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The Victims of Abortion

by James T. Draper, Jr.

Rescue those being taken off to death, and save those stumbling toward slaughter. If you say, "But we didn't know about this," won't He who weighs hearts consider it? Won't He who protects your life know? Won't He repay a person according to his work? (Prov. 24:11-12 HCSB)

Even in our day, the grievous struggle to preserve human life continues with no end in sight. We are confronted with a crisis at the beginning of life. By definition a crisis means "a critical moment, a crucial turning point." We are entirely justified in using that term in connection with the sanctity of life issues in the United States. We must address the modern holocaust in our land.

A holocaust is a massive and gruesome destruction of human life. The first great holocaust on record is Pharaoh's slaughter of infants (Ex. 1: 15-16). The New Testament holocaust was the slaughter of infants under Herod (Matt. 2:16). Modern holocausts have taken place under Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Mao Tse-Tung, Saddam Hussein, and others in recent years in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and the Far East. It is estimated that 170 million people have died in the past 100 years under totalitarianism.

Since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision by the Supreme Court, over 48 million babies have been aborted. The leading cause of death in America is abortion. But throughout the United States abortion claims about 4,100 children per day, 171 children per hour, 3 children each minute.

Abortion is not a disease, it is not an accident, and it is not a medical problem. It is a spiritual and social problem. It is the deliberate taking of a human life. Unlike other causes of death, elective and eugenic abortions are 100 percent preventable.

What is the basis of our authority for making decisions about life and death? We have only three possible bases for ultimate authority: (1) human reason, (2) ecclesiastical fiat, or (3) divine revelation. Our great problem in America today arises from the fact that most people are operating from the base of human reason.

As Christians we must affirm our commitment to divine revelation, the written Word of God—the Bible—as our ultimate authority base. We listen carefully so what philosophers and sociologists say, to what secular ethicists say, to what scientists say, to what educators say, and to what politicians say, but our ultimate position must depend on what God says in Scripture!

Secular Humanists today insist that collective human reason provides an adequate consensus for "morality." "Without benefit of clergy," they like to say. But the facts of life refute their claim.

How do we criticize the Nazi holocaust if that was the "moral consensus" of Germany at the time? If there are no absolutes derived from divine revelation, societies degenerate into either totalitarianism, where the dictator determines the rules, or anarchy, where every man does what is right in his own eyes (Judg. 21:25). Only the Word of God is eternally immutable and consistent.

(Draper is a former president of LifeWay Christian Resources)

*The articles in this issue were gathered from various sources
The opinions in the Christian Life Report are not necessarily the opinions of the Christian Life Commission*

INDIAN GAMBLING IN ALABAMA

(AN EDUCATIONAL UPDATE FROM THE SOUTHEAST LAW INSTITUTE, INC.)

by A. Eric Johnston

Indian activities and lands are governed by federal law. They come under the sovereignty of the United States and not under the sovereignty of the state where they are located. One of the most significant Indian tribes in Alabama is the Poarch Band of Creek Indians located in Atmore, Escambia County, Alabama. Indian tribes in many states seek to operate casinos on their lands with as much gambling as possible.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act ("IGRA") regulates Indian gaming (gambling). It permits: Class I gaming, which are social games played for minimal value with no government oversight; Class II gaming, which is bingo gambling subject to oversight by the National Indian Gaming Commission; and Class III gaming, which includes all types of high stakes gambling, *viz.*, slot machines, lotteries, *etcetera*, which is subject to significant regulation through a federal/ state process. Alabama Indians are permitted Class I and Class II gaming. They are not permitted Class III gaming and that is the issue at hand.

Class III gaming by Indians could be permitted in two ways. First is by a tribal-state compact (a written agreement) between the Indian tribe and the state. The extent of gambling would be negotiated by the tribe and the state. Indian tribes are generally able to have the same level of gambling as a state otherwise permits its other residents.

