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The December issues of TIPS all have had pretty much the same theme. In a season of peace we look at issues of peace and its opposites, violence and war; at a time when in the churches, scriptural passages about liberation of prisoners are read, we look at the prison scene; and as people look at nativity scenes that display a newborn and his parents, we look at issues of child-bearing, child birth and infancy. Because during this season, people often reflect on their religious faith, we also look at some religious issues and the interface of religious faith and human services.

#### Crime, Punishment, & The Prison Scene

\*The US crime rate, at least officially, has been declining although official crime rates are notorious for their unreliability. Nevertheless one wonders why the number of people in prison continues to increase. At present one out of every 520 Americans is in some kind of prison (Institutions Etc., 9/84).

\*In some eastern states, 97% of people arrested for felonies are prosecuted, while in some western states, only 8% are. Strangely enough, the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the US Justice Department said that "It would be unwise to draw any firm conclusions" from these data (AP, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 25/11/83).

\*If one is convicted in a US federal court of a crime and given a fine, chances are increasingly that one will get away without ever having to pay it. In 1982-3, only 34% of such fines were ever collected. It is primarily the wealthy who get away without paying their fines (Common Cause, Fall 84).

\*All over the world, prisons are often found on islands. One such prison in California is rather appropriately named Terminal Island Prison.

\*Many countries have had penal colonies, usually far away or at least on islands. A few still do, such as Mexico which uses the remote island of Islas Marias as a penal colony where prisoners may live with their families. Recently, there have been proposals to establish a similar penal colony in Canada. Suggested

sites have included an island off British Columbia, Uranium City in Saskatchewan, and Schefferville, Quebec. Strangely enough, the proposal is opposed both by civil libertarians of the left as well as by right-wingers. The former feel that it would violate people's rights, while the latter feel that it would "coddle" criminals.

\*A sociology professor at El Camino College in California recently suggested that violent offenders should be surgically blinded and then let loose again. They would then not be able to easily commit other violent crimes while also serving as a deterrent to others (Institutions, Etc., 1/84).

\*A professor of the philosophy of law at the University of Manitoba has proposed physical mutilation of criminals (such as breaking or amputating an arm or a leg, or fusing the bones in wrists, knees, or ankles) as an alternative to their imprisonment. He headlines these proposals under "Let's torture criminals." The one point he has is that such punishments may very well be less cruel than what gets done to people in prisons (Source item supplied by David Wetherow).

\*Two academicians have suggested in the May 1981 issue of the journal Free Inquiry in Creative Sociology that men convicted of crimes should be sentenced to a term in the armed forces instead of to prison. If there are no hostilities, they would be garrisoned in remote areas, and if there are they would be the first to be sent into combat and it would be no big loss if they did not come back. Those that did might have a reasonable chance at being rehabilitated (Institutions, Etc., 6/84).

\*The last time castration was seriously discussed in US courts as an alternative to prison was in 1975 when two child molesters told a California judge that they would submit to castration if they got off with probation. The judge was willing, but at that time, it was impossible to find a physician in California who would perform the operation. One wonders whether the medical profession's deep involvement in abortion and infanticide since 1975 would not render physicians more willing to perform such surgical mutilations today.

\*In 1984, auditors of the State of New York urged the Department of Correctional Services to find cheaper ways of providing medical services to prisoners. Considering how poor medical services notoriously are to people in prisons, one can see this step only as yet another element of deathmaking of an unwanted population segment.

\*An ancient custom in the prison systems around the world has been to force prisoners to build either their own prisons, or to build new prisons for other prisoners. This, for instance, is how Sing Sing in New York was built. However, the field of human management has always had a short memory, and we thus learn with astonishment that the plans of the state correction commissioner of Delaware to have prisoners build more prisons has been hailed as not only innovative but also rehabilitative. Said he, "My idea of rehabilitation is to give a person back his self-respect"--by building prisons for fellow prisoners. Wages for this work range from 15¢ to 60¢ an hour (NY Times Service, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 26/3/84).

\*The prison hulk is back! There are moves underfoot to reactivate the ancient system of putting prisoners into deactivated ship hulks, as was done by Britain, especially after it lost its North American penal colonies due to the American Revolution, and prior to its exportation of convicts to Australia. New York City has been given a permit by the federal government to use an old navy brig as a jail (Syracuse Herald Journal, 30/12/83).

\*Wealthy Nassau County on Long Island, something of a bedroom community for middle and upper class people who work in New York City, proposed to ship 200 of its prison inmates all the way across the country to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to have them imprisoned there at a considerable savings to the county. In turn, Nassau would then use its jail to let out to other counties, presumably ending up with a tidy profit. County officials noted that it would cost them less to send some of their prisoners to Harvard than to incarcerate them.

\*The private prison business. On 25 November '84, the CBS program '60 Minutes' ran a segment on 'Prisons for Profits' which documented the entry of private entrepreneurs into the operation of prisons on a contract basis with state governments. One of the corporations running such prisons has the euphemistic name Behavioral Systems, Southwest. These companies first got going with minimum security prisons, but are increasingly moving toward maximum security, and spreading into more and more states. Next thing, we might see governments contracting out executions to the lowest bidder. Not surprisingly, one private prison is located in an industrial park near the Houston Airport where it warehouses illegal aliens awaiting deportation (Institutions, Etc., 10/84)--all this for a mere \$24 a day per prisoner. In Memphis, Tennessee, a program for juvenile offenders is being run by a private corporation rather than by the county. This is supposed to be saving the county \$86,000 in the first year. Similarly, in Colorado, when a bond measure to finance a prison failed, E. F. Hutton (!) got together a number of private investors to fund the prison. The venture was described as "a very secure investment" (24/3/84 report on the NBC Nightly News). Obviously, this constitutes a big incentive to find and then keep people in prisons, and is yet one more expression of seeing devalued people as commodities to benefit valued people.

\*People in the prison business have often attributed prison violence to the lack of privacy in prisons. They have now welcomed a new scheme to put prisoners into self-contained little cubby holes that measure 4 x 4 x 3 feet, that cost only a fraction of a typical prison place, and that can be put into place in a fraction of the time it takes to develop typical prisons. The scheme has been hailed as a "cost effective, safe, private and truly revolutionary alternative to overcrowding" (Institutions, Etc., 10/84).

\*Commercialism in the prison business is outright euphoric. Aside from do-it-yourself easy-to-assemble portable jails, there is "Mr. Clear Out," a "state of the art tear gas hand grenade especially designed for indoor use," the "peerless handcuff," the "muffin monster" which grinds up whatever inmates put down toilets, and a prison food distribution service with the slogan "Justice is served." Apparently, Coca-Cola tries to sell Coke to prisons with the motto that "Time goes better with Coke" (Institutions, Etc., 10/84).

\*There is a little booklet out entitled Time to Build? The Realities of Prison Construction (1984). It is a critical examination of the assumption that our prison problems can be solved by building more prisons. It packs a wealth of information, some historical material, and a list of organizations in the field. Copies are available upon sending a self-addressed mailing label to the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, 250 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

\*A US District judge said that the rights to privacy of prison inmates are less important than the ending of sexual discrimination against women guards, and therefore, there now are more and more women guards watching nude male prisoners bathing. However, after having been "exposed" to this practice for a while, the male prisoners are said to be getting used to it (AP in Syracuse Herald Journal, 2/1/84).

\*Staff turnover at Attica Prison in New York State in 1982-83 was 78%.

\*In the US, there are approximately 300 residential centers, often called "training schools," for the education, management, resocialization and/or detention of teenagers who are out of parental control. Parents who can afford it can hire the services of facilities such as the Provo Canyon School in Utah. It may send three men into the bedroom of a youngster at 6 in the morning, put handcuffs on the youngster, take the youngster to an airport and fly him/her in a private airplane to Utah, where the youngster may live in almost total isolation that amounts to a medium security prison school, where education takes up 12 hours of every day. All this costs roughly double what it would cost for a youngster to attend college (AW, 16/6/84).

\*Parole Dance is a Canadian TV documentary about the Canadian prison system and its parole practices. A reviewer in the Toronto Star (11/3/84) thought it was one of the best Canadian documentaries on the subject ever. The bad news is that this review was carried in the entertainment section of the paper.

