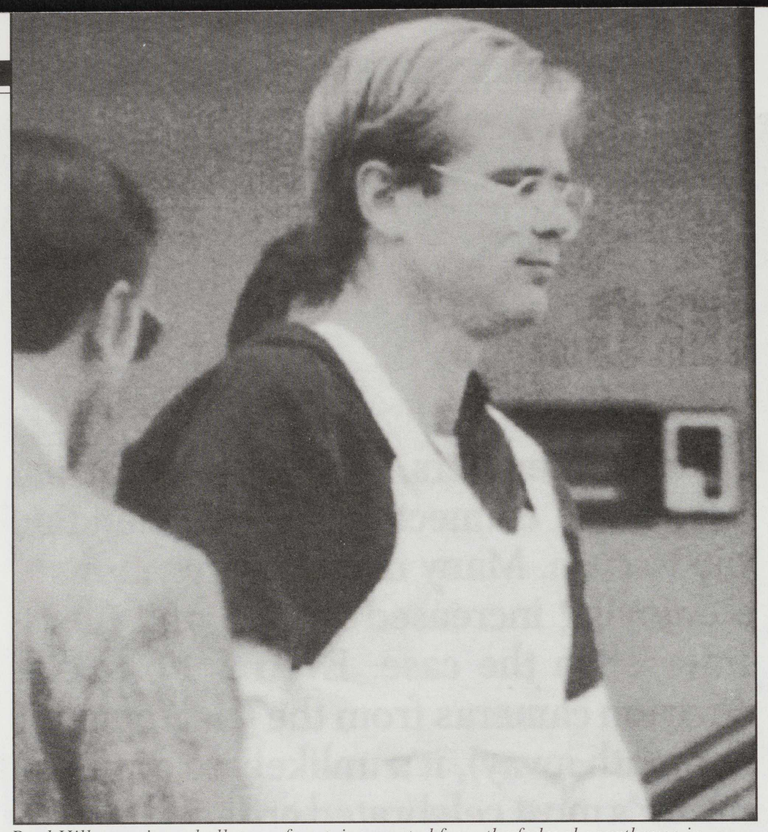
Paul Hill convicted of FACE violations



Paul Hill, wearing a bulletproof vest, is escorted from the federal courthouse in Pensacola, Florida. After using attorneys to argue for a "justification" defense and being denied, he proceeded to conduct his own defense.

Pensacola, FL — A Pensacola jury convicted Paul Hill on October 5 of four counts of violating federal laws stemming from the July 29 shotgun killing of an abortionist and his bodyguard, and wounding a clinic escort.

The shootings prevented the scheduled killing of at least 25 unborn children.

Hill faces another trial on state murder charges for the same shootings. Sentencing is scheduled for December 9. Hill faces a possible life sentence on the federal convictions and, if convicted, the death penalty on the state charges.

The trial began with the prosecution and the court conspiring to illegally prevent two clergy supporters of Paul Hill from entering the courtroom. Fr. David Trosch and Rev. Michael Bray, both wearing clerical collars, were both served with subpoenas listing them as possible witnesses for the prosecution — barring them from the courtroom. Neither man was called to testify.

The trial began on October 3 centering on Hill's arguments in favor of using the defense that the homicide was justifiable because it was necessary to prevent a greater harm — the death of the unborn child.

This prompted an impassioned outburst by the prosecutor. He argued that "others who believe like Paul Hill, although small in number and fanatical . . . it will allow them to debate the wisdom of justifiable homicide."

He further argued that the justifiable homicide defense should not be permitted because the government doesn't recognize the killing of unborn babies to be a "harm."

He declared, "The court and the defendant must accept the law as it is."

The court-appointed attorneys for Hill's defense gave a weak counter-argument, conceding, to Hill's dismay, that the justifiable homicide defense could only be used where the government acknowledges the harm to be prevented.

Judge Robert Vinson denied Hill's motion to use the justifiable homicide defense and to tell the jury why he did what he freely acknowledges doing. With this, Hill dismissed his attorneys.

The prosecution opened by declaring in a lengthy opening statement that Hill "executed two men in cold blood and tried to murder a third."

Hill simply introduced himself and said, "This government is unjust as it does not protect human life. To the extent we take part in this evil we will answer to God. May God have mercy on us all."

Hill sat down.

The trial proceeded through a series of prosecution witnesses telling how Hill bought a shotgun on July 17 and went to a local shooting range to practice; how on Friday, the day of the shooting, Hill had placed small white crosses on the grass strip near the street; how Officer Mark Holmes of the Pensacola Police ordered them removed and Hill complied; and how, at about 7:20 a.m., the abortionist and his bodyguards arrived at the clinic. Witnesses said Hill approached the truck and attempted to hand them a pamphlet called "Should we defend the unborn with force?" He then retrieved his shotgun from under a bush and fired three or four shots, then Hill moved closer and fired four more shots then walked away tossing the gun in the bushes.

Acting as his own counsel, Hill refused to cross-examine any witnesses or to offer any witnesses or testimony in his own defense.

According to Donna Bray, a Hill supporter and director of Defenders of Defenders of Life, Hill's conduct seemed to have an impact on the reporters covering the trial.

