additional 45 days in jail on the same day both completed six-month terms in the Camden County Jail for contempt.

"You're not getting out of the county jail until you identify yourselves," the judge told the women. "You alone have the key to the cell."

The women, who appear to be in their 20s or early 30s, have refused to cooperate with authorities and were brought into the courtroom in wheelchairs because they would not walk in voluntarily. They smiled and shook their heads six times when Levin asked them to give their identities.

"Their not going to change their beliefs," said supporter George Krail of Willingboro. "Every pro-lifer would love to be able to do what they're doing."

The women, along with three other demonstrators, were arrested March 19 at the Cherry Hill Women's Center after chaining themselves to a car outside the clinic.

At first, all five refused to give their names. But one woman was released a short time later after she became ill. Two men were later released after identifying themselves because they said they wanted to continue their anti-abortion activities.

Levin told the two women they could be released if they provide their names before their next court appearance set for October 12.

"I do not wish to keep you in jail any longer than needed, although you seem to have made the decision that's where you want to stay," Levin said.