\*Apparently, some prisons have a policy that when a prisoner hangs him/herself, only medical personnel have the authority to order that the victim be cut down. In a state prison in New Mexico, a prisoner hung himself, and when prison personnel noticed it, it took them 10 minutes to find a registered nurse to take the prisoner down--after which he could no longer be revived (Institutions, Etc., 10/84).

\*New facts have come to light as to how the US government now keeps almost 17% of its federal prison population on a transfer merry-go-round from one federal prison to another. It transfers as many as 5000 of its 30,000 prisoners every single month, some several times in one month. Some people have sardonically referred to this as "travel therapy" (Judgment, 6/84). In order to transact this perversity, the government maintains one airplane, 15 buses and a fleet of vans and automobiles. A great portion of these 17% are political prisoners, i.e., peace demonstrators or war tax resisters, the others are prisoners who have leadership qualities. Prisoners are often transferred in the middle of the night without being told beforehand, and are shuffled from one federal prison to another, sometimes all the way from one coast to the other, or even from Hawaii to the mainland. One prisoner was shuffled among four prisons in 50 days. This cruel, and indeed hitherto unusual, strategy serves to disorient the prisoner, separate the prisoner from his/her attorneys and family, control the prison population, and diminish prisoners mentally and spiritually in every way. The US Supreme Court has upheld the legality of this practice. Justice Thurgood Marshall dissented from his colleagues and likened the practice to historic patterns of banishment and the transportation of convicts, especially political or religious dissenters, to remote penal colonies. Another irony is that prisoners who are devoted to non-violence, and are in prison because of this devotion, are often put into maximum security. As one observer said, "I think the government is more fearful of protestors than murderers" (NCR, 17/2/84). In a way, this makes the 43 federal prisons the Siberia of America, and reveals yet once more how incredibly low the government of our supposedly free and democratic society can sink. This certainly serves as a warning to us. If free and democratic governments can do this, what can governments do that are neither? It was opposition to the British custom of banishment and transportation that contributed heavily to the American Revolution.

\*In the 1970s, Amnesty International said that there was a worldwide epidemic of torture spreading across the world, being routinely practiced in 60 countries. By 1984, AI reported that routine torture had expanded to 100 governments of all ideological stripes, and had become more technologically sophisticated and more brutal.

\*In Maryland, the maximum security facility used for criminal offenders found by state courts to be "not guilty by reason of insanity" is actually called a "hospital" (Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center), and is run by the state Department of Health and Hygiene.

\*Not long ago, the famous former world chess champion, Bobby Fischer, got a lesson on US prisons. While out on a walk near his Pasadena home, he was stopped by police who claimed that he resembled a robbery suspect. When his answers did not satisfy them, they arrested him. Fischer claims that while in a Pasadena jail, he was denied food and water, tortured, and left stark naked for hours. He reported his experiences in a little booklet entitled "I was tortured in a Pasadena Jailhouse." Apparently, he refused to give his name, address and occupation, and they obviously were not chess players. Fischer claims that while deprived of clothes, he crawled inside the plastic liner of his mattress to escape the cold, but the police charged him with "destroying a jailhouse mattress." If TI customers have thought that TI services come expensive, they should note that Fischer reportedly charges \$1000 merely to open a letter and will not give an interview for less than a million dollars.

\*It has been alleged (and the evidence strongly supports it) that in November 1983, guards at the Marion Federal Penitentiary in Illinois, not far from St. Louis, went through the prison cell by cell and systematically beat every one of the 320 inmates (NCR, 4/5/84).

### They Can't Do That

When you've just been jugged by an upright judge  
For fifteen years or so  
For a job that was done by another gun,  
And you not in on the dough--  
You tell your friend as you leave the court  
How they framed you and left you flat,  
And doesn't it make you sore as hell  
When he says, "They can't do that!"

They slam you in a lousy, musty cell  
In the dirty county jail,  
And your lawyer comes and shakes you down  
For the last jit of your kale;  
Then they throw your frail out in the street,  
And sell the furniture in the flat--  
And then some bird in the old bull pen  
Says, "'Bo, they can't do that!"

Then you start your stretch in the stinking stir,  
With numbers on your back,  
And jump and dodge to the yell of a screw,  
As you walk the narrow track;  
Just kick because you get the slum  
While the cream goes to some rat,  
And some poor simp with the brains of a louse  
Will pipe, "They can't do that!"

When your time on earth is over,  
And you start your stretch in hell,  
You can hope they'll peg each and every egg  
That ever made that yell;  
And as they stand on the red hot coals  
And fry in their own thick fat,  
You can hope to stand by the Devil's side,  
and yell, "They can't do that!"

(In Irwin, 1930)

### The Death Penalty

\*The US Supreme Court is presently hearing a suit which charges that the newly popular method of carrying out capital punishment by chemical injection requires the US Food and Drug Administration to certify that the drug is "safe and effective" for killing. (Source item furnished by David Wetherow)

\*In New Jersey, there had not been a capital punishment execution since 1963. Anticipating its reinstatement, officials at Trenton State Prison in March 1984 conducted a full-fledged rehearsal of an execution involving executioners, witnesses, reporters, guards, and a condemned prisoner. Obviously, they do not want anything to "go wrong" when the real thing comes. Forty people applied for the position of official executioner, including a handicapped elderly man, several recent college graduates, and three women. The job specifications called for someone with "a medical background." The position pays \$500 per job (New York Times, 25/3/84).

\*With the increasing medicalization of the death penalty (as with lethal injection), physicians should really refuse not only collaboration with it, but even the appearance of collaboration. For instance, the lethal substances should not be taken from the medical supplies of a prison's pharmacy, physicians should not train executioners or identify injection points, nor should they even be present and/or lend themselves to pronounce death. Interestingly, this latter sign of non-cooperation would wreak considerable embarrassment upon the death-makers, insofar as the formality of the law requires an official **pronunciation** of death. At a 1984 execution in the state of Texas, where no physician was present, the death-makers ironically had to call upon a "justice of the peace" to pronounce the prisoner dead. This is certainly a far cry from the olden days when there was no equivocation as to who the executioner was, what he was supposed to do and what was the result--which did not require a physician or a "justice of the peace" to certify (Newsweek, 9/4/84).

\*The Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Center in Jackson sounds like the kind of place to which we would all like to go to find out what is wrong with us and what we need. However, horror of horrors, the name actually belongs to a prison--the very prison in which Georgia has been executing its prisoners since December 1983.

\*In March, 1984, the Republican State Committee in New York State sent a letter to the voters, stating "We in New York need capital punishment before it's too late. It's just too important!"

\*Business slumped at a restaurant in Lovelock, Nevada, so the owner tried to revive business by revising her menu to reflect interest in a local murder trial. Entrees included "the death penalty" (liver and onions), "the gas chamber" (chili burger), and "the electric chair" (french fries). As a result, business began to thrive (Institutions, Etc., 7/84).

\*A prison gift shop in Wisconsin sells small electric chairs, made by the prisoners. (Reported by David Wetherow)

\*At a Santa Clara, California, museum, visitors at an "electric chair" can pay to "execute" a robot by pulling a handle that simulates a fatal shock which sends the dummy into convulsions. A recorded voice asks passersby, "Who would you like to bring to justice?", and invites the viewer to "extract an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth"--a pleasure that costs them only 25¢. The controversy over the exhibit tripled museum attendance, and its director said, "We are pleased in a sense." (Source item supplied by Chuck Burkhouse)

\*Youth for Christ, an international religious organization, co-founded in 1944 by Billy Graham, has been promoting an "electric chair" as a "great youth programming tool, ideal for use as a crowd breaker." It is a wooden chair wired in such a fashion that the person in it can be given an electric shock so that they leap out of the chair. Users are advised not to let the fun turn into vindictiveness, but some youngsters who had their butts singed by it have sued for a million dollars (Institutions, Etc., 11/83).

\*A Catholic opponent of capital punishment said that, "If we really believe in capital punishment, we ought not to be afraid to hang the condemned prisoners in public outside of Our Lady of Mercy Church after the 10 o'clock mass or in front of the Church of Our Savior following evensong" (US Catholic, 6/84; reprinted in CS, 20/6/84).

