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TOM RAILSBACK  
19TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

Room 2431  
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
AREA: 202-225-5905

ROOM 228  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
211-19TH STREET  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61201  
AREA: 309-794-1681

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 23, 1976

JUL 27 1976

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE

Mr. John K. Meagher, Minority Counsel  
Ways and Means Committee  
1105 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear John:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Father Shea, Al Cook, and Tom Mooney, last Thursday. As a non-Catholic, I am in a particularly good position to make some observations and suggestions about the need for us to generate an awareness of some of the important problems that are of concern to Catholics and many others as well: (1) the democratic platform is noticeably insulting to many people who believe abortion is a matter of great concern; (2) the issue of aid to private schools is one the Democrats failed to deal with in any meaningful way; (3) numerous articles have appeared in the press pointing out the softness of the Catholic democratic vote and the Catholic attitude is one of uneasiness with the present democratic hierarchy; and (4) Republicans seem to be in an unusually good position to capitalize on these concerns without doing any harm to the President's announced stand on these issues.

In addition, I would like to see something like a small task force made up of knowledgeable men and women who make it their business to know what's going on in the Catholic community, maybe headed by Bill Simon or John Volpe, who could draft a national strategy on how to capture a majority of the Catholic vote. The same is equally applicable to the Jewish community.

You have received some of the ideas that we have been kicking around for the last couple of days. We may have some additional revisions that will be forwarded to you as soon as possible. Hopefully we will be able to work something similar to this in the Republican Platform without a fight. In any case, if I can be of any help to you on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

TOM RAILSBACK  
Member of Congress

TR:aw  
cc.: Mr. Charles Leppert



FILE

SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE  
RENSSELAER, INDIANA 47978

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

July 20, 1976

"RIGHT TO LIFE"- (or ABORTION)

I. THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM PLANK:

"We fully recognize the religious and ethical nature of the concerns which many Americans have on the subject of abortion. We feel, however, that it is undesirable to attempt to amend the U.S. Constitution to overturn the Supreme Court decision in this area."

Seeming Weaknesses:

1. Criticized for giving short shrift (two sentences) to an emotional, widely discussed, deeply-felt issue.
2. Lack of any positive view or endorsement to Jeffersonian "right to life."
3. Gratuitous denial of an individual's or group's right to propose and attempt to further a constitutional amendment (Although I am personally opposed to an amendment, little politically is to be gained at this time to oppose what is after all another's right to initiate or support.) Carter also said this.
4. Not tied naturally to Declaration of Independence.

II. SUGGESTED REPUBLICAN PLANK:

The Declaration of Independence proclaims the right and sacredness of life of mind, spirit, and body, and the Constitution guarantees its protection. Hence among the foremost obligations of government is positively to foster and encourage that protection from the inception of life to its declining years.

There is, however, a difference of opinion and belief as to when human life begins and at what moment it falls under the laws designed to protect personal, unalienable rights. Consequently, <sup>at this time</sup> there is no clear consensus in the country as to the morality of abortion, ~~such as there is in the case of homicide. For this reason, both the federal government and the Constitution must for the time being remain neutral, lest half of the population impose its will~~



<sup>1,2</sup>  
~~upon the other half. It must remain an exercise of individual conscience, which the government dare not negatively interfere with by any restrictions on individuals or on medical and hospital services through such measures, for example, as discriminatory taxation or the withholding of federal funds.~~

~~The Republican Party will, on the other hand, in no way hamper the growth of a consensus in favor of a specific "right to life" Constitutional amendment, should in time such a true consensus develop. The Republican Party views that at the moment this area <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ in the <sup>area</sup> ~~area~~ of education, explanation, and persuasion, not in the area of legislative, judicial, or regulatory decision.~~

*Encourage + Support development of a truly national consensus on this issue*

*→ + research. Should a true consensus develop however, the majority should have the opportunity to work its will w/o any political party seeking to obstruct such effort.*





JUL 22 1976

SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE  
RENSSELAER, INDIANA 47978

*Five*

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

July 21, 1976

EUCCHARISTIC ~~COUNCIL~~ Congress

41st world wide Eucharistic Congress of Catholics - held every 4 years. The first was held in Lille, France, in 1881. The last and only in the United States in Chicago, in 1925. Philadelphia was chosen, this year, because of the Bicentennial.

