- FRC received 50 to 100 calls daily from major media requesting information and interviews.

- FRC staff were interviewed hundreds of times on radio and participated in some 20 talk shows each day.

- My daily 90-second radio commentary "Washington Watch" was heard on more than 400 radio stations.

- This past year, nearly every major newspaper in the country has run at least one article or op-ed piece authored by me or other FRC staff members.

- By year end, our flagship publication, *Washington Watch*, was being mailed to more than 400,000 homes all across America.

- Over 186,000 pieces of mail and 46,000 phone calls flooded into FRC during 1997. In response, we shipped more than 284,000 packets of in-depth resource materials on a multitude of family-related issues.

This is only a sampling of FRC's efforts. Here at FRC, we believe that defending family, faith and freedom is essential. But we have also discovered that it is costly.

The daily flood of requests FRC receives from legislators, concerned citizens, and others for help in understanding family concerns has accelerated our journey to the crossroads we face today.

Simply put, the crossroads we face is this: FRC relies heavily on the financial resources that come from end-of-year gifts. Unfortunately, gifts received by FRC during the last three months of 1997 will not enable us to fight all the battles we are anticipating in 1998. As I have promised you before, FRC will not live beyond its means or take on debt to meet its goals. Our work goes on at His pleasure and at the generosity of His people. If it is God's will and the desire of our supporters that the Family Research Council should retreat and retrench, we are prepared to accept that.

Above all else, FRC seeks your continued prayers that we will make the right decisions about our future path. And we hope you'll pray, too, about providing extra financial support and about opportunities to share the work of Family Research Council with others who might also be able to help.

If you have read my letters for any length of time, you know how much it pains me to mention so strongly the need for your financial support. But I feel I would be doing you a disservice if I failed to give you the opportunity to help decide which road FRC should take for the future. After all, it isn't my journey alone, but a journey we take together.

Advances by the liberal establishment in areas like homosexual rights, pornography, school prayer, and abortion have drawn FRC into one battle after another, and we fully expect that trend to continue. With so much at stake, we must continue to fight for the values that brave men and women of history have given their lives to defend.

Consider, for example, the major battle we've been urging in the area of abortion. Did you realize that this month marks the 25th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade? This landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court plunged America into the nightmare of abortion on demand.

We have now endured the shame of a quarter century of carnage as the lives of more than 35,000,000 unborn babies have been cruelly terminated.

Of all the principles for which family advocates fight today, none is more important than the sanctity of human life. Our Founders declared this right first and foremost, knowing that there is no liberty without life and no pursuit of happiness without the one who pursues it. I intend to do everything I can to see that FRC continues to defend the lives of those who are unable to defend themselves.

As 1998 begins, we at Family Research Council need your support to enable us to help stop the abortion culture in its tracks. We are pledged to halt the bloody footprints that have followed in the wake of abortion, including assisted suicide, euthanasia, eugenics, and experimentation on unborn children.

Some say the tide against us on these issues is too strong, that progress is unlikely and our cause is hopeless. To those who think this way, consider history -- recent history. In the early 1980s, President Reagan delivered a speech at an evangelical conference in Florida. He set the national media's teeth on edge when he said that Soviet-style communism, then spreading around the world, would fail.

President Reagan's political foes were dumbfounded at the "naiveté" of such a statement. Truth be told, many of his own staff felt the same way. The Soviet Union was bristling with power, its nuclear arsenal aimed at us and our allies, its army in Afghanistan, its surrogates wreaking havoc from Africa to Asia to Central America. Foretelling the end of this tyranny seemed like sheer madness.

But Ronald Reagan understood something that totally escaped the weary politicians, jaded news reporters, and cynical businessmen. Despite all its trappings, Reagan knew that the Kremlin was nothing more than an empty tower rising above the crushed spirits of the Russian people. Even as it projected its force around the globe, Moscow's ideology was rotten to the core, and the tower was ready to topple.

I see this example as an accurate portrait of the abortion culture today. The elite opinion in so many newsrooms, boardrooms, and university halls -- and among the beautiful people of Hollywood and Madison Avenue -- is that American men and women prize the right to abortion. But by every reliable standard, we know this opinion to be false. It is time, now more than ever, to join together and cause this tower of falsehood to tumble down.

On top of this basic lie are the other lies that 25 years of shame and injustice have proved wrong. First of all, abortion has not enhanced the well-being of women, nor has it led to stronger families. The abortion culture's claims of less child abuse, higher academic achievement, an end to poverty, and more respect between the sexes have not occurred either.

We must not allow America to accept 25 more years of this shameful charade.

Abortion however, is just one of many family-oriented battles needing our leadership in 1998. As my wife Carol recently wrote to the FRC prayer warriors, the number of challenges that FRC faces is increasing, not decreasing.

Again this year, FRC must be able to respond with strength and courage. With your help, FRC can continue to hammer away at the pro-abortion arguments and the destructive liberal agenda.