### The Plight of the Homeless & Street People

\*There was an excellent article on homelessness in the Fall 1983 issue of the New England Journal of Human Services, providing detailed documentation of the problem. Ironically, an editorial in the same journal advocated a program of institutionalization as the answer. Among other things, the article documented the following.

In May 1982, 350 impoverished men were cast out of two single-room occupancy Chicago hotels when they were emptied for conversion to luxury housing. Relocation aid was \$10 apiece for about half of the men who were deemed to be eligible.

Two British researchers noted that throughout the 1970s, the homeless poor were increasingly being imaged as waste, residue, and garbage. In turn, waste is perceived as defiling, corrupting, polluting.

A great deal of documentation of de facto deathmaking of homeless people can be culled from Homelessness in America, a report of 1982 Congressional hearings.

\*One-third to one-half of the homeless are believed to be former "mental patients."

\*More homeless people in New York City live in shelters today than they did in the depression year of 1933.

\*Newsweek (29/10/84) ran a generally sympathetic article discussing efforts in various cities to get rid of street people by getting rid of the places that provide them some kind of minimal shelter. It also noticed that "official efforts to help only make things worse," and gave some examples. However, it then also referred to street people as "trolls," and noted that San Francisco had "targeted punks and drunks."



\*City officials in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, had the city benches shortened so that vagrants would no longer be able to sleep upon them. Said a city commissioner: "What we are doing is sending out a strong message to the vagrant community to find some place else to spend your vacation" (Syracuse Herald Journal 23/5/84).

\*One of the few places in Washington, D.C., in which homeless people manage to survive the winters are the heating grates on sidewalks. The federal government is now trying to cover these up so as to make it impossible for the homeless to sit, lie or sleep on them (In These Times, 3/10/84; source item supplied by Chris Liuzzo).

\*Many homeless people die on the streets in Los Angeles. If the body is not claimed, it is burned in the city crematorium by welfare recipients who are hired for this task. The bones and ashes are dumped into a pit that has no names or markers, and sometimes as many as 12 bodies a day are burned that way (CW, 52(4), 1984).

\*In Santa Cruz, California, well-off middle class young people have been banding together to attack street people, calling it "trollbusting." Some of these youths even wear T-shirts featuring a derelict. They are not too particular whom they bust, be they bag people, beggars, derelicts, or whomever seems to broadly fit the image of "street people." A newspaper columnist (Mike Royko) said he was not sure what was worse: the poor robbing the well-to-do, or the well-to-do beating up people because they are poor, but he sure knew which was safer: no trollbuster had as yet been arrested (Albany Knickerbocker News, 28/11/84; submitted by Chris Liuzzo).

#### War & Peace in the World

##### Lessons From the Past

At the end of their trials for war crimes in Nuremberg in 1946, several German war leaders and chief executives for Hitler made statements which, with only minor transliterations, could be said today and tomorrow by human service workers if they were put on trial and convicted of human service crimes.

Schacht, Hitler's financial genius, said: *At the conclusion of this trial I stand shaken to the very depths of my soul by the unspeakable suffering which I tried to prevent with all my personal effort and with all obtainable means, but which in the end I failed to prevent--not through my fault.*" (Conot, 1983, p. 474).

Sauckel said: *"I have been shaken to the very depths of my soul by the atrocities revealed in the trial. In all humility and reverence, I bow before the victims and the fallen of all nations, and before the misfortune and suffering of my own people, with whom alone I must measure my fate."*

*"My error was perhaps the excess of my feelings and my confidence in, as well as my great veneration of, Hitler. I knew him only as the champion of the German people's right to existence and saw him as the man who was kind to workers, women, and children, and who promoted the vital interests of Germany. The Hitler of this trial I could not recognize. Perhaps my loneliness and submersion in the world of my imagination and my work was a further defect. I only became a National Socialist because I condemned class struggle, expropriation, and civil war, and because I firmly believed in Hitler's absolute desire for peace and understanding with the rest of the world. I had no part in any conspiracy against peace or against humanity, nor did I tolerate murders or mistreatment."*

Keitel, the fieldmarshall, said: *"It is tragic to have to realize that the best I had to give as a soldier, obedience and loyalty, was exploited for purposes which could not be recognized at the time, and that I did not see that there is a limit set even for a soldier's performance of his duty. That is my fate."* (Conot, 1983, p. 475).

The other fieldmarshall, Jodl, said: "...The entire German Wehrmacht... was confronted with an insoluble task, namely, to conduct a war which they had not wanted under a commander-in-chief whose confidence they did not possess and whom they themselves trusted only within limits; with methods which frequently were in contradiction to their principles of leadership and their traditional, proved opinions; with troops and police forces which did not come under their full command, and with an intelligence service which in part was working for the enemy. They did not serve the powers of hell and they did not serve a criminal, but rather their people and their fatherland." (Conot, 1983, p. 475). One could almost transliterate this as saying, "I was asked to do an impossible human service job, carrying out destructive policies set by people without understanding or principles, who could always recruit someone else to do their bidding if I had refused to do so. I meant to do well and help needy people, not to serve the powers of death."

Frank said: "At the beginning...we did not suspect that our turning away from God could have such disastrous, deadly consequences. I beg of our people not to continue in this direction, be it even a single step; because Hitler's road was the way of political foolishness, the way of disaster, and the way of death. His path became more and more that of a frightful adventurer without conscience or honesty, as I know today at the end of this trial." (Conot, 1983, p. 474).

Albert Speer, Hitler's planning genius, said: "Today the danger of being terrorized by technocracy threatens every country in the world....In five or ten years the technique of warfare will make it possible to fire rockets from continent to continent with uncanny precision. A new large-scale war will end with the destruction of human culture and civilization. Nothing can prevent unfettered engineering and science from completing the work of destroying human beings, which it has begun in so dreadful a way in this war....Hitler not only took advantage of technical developments to dominate his own people--he almost succeeded, by means of his technical lead, in subjugating the whole of Europe....Therefore this trial must contribute toward preventing such degenerate wars in the future, and toward establishing rules whereby human beings can live together." (Conot, 1983, p. 473).

### Arms & The Superpowers

\*The hope of fools. German newspapers hailed the development of new laser weaponry, claiming that its accuracy will lead to "humanization of warfare."

\*More hope of fools. When British scientists first disintegrated an atom in 1932, it was hailed by the British press as presaging "nothing less than the complete abolition of irksome manual labor and a new era of prosperity for all" (Science, 28/9/84, p. 1465).

\*Most people seem enamored by the new capacities of so-called biotechnology or biogenetics, but on its dark side is that it has contributed to dramatic breakthroughs in the capacity for biological warfare. Such agents can now be produced relatively easily, cheaply, and reportedly at less risk to the producer (Science, 15/6/83).

\*The US army is searching for a drug that would enable soldiers to fight on a little longer before they die after they have received a lethal dose of radiation on the battle field (Syracuse Herald American, 2/12/84).

\*NATO naval commanders have been trying to gain authorization to fire the first shot if threatened with attack. At present, they may only engage in battle if they are attacked first (Philadelphia Inquirer, 28/3/84).

\*Five nations have the nuclear bomb for sure, Israel and South Africa may have it, but won't say. Twenty-eight others are only a few steps away; especially so are India, Pakistan, Libya, Iraq, Argentina, and Brazil (NCR, 23/11/84).

\*During the early 1960s, President Kennedy decided that the US should have 1000 new missiles. According to General Maxwell Taylor and the Pentagon's director of research and engineering at that time, the number was picked on the basis that 100 would look too small to a lot of people, and 10,000 would appear to be more than the country could afford, while 1000 is a "good round number in our culture" (Common Cause Magazine, 5-6/84).

\*If all the nuclear weapons existing today were converted to Hiroshima-size bombs, and if they were dropped one every three seconds, it would take 40 days and 40 nights before they were all used up (The Parley, No. 4, 1984).

\*A Denver artist produced an artistic panorama which contains miniature plastics of the entire US nuclear arsenal. She felt that such a display of 35,000 objects, such as missiles of all types, would have a more compelling impact than words and numbers--and she was right (CC, No. 2, 1984).