Recently other Congresses have been held in Rio de Janeiro, Melbourn, Australia, and Manilla. Ordinarily, the Pape attends, but this year, Paul VI cannot, because of age and health. This year, approximately 30 <sup>nations</sup> ~~denominations~~ will be present in addition to 150 Cardinals, and 450 Bishops. (Of the 450 Bishops, about 280 are Americans). The estimate is that the total number of attendees will be around 1 million.

The largest single gathering will be on Sunday, August 8, in the John F. Kennedy Stadium at 5:00 p.m., at which 300,000 are expected. It is here that they had hoped the President could make his appearance.

The primary purpose of a Eucharistic Congress is to bring people together, emphasize the role of prayer, regardless of denomination, and ~~affirm~~ <sup>affirm</sup> the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It has for the last 100 years been the largest catholic event - world wide.

P.S.: I will get to you by tomorrow, both from my own notes and those of Monsignor Conway of Philadelphia, some short sketch or suggestions for remarks.

*S. J. Oker*







Respectfully submitted by:

Honorable Tom Railsback and  
Reverend Don Shea

SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE  
RENSSELAER, INDIANA 47978

*File*

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

July 22, 1976

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Suggested Presidential Remarks

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Setting:

Sunday, August 8, 1976, 4:45 p.m.  
J. F. Kennedy Stadium; estimated audience in attendance - 300,000  
Live coverage by all three networks  
President will be immediately followed by live telecast from Rome by  
English message from Pope Paul VI.  
Ceremonies and Mass begin at 5:00 p.m.  
President, unless he wishes, would not be expected to remain after his  
remarks.

Remarks:

To our City of Brotherly Love I am honored to welcome this international Congress of love. To our Nation founded on the God-given rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," I am happy to greet persons of more than 30 nations who respect these same rights and their creator.

Two hundred years ago, we proclaimed the rights and sacredness of life of mind, spirit, and body; Americans today hold fast to that conviction. Two hundred years ago, we recognized the God-given "liberty" of vocation, education, and belief; we still stand firm on that foundation. Two hundred years ago we envisioned the human rights to pursue happiness; today we continue to seek true happiness in this life and beyond.

So, to all of you dedicated, as you are, to the truly world-wide fellowship of prayer, may I add my personal prayer to the God of our Fathers, "strong to save!"

(Timed: 1 min., 15 sec.)

Maximum time slot: 1 min., 30 sec.

(Note: since virtually every American Cardinal and Bishop will be present when the President arrives, would suggest he arrive early enough personally to greet and be pictured with:

Cardinal Krol (host, Archbishop of Philadelphia, highest-ranking Polish Churchman in the United States)

Archbishop Bernadine<sup>2</sup> of Cincinnati, President of the American Council of Bishops.

Cardinal Baum of Washington, D. C.

Cardinal Cody of Chicago

Cardinal Carberry of St. Louis (in whose area the Kansas City Convention will occur.)

Cardinal Madeiros of Boston

Bishop MacManus, Auxillary of Chicago, head of National Catholic Education Association.

The man to contact in Philadelphia is the Executive Director of the Congress, Msgr. Thomas Conway, with whom I have talked and checked out the above. His phone: 215-587-3989 and 3987.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Charlie/Janet:

Jane called with the following:

The President is going to address <sup>the</sup> Euchristic <sup>Congress</sup> ~~group~~  
in Philadelphia on August 8.

Max wants Reps. Coughlin and Schulze notified - tell  
them it will not be announced until Saturday, July 31,  
but we want them to know in advance.

As soon as they are notified, let Bobbie know so she  
may notify Scott.

Vera  
7/29  
12:40

7/29-1:05 - Cynthia Wigel - Schulze  
Mary - Coughlin

