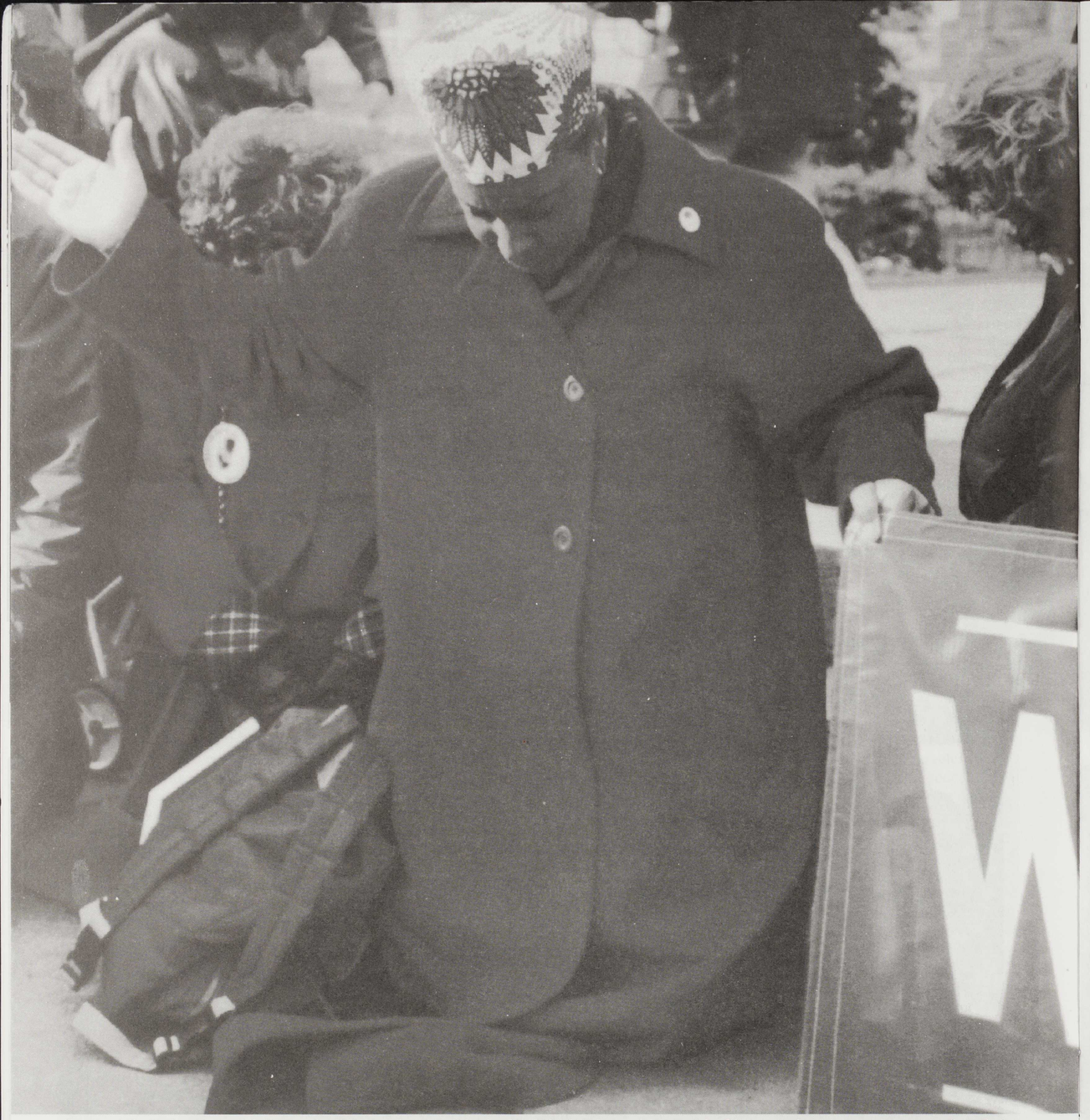

Barbara Bell, founder and director of Massachusetts Blacks for Life, leads prayer outside Clintons church. Paul deParrie

10,000 invitations to March for Life attendees for a first-ever pro-life protest at the Health and Human Services (HHS) building protesting federal funds for fetal tissue research experimentation through the HHS's National Institutes of Health. Over 250 attended.

Speakers at the event included ACLA North Central Director Monica Miller, Joe Scheidler of Pro-Life Action League in Chicago, Don Treshman of Rescue America, and Joseph Foreman, a co-founder of Operation Rescue and currently on staff with Operation Rescue/California.

At the end of his speech, Foreman led a group of ACLA participants and CALL members to a sit-in at the HHS building doors in protest of the grisly experiments.

There were 39 arrests.

On local television coverage, the sit-in and the Deadly Dozen list overshadowed that of the March for Life.

"The whole weekend was a great success," said Andrew Burnett, Northwest Regional director for ACLA. "For a tiny financial investment we got millions of dollars in exposure on abortion, abortionists, and the little-known practice of fetal experimentation. I'd say we accomplished more than we hoped for." ■

Paul deParrie

A member of Clinton's church argues with Barbara Bell, director of Massachusetts Blacks for Life. She later said she would begin picketing abortuaries.

Paul deParrie

Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life (r) stands beside mother and daughter, Betty and Sarah Smith. Betty Smith aborted Sarah's twin brother only to discover she was still pregnant with Sarah. The Smiths spoke at ACLA events and the March for Life.

Irish Youth Defense group joins with U.S. activists

Niamh Nic Mhathuna, spokesperson for the Irish pro-life group, Youth Defense, answers an interviewer's questions.

Youth Defense, Ireland's largest and most active pro-life organization, sent representatives to the pro-life activities in Wshington, D.C. during the commemoration of *Roe v Wade* in late January.

"We face the same struggle in Ireland as U.S. citizens faced 23 years ago," said Niamh Nic Mhathuna, a 26-year-old accountant, who spoke for the group.

The Offenses Against Persons Act of 1861, which is still in force in Ireland, outlawed abortion in all circumstances. In 1981, when a number of pro-life Irish were concerned that the European Court of Human Rights might attempt to overrule the law, amended the Irish Constitution to provide protection to the unborn. Both the law and the constitutional provision have been under heavy political attack since that time.

In a recent case, the Irish Supreme Court ruled that the pro-life constitutional provision allowed abortions where there was a threat — "perceived or real" — to the mother's life. This threat could include the mother's threat of suicide.

The Irish government has also passed laws that prohibit passing out "offensive" literature and have arrested Youth Defense members repeatedly for violations of the Act.

Youth defense has also organized the largest pro-life demonstration in their nation — a 12,000 person gathering in April of 1992.

Youth Defense representatives were sponsored by the Christian Defense Coalition and attended the picket at President Clinton's church, the March for Life, and other pro-life events. ■