\*The Reagan administration has made enough decisions to commit the nation to a new kind of arms race, namely one in outer space, which is estimated to eventually cost the nation \$500 billion all by itself.

\*An article in the 9/11/84 issue of Science claims that President Reagan ended US efforts to ban nuclear tests because of the desire of the US to be free to continue testing. According to the article, one of the major functions played by nuclear testing is posturing, i.e., demonstrating one's skill and sending messages. For instance, during times of international tension, a nation may step up its testing program as a threatening gesture. However, testing is also considered essential to what the experts call "modernization of nuclear warheads," and a test ban treaty would thus "preclude modernization." Modernization is trumpeted as good for the world because it supposedly permits lowering the number of warheads and their explosive power, but of course we know that this argument is fraudulent insofar as no amount of modernization has resulted in a reduction of total explosive power.

\*In 1982, 2600 retiring military officers took jobs in defense corporations which they were once supposed to oversee. In turn, a large number of defense corporation officers have been hired as officials and advisers in the Defense Department and the Pentagon (The Parley, No. 4, 1984).

\*At the end of the 1984 Congressional session, an "acting assistant secretary" of the Army asked the Congress for a routine approval to shift \$66 million already allocated to other categories. One of these involved the funding of an "aerosol test facility." Because it all looked so innocuous and routine, the request was approved after informal consultation among Congressional leaders, without coming to the floor, and without formal votes, hearings or debates. Only later did it turn out that what was concealed underneath this apparently innocuous request was an unprecedented expansion of the Army's biological weapons research program, and that the money was going to be used for the construction of a sophisticated laboratory for testing extremely hazardous biological agents in aerosol sprays that can spread diseases such as encephalitis, yellow fever, hemorrhages, and others (Science, 7/12/84).

\*The weapons industry spent \$500,000 in order to prevent a local peace initiative in the Cambridge, Massachusetts, area from gathering enough votes to declare the area a nuclear-free zone, and 95% of the money came from corporations outside the local area. Even though the initiative lost, it got 40% of the vote (The Parley, No. 4, 1984).

\*Eight US Army soldiers, most of them sergeants, wrote a letter to the Stars and Stripes in West Germany defending violence on TV because "Our children need the capacity for violence...to ram a bayonet in the enemy's throat... to be able to rip a man apart with an automatic weapon...to set off explosives and destroy the enemies of our free society." The good news is that the paper got more letters rejecting this attitude than it has received on virtually any other topic. (Source item supplied by Chuck Burkhouse)

\*Perhaps one of the most hopeful signs in the nuclear armament issue is that an increasing number of children are becoming political and educational activists in speaking up against nuclear arms, in political lobbying, and in trying to educate the public (Environmental Action, No. 2, 1984). However, the children of Lawrence, Kansas, the setting of the destruction in the ABC-TV film, "The Day After," reported in a survey that the movie frightened them only some or not at all, and that it confirmed them in their beliefs that the US needed a strong nuclear deterrent (NCR, 31/8/84).

\*The city of Takoma Park, Maryland (population 18,000) became the first in the US to prohibit its funds from being invested in any industry that produces nuclear weapons. Recipients of city contracts must certify that they are not involved in the production of nuclear materials (UPI, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 14/12/83).

\*One can be very gratified that in the US, young men can be excused from military service as conscientious objectors. As we reported before, during World War II, a number of conscientious objectors were, in essence, tortured to death by the American military. In Switzerland, there is no provision for conscientious objectors, and so far, there also has not been a strong tradition that has propelled a great many young people in that direction. Amazingly, the East German government has quietly been permitting conscientious objectors to serve in construction units, and a number of earlier discriminations against them have been dropped. However, if they refuse even that, they must go to prison for 6 to 9 months, and an amazing 1200 young men have chosen this course, the vast majority out of Christian conviction (AW, 13/10/84)

### Arms & the Third World

\*Some facts on the cost of arms. In 1982, world military expenditures exceeded \$600 billion and supported 96 million soldiers. Developing nations spent almost as much on the military as on their education and health, and the rich nations give to the poor nations about 6% of what they spend on their own military. The single nuclear submarine costs as much as the entire annual budget of 23 nations. The single biggest recipient of US aid has been Israel, at a rate of about \$7 million a day for the last 10 years. In 1981, the Pentagon budget exceeded the gross national product of 142 nations. The money currently scheduled to be spent on the MX missile system could just about eliminate poverty in the US if spent in other ways. Each ICBM built could eliminate poverty in over 100,000 families for a year. In a single 12-second period, the US government spends as much on defense as it does on AFDC, SSI, Medicaid, food stamps, the earned income tax credit, the work incentives program, and the Job Corps combined, plus yet another \$72,000 (The Parley, No. 4, 1984).

\*Between 1979 and 1983, global military expenditures climbed from \$554 billion to \$663 billion, an increase of 20% in 4 years. More arms are imported into the Third World than grain (NCR, 4/5/84).

\*There exist currently more explosives per person in the world than food.

\*It has been estimated that the money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for everyone in the world who lacks these now would cost about the same as the world spends on arms every two weeks (Judgment, 3/84).

\*During the fiscal years 1979 and 1980, the Carter administration allowed only \$25,000 in commercial military sales to South Africa. During fiscal years 1981, '82 and '83, the Reagan administration authorized military sales totaling \$28.3 million.

\*The US is systematically arming the hitherto relatively peaceful small nations of the Caribbean. Hitherto, these nations have had virtually no military, but relied on extremely small police-type forces (Time, 19/3/84). One can predict with near-certainty that this will lead to the type of totalitarian, right-wing dictatorships of which Central and South American history have been full. Expect to read soon that one after another of these countries will be taken over by their newly-armed and expanded military.

\*In all the turmoil and the various hostilities in Central America, one overarching reality is largely overlooked by all parties, namely, that both the right and the left are engaged in large-scale genocide of their Indian populations. Overshadowed by events in El Salvador and Nicaragua, we hardly hear about the genocidal campaign of the Guatemalan government against its Mayan Indians, having displaced about 500,000, killed at least 15,000 in various massacres, and 50,000 having fled near starvation to Mexico (The Other Side, 7/84).

\*The English humor weekly, Punch, carried a very funny cartoon showing two African explorers armed to the teeth confronting two unarmed natives in loincloths, saying to them, "If you are peace-loving, why aren't you armed?"

#### Laughing Ourselves to Death: The Hilarious Aspects of the Arms World

\*They huffed and they puffed, and they blew--us up. Some years ago, when the US still tested atomic weapons above ground, it conducted one test in which it used 700 pigs dressed in military uniforms, and tested the effects upon them of heat, blast, and radiation (Sojourners, 9/83). Presumably, none of the pigs wore a general's uniform.

\*The US Department of Energy has vainly tried to find any promising way of disposing of nuclear wastes. One anthropologist suggested that an "atomic priesthood" of scientists and scholars should be designated to safeguard nuclear waste sites, replenishing their own number as they pass away. One of their chores would be to make up and disseminate myths that there are evil spirits lurking at the disposal site, and that it has a curse on it, so that people will stay away even after present language is no longer used, English can no longer be read, and an understanding of radioactivity has been lost (Science, 3/8/84). The amazing thing is that our materialistic intelligentsia today see no truth or even humor in the belief that human beings did indeed let a genie out of the bottle when they entered the nuclear arena, and that there may indeed be a curse on this human activity.

The Detoxification of War, The Arms Race & Nuclear Destruction

\*There has been so much deception by the US government and nuclear scientists about nuclear tests and the dangers of nuclear radiation that there are now more data on strontium 90 deposits in the bones of people of Nepal, Norway or Austria than about the people in the US who live directly in the path of the fallout from US test sites (Science, 25/5/84). One of the most evil geniuses of the nuclear age has been Edward Teller. Among other things, he claimed that nuclear fallout was about as dangerous to human health as being an ounce overweight or smoking one cigarette every two months.

A free government handout for the public said that "The body can withstand considerably greater doses of radiation than that from normal background because the effects are repaired almost as rapidly as they are produced." However, in a manual handed out to nuclear test site employees, workers were told, "There is no proof that living tissue is actually tolerant of ionizing radiation, even at background levels."