"It was obvious to everyone that Paul Hill was acting on principle and not trying to save his neck," said Bray. "He acted to save babies and if the government wouldn't let him say that, then there was nothing worth saying."

The trial concluded on October 5. The prosecution concluded their evidence saying, "This case is not about abortion" despite the fact that the charges were not murder but interfering with the provision of "abortion services."

Hill repeated his opening statement and sat down.

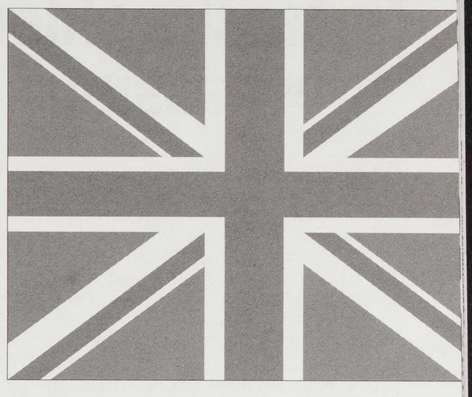
The jury deliberated for 2 1/4 hours before returning a verdict of guilty on all counts.

Donald Spitz, director of Pro-Life Virginia, who attended the trial, said, "Of all the men I have met in my life, Paul Hill is the finest. He glorified God in this life and now may be called upon by his Maker to glorify God in his death. Paul is quite willing to do this."

Donna Bray added, "I had a sense that God was doing something big through these events. You could see that the reporters didn't quite know what to make of this man. They don't often see someone willing to die to defend others. Paul Hill made them stop and think." ■

The Queen's orders

by Joe Wall



Britain — Despite their small numbers, English and Scottish pro-lifers continue to rescue.

On July 8, under the leadership of Father James Morrow of Humanae Vitae House, Scotland, eight of them returned to the South Manchester Nursing Home located in that city's posh suburb of Stockport. With eight rescuers, including American Tim Brophy, they managed to block the four doors to the clinic, two to a door.

Oddly, for some reason the police decided not to arrest that day. Instead, they simply dragged the pro-lifers away from the doors to allow the clinic staff and, later, the 'clients', to enter. Since this scenario was enacted a number of times, the pro-lifers were able to witness to the police at considerable length concerning the moral evil they were committing in protecting the killers of unborn children.

One young police constable was asked by Morrow what he would do if the current English law permitting abortion was changed to include the killing of two-year old children as well. This obvious reference to King Herod's slaughter of the innocents passed completely over his head, incidentally.

The constable replied stolidly that he "would enforce it (a law mandating the killing of two-year olds) if that were the Queen's Orders." One observer remarked that this was apparently the English equivalent of the American policeman's refrain at rescues, "I'm just doing my job."

On the following day, the same pattern—dragging rescuers from the door but no arrests—was repeated.

However, on the third day a new team of police did arrest the persistent pro-lifers and kept them in cells for the day. At nightfall, they were released pending trial.

Betal, the abortionist-doctor, lives in Stockport near the abortion clinic. The following week, Morrow and his people 'papered' the neighborhood with 500 leaflets explaining who Dr. Betal was, what he did, and asking for prayers for his conversion. Then on to Liverpool where, with only four people left, they were able to block the Merseyside Nursing Home temporarily. When the police came, they reverted to sidewalk counseling (called "pavement counseling" in Britain) the 24 women who entered the clinic that day.■

British Police torture priest

by Joe Wall

Bournemouth, ENGLAND — Brutal and forcible measures by the police, including at one point threats to break his fingers, were used by the police in their attempt to make Father James Morrow give his fingerprints, after a rescue by him and his group at an abortion clinic in Bournemouth, on the south coast of England.

Father Morrow, founder of the British rescue movement, led ten rescuers, including American Tim Brophy of Wilmington, Delaware, to the doors of the clinic where they knelt in the two doorways, blocking entry. When the police arrived, they pulled the rescuers away from the doors, but did not arrest. While this was going on, Tim and Anne O'Doherty walked into the clinic (they were assumed to be clients) where they were able to witness until the staff and police realized who they were, at which point the police dragged them out.

Eventually, police tired of pulling rescuers away from the doors and proceeded to arrest them. Even four pro-lifers peaceably standing on the sidewalk were grabbed.

The ten pro-lifers were held overnight in the police station cells for court the next day, at which time they were released on bail. When Father Morrow declined to permit his fingerprints to be taken, four husky cops seized this one small Scot, carried him to the fingerprint room and, using pain compliance holds, managed to secure a smudged palmprint. Father Morrow told them (the police) that they would answer to God for what they had done and that "they had no business to cooperate in keeping an abortion center open."

Among those arrested and kept in jail overnight was Mr. Stanley Smale-Tice, an octogenarian, who was charged with "causing an affray."

His reply was "I am incapable of causing an affray and therefore the charge is unsustainable."

The charge was dropped.■

Across America Pro-lifers are in jail!

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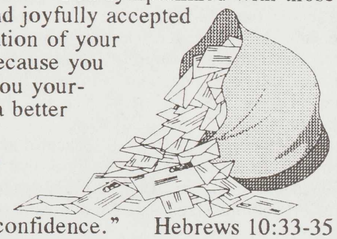

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