\*Apparently, a similar pattern of deception was practiced by the British and Australian governments in their nuclear tests in Australia in the 1950s. There have been allegations that mentally retarded people were imported from England and used as guinea pigs in the very forward positions near the nuclear explosion in order to see what impact it would have on human beings. Witnesses claimed they heard the most bloodcurdling screams coming from these forward bunkers after the explosion only about one mile away. Furthermore, some aborigines who had not been evacuated from the site apparently perished in the blast (The Age, 21/6/84; source item provided by Rob Nichols).

\*Amazingly, the European Strategic Program for Research and Development in Information Technology has somehow managed to give itself the same acronym (ESPRIT) that in French means "spirit," the same as in the Holy Spirit (Science, 16/3/84).

\*A euphemism applied by a US Air Force colonel to a Titan II missile was "a very large, potentially disruptive reentry system" (NCR, 2/12/83).

‡More views on tragi-comedic civil defense plans. We have commented before with amusement at the grandiose plans of the US government to survive nuclear war. We are told that the Environmental Protection Agency will monitor the environment for dangerous levels of radiation. The Department of the Treasury plans to issue stamps, coins, and currency. The Post Office has a 400-page survival plan, and all sorts of forms to track people and make sure that draftees will get their mail. The Department of Labor will make sure that there is no unemployment by sending workers where they are needed. The Department of Agriculture plans to provide a balanced diet to Americans consisting of weekly rations of 3 lbs. of meat, 6 eggs, 7 pints of milk, 4 lbs. of cereal products, 4 lbs. of vegetables, ½ lb. of fats and oils, 2 lbs. of potatoes and ½ lb of sugar. The National Credit Union Administration would try to control inflation and ration consumer items. None of these plans have made any provision for the obliteration of communication channels after nuclear war, even though virtually all transistor equipment will be non-usable, radio waves will be disturbed, and batteries will soon run out (CC, Winter, 1984).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has been preparing a booklet on emergency situations, including nuclear war, for children from kindergarten through 12th grade. The initial draft had to be withdrawn because it claimed that nuclear attack was a "manageable disaster," and that radiation is "somewhat analogous to sunlight--long-term exposure in one day can be harmful, while the same total exposure distributed over a few weeks produces a nice tan" (Environmental Action, No. 2, 1984).

Florida's civil defense handbook says that "nuclear weapons are similar to those of more conventional types insofar as their destructive action is due mainly to blast or shock." The plan assumes that dwellers of big cities have three days' warning before the bomb falls (one wonders from whom). They are supposed to move in an orderly fashion to small towns and rural areas, bringing with them picks and shovels, and their important papers wrapped in plastic. If traffic is heavy on the way, they need not worry because "service to stalled cars will be available." Once they arrive, they must quickly start digging holes in the ground for shelter. For instance, 50,000 people from the Hollywood/Fort Lauderdale area are supposed to evacuate to the tiny town of Frost Proof, population 3100. Recently, 75 people in 25 cars tried to test the plan by descending on Frost Proof and found that it has no hospital, no radiation monitoring equipment, only 4 police cars, and a big problem with toilet facilities (Common Cause, Fall '84).

The Utica (NY) civil defense plan against a nuclear attack includes feeding refugees, survivors and those waiting for the radioactivity to decline by sending out daily orders for 1000 hamburgers and 1000 cups of coffee from fast food restaurants, especially since its own shelters no longer are stocked with food or water (Syracuse Herald Journal, 22/11/83).

\*The student body at Brown University in Rhode Island held a referendum on Friday, October 12, 1984, on the question of whether the university should stock cyanide tablets for students to take in case of nuclear attack. The students approved the stocking of cyanide pills by a 3:2 margin. The university administration says that they will not stock such pills.

### The Slaughter of the Innocents

#### The Slaughter of the Unborn

\*In the absence of war and famine, one could almost say that the most dangerous place for a baby to be these days is in its mother's womb. 54.8% of pregnant women who walk through the front door of the Toronto General Hospital end up having abortions. Obviously the place is an extremely dangerous one for unborn children (The Interim, 11/84).

\*Few people, in Canada or elsewhere, seem to be aware that the 700,000 abortions performed in Canada since 1969 were performed on the basis of a 1969 amendment to the Canadian criminal code which had been explained by the then Justice Minister in the Canadian House as follows: the bill "does not authorize the taking of fetal life; it does not promote abortion. It permits it under the restricted circumstances where the mother's life or health might be in danger" (Pro-Life News, 7/84).

\*In Canada, the federal office of the Secretary of State dispenses about \$10 million a year among 600 groups concerned with women's status, most of which are related to women's liberation, such as wife-battering. However, in 8/84, it turned down a project which promoted full-time motherhood by housewives, and it was quite explicit as to why: the project "appears to be supporting a way of life or a concern for the family unit, rather than actually promoting the status of women." It also turned down a proposal by the same group to work on laws limiting pornography.

\*In Japan, a new drug, administered as a small vaginal suppository, has been approved that within 24 hours induces abortion as late as the sixth month of pregnancy. It will be marketed in Canada by Searle, according to media reports (Pro-Life News, 7/84).

\*There is now a new method to perform an abortion, namely the direct injection of a huge dose of the heart drug digoxin into the heart of the fetus, causing the heart to stop and thereby killing the baby in the womb. Innovators of the method report that the procedure "has reduced the number of live births following abortions" (NCR, 7/9/84). Digoxin is the same drug that has been widely used by various medical and nursing practitioners to secretly kill people, including the several dozen infants at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. This development underlines again that the difference between killing and healing is coming down more and more to when a treatment is give and how much of it.

\*A report compiled for the European Parliament states that in Europe, too, babies are being aborted by hysterectomy and then experimented on, often while still alive. It is also alleged that women are being paid to become pregnant in order to be aborted for such research purposes (Pro-Life News, 7/84).

\*The Syracuse Herald Journal (26/2/84) carried the diary account of a 37-year old woman who wanted another child but aborted her pregnancy when she was told that the child might have an abnormality. At the abortion clinic, she encountered a young woman who also had an abortion who sustained herself through her ordeal by gazing at a picture of Jesus and a photograph of Barry Manilow, a rock singer.

\*The latest judicial atrocity occurred in Illinois where a state law defining a fertilized human ovum as a "human being" was struck down by a federal court which labeled the term "human being" as "constitutionally offensive," and instead defined the fertilized ovum as "an individual organism of the species homo sapiens" (AUL Newsletter, Fall '84). We might note that the 1973 Supreme Court decision on abortion did not deny that unborns were humans, but only that they were "persons."

#### OBITUARY FOR A LIVING CHILD

(This piece was written for Christmas 1983 by our friend of many years, William Bronston, MD, a passionate advocate for justice who helped bring the Willowbrook atocities into public view in the 1970s. He now directs Project Interdependence in California, which promotes positive attitudes towards handicapped people among youth.)

#### ORIGINS

Newborn Baby Girl

Name:

Diagnosis: Spina Bifida and possible Hydrocephalus

Description: sleeping quietly, rosy color, sucks well, head somewhat small, good cry, meningomyelocoele lower back, heart and pulse strong, upper extremities reflexes good, lower extremities reflexes absent

Treatment: corrective surgery for spinal defect and intracranial shunt, Tender Loving Care, normal nourishment, medical surveillance during newborn period to prevent infection and monitor post-surgical course

Prognosis: Guarded, lower extremity paraplegia, urinary and bowel incontinence, possible brain involvement due to pressure and birth defects, delayed development, degree not assessable at this time.

Plan: .Intense medical management

.Support to parents and home

.Infant stimulation program

.Serial evaluations every three months to evaluate abilities, developmental strengths and service needs



REALITIES

Diagnosis: Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus  
 Treatment: None  
 Prognosis: Mental Retardation, epilepsy, pain, death  
 Plan: .Withhold treatment  
 .Prepare parents  
 .Retain lawyer  
 .Prepare an explanation to:  
 - optimistic medical staff  
 - concerned friends  
 - 10 million families with thriving children who have disabilities  
 - 200,000 U.S. citizens with Spina Bifida  
 - 14 state and federal judges  
 - the general public of America

Baby Jane Doe is dead  
 She died on the Spartan Plain  
 She died in the Medieval mud  
 She died in the atomic age medical school texts  
 She died in the Christmas issue of Glamour and Cosmopolitan magazines  
 She died in her parents' eyes and hearts  
 She died in the highest court in America  
 She died in the national news  
 She died with the agreement that she would not be president

Baby Jane Doe died this day. We will bury her soon...

when the opening the Court left in her back fills with contagion,  
 when the fluid pressure in her brain the Court left to build reaches highwater,  
 when she stops crying,  
 when she stops breathing,  
 when her heart stops,  
 When she is 3 months old, or 2 years old, or 20 years old, or...

EPILOGUE

She died this day  
 because America had no more room for life  
 no more room for imagination  
 no more room for truth  
 no more room for children  
 ... no more resources for people

She died this day. A Baby Jane Doe died today,  
 sentenced by superstition, ignorance, egotism, misinformation, property  
 rights...

There is no appeal, no Executive stay of execution.

Let the incense wisp into the night we have brought

Name: Baby Jane Doe  
 Diagnosis: Female child  
 Prognosis: Slow Death  
 Treatment: None  
 Plan: Next

Let us celebrate Christmas America  
 A child has come and died  
 Let us weep together.

### Slaughter of The Little Children

\*A 1983 US national survey reported that 2.8% of parents had threatened at least one of their children with a gun or knife, and 1.9% had used it on the child.

\*Child abuse has also become massive in France, where it is estimated that two children die from it every day (AW, 17/12/83).

### Slaughter of Our Elders

\*A young physician was visiting his grandmother in the hospital affiliated with Cornell University when she suddenly took a turn for the worse. When he tried to administer cardiac-pulmonary resuscitation, a staff physician, claiming that he was under orders not to provide the woman with emergency care, ordered him to leave, and the woman died. State investigators conceded that there "may be some merit" to claims that such a practice could, among other things, be motivated by a desire to minimize costs (UPI, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 6/6/84).

\*A retired coal miner who, like many members of his craft, had suffered severe lung damage, was only able to survive by wearing an oxygen mask at all times. In 1984, a girl was convicted in New Jersey of having robbed him when she was 14, and then cutting his oxygen line and gagging him so that he died from suffocation. She denied the offense throughout the trial and showed no affect when the verdict was returned (Syracuse Herald Journal, 16/3/84).

\*On his own initiative, a nurse at St. Michael Hospital in Milwaukee disconnected the respirator of a 78-year old man who had had a stroke, and for whom the nurse had been caring for 18 days and who was in a coma. The nurse was charged with--"practicing medicine without a license," and was sentenced to 20 months probation (New York Times, in Providence Sunday Journal, 23/9/84).

\*In a Hollywood, Florida, nursing home, a 79-year old man shot to death his 62-year old wife who was suffering from "Alzheimer's disease." The local grand jury refused to vote for an indictment, and the man went free (New York Times, in Providence Sunday Journal, 23/9/84; source item submitted by Sheila Brown-Nett).

\*In La Jolla, California, an elderly woman strangled her 92-year old bedridden husband with a nylon stocking, and was sentenced to five years probation (New York Times, in Providence Sunday Journal, 23/9/84; source item submitted by Sheila Brown-Nett).

### Miscellaneous Deathmaking

\*In its sanctity of life workshops and similar events, the Training Institute has taken the position that life and death are mutually opposed and indivisible entities, and that it is imperative to take a cohesive stand in defense of life and against all forms of deathmaking.

On his September 1984 trip to Canada, the Pope came out more clearly perhaps than ever before with a similar position, that even tied respect for lives of handicapped people to the imperative of their fullest possible integration. "I would like now to say once again clearly and forcefully: the handicapped person is a human subject in the full sense with all the innate sacred and inviolable rights that that entails....We must facilitate his or her participation in all facets of social life and at all possible levels....In practice, this presupposes the absolute respect for the human life of the handicapped person from his or her conception through every stage of development....You seem to be well looked after

help and encouraged to rediscover a taste for life. I cannot help but think... of all the other handicapped people in this country and in the world; of the mentally handicapped, of the gravely ill, of those who have injuries so serious that there is no human hope for improvement but who have the right to the same respect for life; of the handicapped who are defenceless, of children waiting to be born, and of the elderly on whose behalf I would like to say: We have the right to birth, we have the right to life...

The only major elements missing from this statement in order for it to become fully cohesive would be a condemnation of war and capital punishment, and an exaltation of personal non-violence to the point of the surrender of self-defense (The Interim, 12/84).

Sadly, a small number of priests wrote that they were not attending one of the Pope's appearances out of protest against the Pope's opposition to abortion and divorce. Even the provincial superior of the priests and brothers of the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection thought that abortion should be approved.

\*On the investigative TV program "60 Minutes" on 6/5/84, the history of the rightist terror in Argentina was addressed. Thousands of Argentinians, most of them apparently innocent, were abducted, tortured, and murdered. Argentinian society largely ignored the phenomenon. When mothers of persons who had disappeared began to demonstrate on a regular weekly basis in public, people would simply ignore them. Now, the phenomenon has become history, and people in Argentina treat it as a bygone event of the past, like something you read in a history book that happened before your time, rather than something one has lived through. The entire situation reminds us dramatically of our own ongoing genocide of societally devalued people which is being overwhelmingly ignored, including by people who are in an excellent position to know about it or who should be in advocacy roles, such as human service workers.

Argentina has generally been described as a Christian and Catholic country, and in this lies yet another lesson. Although the political right has commonly been perceived as identified with religious conservatism, and thus also with conservative Catholicism, in Argentina, as well as elsewhere in Central and South America, the right has killed huge numbers of devoutly Catholic Christians, sometimes going as far as killing worshippers in church, or bombarding churches while services were in progress. What all of this tells us should have been no surprise, namely, that people whose true religion is the worship of power will not be restrained by their nominal religious membership, or the fact that they had previously engaged in religious practices as long as these did not conflict with their power allegiances. Ultimately, it is a person's true religion that overrides any other or external index of religious participation with which it should come into conflict.

\*We have commented before on the Canadian government's policy of genocide of some of its Indian populations, especially in the prairie provinces. For instance, oil company workers have apparently been instructed to bulldoze the Indians' traplines and scare away game and the government has been accused of letting fires burn in Indian hunting and trapping areas, all in an effort to alienate the Indians from their lands and undermine their livelihood. An Indian leader said "Genocide isn't just shooting people or gassing them. It's also contributing to a slow but inevitable death of a culturally distinct group of individuals" (Toronto Globe & Mail, 12/4/84).

\*The National Opinion Research Center has been asking a different but related question on euthanasia since 1947: "When a person has a disease that cannot be cured, do you think doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his family request it?" In the 1947 survey, 37% of the respondents answered yes. By 1973, slightly over half agreed, and in 1983, 63% of the respondents were in favor of letting the doctor end the patient's life (New York Times, in Providence Sunday Journal, 23/9/84; submitted by Sheila Brown-Nett).

\*In March, Colorado Governor Lamm was reported all over the world to have said something to the effect that elderly terminally ill people have a duty to die. The governor and others claimed that he had been quoted out of context. In a way he had, and in a way he had not. The fact is that Lamm has taken a number of pro-death positions over a period of many years, and that he has tied his positions on life supports very heavily to economic considerations. He had been a pioneer in the political implementation of abortion, and has advocated policies which would contribute much more deathmaking to the poor than to the rich. In denying funds to provide life supports, he has not called for reductions and savings elsewhere, as in armaments. He has also called for a dramatic reduction in the number of physicians, which would certainly be much harder on the poor than the rich. Thus, while he may not have said the exact words above that were attributed to him, his sentiments have been highly consistent with exactly those words.

Because Lamm is a tall, handsome, well-dressed, eloquent, well-informed, and expressive man, he could become immensely dangerous. He might very well be recruited someday into national leadership. His wife is a newspaper columnist who seems to parallel his own views. Much of this came out very clearly in a "60 Minutes" TV program on the couple broadcast 16/9/84.

\*For an example of a handicapped person arguing strongly for the right to be helped to commit suicide, one can refer to an anonymous article in The Disability Rag of Fall, 1984 (p. 20-23). The article also suggests to readers that if they are considering suicide, they should contact the Hemlock Society based in Los Angeles, and gave its address.

\*An educated and skilled pilot was in an airplane accident and hurt his legs so that he had to start using a wheelchair. While he was recovering from this accident, he was also in an automobile accident and hurt himself further. As a result of the auto accident, physicians had to remove the casts which had been put on his legs after the airplane accident. When they did so, they discovered gangrene, and decided to amputate one of his legs. He refused, and as punishment, the medical profession placed him on a gurney in the hall of the hospital, and literally left him to die. He received no medical treatment, and those nurses and nurses' aides who were assigned to him were themselves being punished for their lack of cooperation with the medical profession. He did not even receive good nourishment. Despite this treatment, he continued in his resistance, and it was only when very prestigious and influential contacts of his (e.g., a high-ranking naval officer and a powerful lawyer) found out about his case and threatened the hospital with legal action that the physicians ceased their death-making activities and applied some other treatments. By removing some of the flesh from his legs rather than amputating them, he recovered and was able to walk again. This is an example of how the medical profession has become so power-hungry and is so idolatrous in its presumption of control over life and death that even relatively valued persons will be at risk of deathmaking if they threaten, or even simply fail to cooperate with, the medical profession's activities and schemes. (Story related to us by Reg Lukasik)

\*Whether nourishment can be withheld from so-called hopelessly ill patients became an issue in California, New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts, and decisions to discontinue nourishment were approved in each of these states. (Source for all states except New York was the American Journal of Nursing, 10/84.)

\*Language that is often used in conjunction with deathmaking, or is sometimes even used inappropriately in conjunction with legitimate withholding or withdrawing of life supportive treatments, includes phrases such as "hopelessly handicapped," "insufferably handicapped" or predictions that after treatment, a person would lead a "pain-wracked, pitiful, doomed life." All three phrases could be encountered in an article on such treatment dilemmas in Woman's Day of 24/4/84. Obviously, regardless whether such treatment is indicated in a particular case or not, the language reflects and promotes a bias against life and in favor of death.

\*Almost stereotypically, we are bombarded with claims that scientific progress has created such totally new situations as to demand a new set of moral principles, implying that the ancient Judeo-Christian standards have been outdated and invalidated by science.

With few exceptions, such claims are deceptive at best. A new morality is only needed once one decides to reject key premises of the old morality. For instance, the old morality insisted that a woman should only conceive a child from her husband, and preferably within the context of a loving conjugal act, and certainly only a natural one. Only if one rejects these premises will there arise new ethical issues of what happens if a man has fertilized the ovum of a married woman in a petri dish, the embryo was then implanted into yet another married woman, etc. Another example is the June 1984 case of the medical laboratory in Australia that had two human embryos that were the result of in vitro fertilization of a California woman by an anonymous donor. Shortly after the procedure was performed, the woman and her husband died in an accident, and now the lab was faced with the following questions: should they kill the embryos or implant them in a "surrogate mother"? If the children did live, could they eventually sue for their biological parents' estate, which is sizeable? The laboratory planned to hold a medical ethics committee meeting the next day to resolve these issues, and we can expect entire conferences devoted to these absurd cases that are lower-order derivatives of the rejection of Judeo-Christian morality.

\*One of the deceptive interpretations associated with deathmaking to which people in the US have been massively subjected, mostly since the controversy about the Infant Doe regulations in March 1983, is that prior to that date, decisions about the lives and deaths of infants were "highly private," but that the federal government has now begun to destroy this privatization. The truth is exactly the opposite: at least into the decade of the 1970s, systematized medical deathmaking was relatively rare, and medicine was governed by such an intense commitment to life that a consensus existed that was thoroughly on the side of life, prepared to err rather on the side of excessive warfare against death than premature withholding or withdrawing of treatment. Furthermore, it was well understood that there was an age-old societal policy that forbade deathmaking, and that did not view the parents or the physicians, singly or in combination, as the sole or ultimate arbitrators of the right of a baby to live. Suddenly, all these realities are being denied and, in fact, violently turned upside down. (For an example, see Woman's Day, 24/4/84.) The current tendency toward the privatization of deathmaking has been relabeled as an ancient tradition, and the relatively modest efforts to counteract such deathmaking have been termed unwarranted or perhaps even public interference with an ancient tradition.

\*The 3-day Sanctity of Life workshops conducted by the Training Institute have helped a large proportion of participants to move to a more coherent position on the sanctity of life, by their own testimony. For instance, many such participants who previously supported abortion rejected it as a result of one of these events. However, until very recently, no one had ever told us that our deathmaking coverage in TIPS has had the same effect on them. Our guess is that those who are deeply committed to abortion are more likely to eventually drop their

subscription. Now, one of our readers has told us that TIPS has been instrumental in her change of view. She had deeply wrestled with the issue of capital punishment and come to reject it, and TIPS helped her see how she could not continue to favor abortion while opposing capital punishment. This testimony has moved us deeply, and doubly so because of the following fact: someone had made a donation to the TI to subsidize the TIPS subscription of someone who really wanted it but could not afford it, and it was this particular person whom we had selected to receive the subscription.

### New Life

\*Who are the women who volunteer to bear a baby for another couple through artificial insemination from the husband of the couple? An article in the American Journal of Psychiatry (1/83) found that they are mostly young women (mean age 25) who were married (56%) and Catholic (57%), who had previously been pregnant (91%), with at least one live birth (81%) and generally found pregnancy to be a very blessed experience. However, 26% had had an abortion, and 9% had given a child up for adoption. They tended to be near the lower end of income, a significant proportion was unemployed or on welfare, and 89% wanted a fee, mostly at least \$5000. (Source item submitted by Ray Lemay)

\*Because a fertilized human ovum can develop not only inside the womb but also outside of it, it is theoretically possible for a man to "bear" a child, though of course the child would have to be "delivered" by something like Caesarean section. We should be very surprised if some men--probably with feminine tendencies--would not try to do this someday soon.

\*A growing number of corporations are helping their employees to adopt atypical children. They provide such supports as maternity and paternity leave, and the legal costs of adoption. Companies that have done this include IBM and Hallmark Cards.

\*In the US, there are approximately 40 couples waiting to adopt every adoptable infant. One result has been that some unscrupulous parties kidnap or defraud parents of their babies and, in essence, sell them to eager adoptive parents. One such crook, who operated a topless bar in Texas, went one step further and charged couples \$4000 for infants that never even existed. On the more positive side, many adoptive parents, both married and single, are adopting infants from Third World countries (Newsweek, 13/2/84).

### Miscellaneous Follow-ups & Updates

#### Follow-up on the Post-primary Production Economy Issue

\*In the late 1800s, the practice developed in prisons to engage the prisoners in unproductive but highly visible labor, which would serve the simultaneous purposes of dissipating the prisoners' energy, and symbolically demonstrating to the public what bad things would happen to them if they were imprisoned, so as to keep the population fearful and under control. One of the most popular ways in which this was done was to put prisoners to operating treadmills which turned windsails that were mounted on top of the prison so as to be seen by all around.

Contemporary human service can be thought of as doing the same thing to human service workers, and for only slightly different reasons. In vast numbers, human service workers are engaged in work which is almost totally non-productive--indeed, counterproductive, in that more people get made handicapped and devalued as a result of entry into human services than get habilitated, which is highly visible to the public (e.g., virtually any human service vehicle has its agency name prominently on it), and which serves the hidden purpose of circulating the wealth in order to keep the post-primary production economy going.

### Self-advocacy Follow-up

\*In the Oct. 1984 issue of TIPS on the topic of social advocacies, we spoke about several problems with the use of the term "self-advocate" to refer to mentally handicapped persons. As a follow-up to that item, we would like to note some additional role-related problems with both the concept and the language.

Many handicapped persons who become very involved in the self-advocacy movement and who become identified as "self-advocates" end up role-cast into a self-advocacy identity, in which they may spend the majority of their productive time in activities related to the self-advocacy movement, whereas other people would spend the majority of their productive time in a job and in family life. Thus, in answer to the question, "What do you do?", where most non-handicapped people would answer something like, "I'm a bank clerk," or "I'm a housewife and mother," or "I'm a teacher," the handicapped person might say, "I'm a self-advocate." By being lionized for investing so much of his/her identity into "self-advocacy" activities, and perhaps by not being assisted to procure work which could give another and more valued identity, the person is further stigmatized as being different, and therefore marginalized and possibly even segregated.

### Update on Homeless & Runaway Children

\*Parade (7/2/82) had a very sad article on runaway children. We have reported before that an estimated 1 million children run away from home each year. Their average age is 15. The majority (a) are never reported as missing by their families, and (b) end up within a few months selling sex of some kind or other, more likely than not to middle-aged men who have children their age. One girl reported that since she ran from home three years earlier, not one single person had tried to help her. The police more often than not oppress these children, sometimes raiding the places where they hang out and beating them up indiscriminately.

\*Some children who run away from home eventually return, or at least reestablish contact with their families. However, an astonishing total of 50,000 children simply disappear every year. Some of these are undoubtedly runaways, but a good proportion apparently become victims of foul play. Amazingly, there is hardly a mechanism outside the local police jurisdiction for doing anything about the disappearance of a child. More efforts go into tracking of stolen cars than into tracking of lost and stolen children (AP, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 19/11/81).

\*It is estimated that in New York City alone, there are 22,000 homeless or runaway children under age 18. Furthermore, the city handles 42,000 placements a year of children who are foundlings, abandoned, abused, neglected, or whose parents are otherwise incarcerated, incapacitated, or deceased. It is shocking that with needs so obvious, and with measures already so inadequate, the Division of Child Psychiatry at New York State Psychiatric Institute was funded for conducting a \$45,000 survey concerned primarily with gathering yet more facts and statistics, rather than using the money for taking more incisive action (This Month in Mental Health, 8/82).

\*Many of the children who disappear each year may have committed suicide. The study of runaway children at a youth shelter revealed that 1/3 of the girls and 1/6 of the boys reported having attempted suicide (This Month in Mental Health, 2/84).

## Religion

\*A Gallup Poll survey revealed that while most Americans claim allegiance to some religion, their faith tends to be "self-centered" and does little to motivate them to act a certain way in the world. The pollster said that "A lot of our religion, I think it's safe to say, is feel-good religion" (AP, in Syracuse Herald Journal, 9/6/84).

\*A religion survey of the Syracuse Herald Journal (18/4/84) found that 56% of the Syracuse sample said that their religion had no effect at all upon their politics. Presumably, this was meant to be good news.

\*A Bible scholar who has predicted the imminent second coming has reportedly invested the profits from his books in 20-year growth bonds (The Mustard Seed Conspiracy, 1981).

\*As we often point out in various workshops, idolatry consists of the elevation of anything to the status otherwise accorded only to an omnipotent god. A very universal idol is the human being itself, especially as represented by one of the attributes or products of the human, such as intellect or technology. Many people today look to science for a solution to all human problems. This helps us understand why so many recent science fiction films have been drenched in idolatrous imagery. Commentators have noted that the Star Wars and similar films function as substitutes for religious beliefs. One example is "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," which was replete with Christian imagery which had been so transformed that most people failed to recognize it, such as "the second coming," resurrection, immortality, the alien visitor that appears as a great light in the sky, charismatic gifts, etc. Another example is "ET," which mirrors Biblical themes and all the major factors which resemble the life and resurrection of Christ, including an empty tomb, "ascension" to a home in the skies, and a promise by ET that "I'll be right there" as he touches a boy's head. It is interesting that the scriptwriter of ET was not conscious of these parallels, and that the Star Wars producer, rather than acknowledging that the film themes came from religion, turned it the other way around and said that religion comes from where these films came from: "They are designed to teach man the right way to live and to give him a moral anchor....It's where religion came from." (AP in Syracuse Herald Journal, 28/5/83)

\*Ammon Hennacy was a pioneer in the peace and justice movement, and for a while played a prominent role in the Catholic Worker movement. One day he was carrying a sign in the street when someone challenged him: "Hey, Mister, do you think you are going to change society by carrying around that sign?" To which Hennacy quickly replied: "I don't know if I'll be able to change society, but I'm determined that society is not going to change me." (Sojourner's, 4/84)

\*A severely impaired woman with behavioral problems asked one of our friends: "Why did God make me a patient instead of an attendant? I don't think he knows what he's doing." Our friend was floored by the question itself, by the woman's asking it, by the nature of it, and by how much the question revealed the restricted world of the woman, in that she only conceived of people as either "patients" or "attendants," and it was the latter she saw as occupying privileged positions in the world.

\*According to some sources, the US-backed Nicaraguan "contras" have been killing all those people in Nicaragua whom they encounter who have a Bible in their possession, on the assumption that such possession is a sign that they are subscribing to Communism (The Other Side, 3/84).

\*Sancho said to his master, Don Quixote, "Two dozen lashes upon one's own back accomplish more before God than 2,000 thrusts with a spear, even if one were able to hit monsters, dragons, or giants."



News of the Christmas Season

\*Here are the reflections of Jesuit George McCauley on contemporary Christmas manifestations.

*"Herald angels appear over our skies. A nation rushes to its Ataris and Intellivisions to shoot them down. No malice, just force of habit. The glad tidings can't be heard anyway because 60 percent of young people are hearing-impaired from rock music.*

*Those who do get a room at the inn can watch porn flicks, those who don't get picked up on a vagrancy charge. Tiny Tim hurls his fake crutches at the arresting officers in a last defiant gesture before they nab him for a string of cat burglaries.*

*The camels are found stripped for parts. Because of all the recent muggings, Santa Claus hires ex-Green Berets to ride shotgun on the sleds, although rumor has it that the sleds are running coke."*

\*Ho, ho, ho, you're under arrest. A police officer showed up for duty in Miami Beach during Christmas 1983 wearing a Santa Claus suit, cheerfully arresting people and depositing them at the local jail (Syracuse Herald Journal, 21/12/83).

\*There is a radio play series centered on Episcopal Father Emil and his parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Responsibility. The parish held annual Christmas pageants, and one year, someone thought that Joseph, who previously had not had a speaking part, should get a few lines. But Father Emil immediately felt compelled to strike Joseph's first words, which were, "Is it a boy or a girl?" (Source item supplied by Doug Mouncey)

\*On Christmas, 1983, Senator Roth from Delaware put up a "Pentagon Christmas Tree" decorated with \$100,000 worth of spare parts which could be purchased for \$100 at a local hardware store.

\*In December 1983, the Syracuse Herald Journal carried a most pitiful advertisement that showed a totally emaciated and bedraggled dog and a big caption saying "There will be no Christmas for 'Red'." The ad was by the Associated Humane Societies of Newark, New Jersey. Among other things, the text said, "We are a team of professionals working 365 days a year (even Christmas day)." In our society, Red has a better chance to have a Christmas than many handicapped newborns.

Psychopostcard Corner

\*People who collect postcards are called deltiologists. People who collect picture postcards that show human services we have called psychopostcard collectors, but perhaps they should be called psychodeltiologists. About 5 years ago when the TIPS editor started collecting such postcards after being reminded by Sam Zamarripa that many of them had historically valuable pictures of human service installations, such picture postcards were still to be had for somewheres between 15¢ and 35¢. In the meantime, picture postcard prices have skyrocketed. There are several journals for postcard collectors, and in a recent issue of one of them, we saw postcards routinely being sold for \$4-30. Pictures of fires, floods, and famous people, including villains such as Hitler and Mussolini, are particularly prized. One of the things we learned from this journal issue was that some hospitals or treatment centers, presumably primarily TB installations, disinfected their outgoing mail, and may have marked the mail accordingly as "disinfected."

Resources

\*In late 1984, a new periodical appeared, entitled Canadian Human Rights Advocate, with Kathleen Ruff as editor and publisher. Subscriptions are \$15 (Canadian) for individuals and \$25 for organizations, to: Box 1703, 500 Murray Ross Parkway, Downsview, Ontario, M3J 2Z3, Canada.

'HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS'

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