If no agreement could be reached, then IGRA allowed the tribe to file suit against the state in federal court to determine whether the state negotiated in good faith. In 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Seminole Tribe of Florida v. Florida* that this second method violated the state's sovereign immunity, *i.e.*, states cannot be sued without giving their permission. This permission is not something you can ask for; it is usually given by a state in a statute to serve some public good.

In order to get around this problem, the Secretary of the Interior developed procedures which the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas attempted. Since the tribe could not sue the State of Texas in federal court as a result of the *Seminole* case, it went to the Secretary of the Interior requesting he permit Class III gaming because the State of Texas did not act in good faith. This put the Secretary in the position of deciding what gambling is permitted. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals held in *Texas v. United States Department of Interior and Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas* that violated the terms of IGRA. Congress did not mean to give that much authority to the Secretary and he certainly could not infringe on the sovereignty of the state.

This is important to Alabama because on March 3, 2006, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians sought the

same relief against the State of Alabama as the Kickapoo Indians did in Texas. The Poarch Indians request is still pending. It was their goal to force Alabama into the position of not acting "in good faith" and having the Secretary make that decision and then permit the high stakes forms of gambling. Since Alabama does not generally permit Class III gaming, it is not interested in giving that opportunity to the Indians.

The *Kickapoo* decision is by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals which covers Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. It is binding only on those states. It is not binding on Alabama, which is included in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, *viz.*, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

Attorney General Troy King has written the Secretary of the Interior asking whether he intends to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the *Kickapoo* decision. The Kickapoo have asked the Fifth Circuit to rehear the case *en banc*. If it does not, which is likely, the Kickapoo could also ask for Supreme Court review. If the U.S. Supreme Court reviews the case, its decision would apply to the entire United States, including Alabama.

Review of the case is, however, discretionary with the Supreme Court. If it chooses not to review the case, the Fifth Circuit decision will not directly help Alabama. Since it is a national question affecting every state, it is hoped the Supreme Court would choose to review the case. There is no way to predict what the Supreme Court will do. It is likely the Eleventh Circuit would rule the same way the Fifth Circuit did. This is especially true because the *Seminole* case, referenced above, was first decided favorable to us in the Eleventh Circuit. Therefore, it is likely the Eleventh Circuit would also hold that the Secretary does not have the authority to force us to negotiate with the Poarch Indians.

In the meantime, Attorney General King is suggesting to the Secretary that if the Supreme Court does not review the case, that the Secretary not negotiate with the Poarch Indians. If the Secretary or the Kickapoo decide not to appeal the *Kickapoo* decision and the Secretary continues negotiations with the Poarch Indians, we expect Attorney General King will file a lawsuit in federal court seeking an order similar to what was decided by the Fifth Circuit in *Kickapoo*.

We have met with Mr. King and he agrees with the foregoing analysis. He told us he would file suit if the Secretary allows the Poarch Indians to continue the process of trying to obtain Class III gaming from the Secretary of the Interior.

(Johnston is president and general counsel of the Southeast Law Institute)

SPORTS GAMBLING

by Tom Grey

In recent weeks, Americans were aghast that a national football hero has pleaded guilty to running a gambling operation that features dogs ripping each other apart. Gambling rips dogs, families, tribes and communities apart. These tragedies and worse are just part of the nature of gambling. They come packaged with the dice and the cards and the slot machines.

Just days ago courts were sentencing 13-year NBA veteran referee Tim Donaghy for gambling on NBA games and passing secret game information to a guy named James "Buba" Batista, AKA "Sheep" and his cohorts. The FBI uncovered that operation while investigating operations linked to the Gambino Mafia family.

Former National Hockey League player and assistant coach Rick Tocchet will serve two years probation after pleading guilty to sports gambling. He and a New Jersey state trooper joined others in a ring that operated for years. In just 40 days, that ring handled \$1.7 million in bets. The bets weren't on hockey, though. They included college bowls and the Super Bowl. (It seemed OK to him to pollute OTHER people's sports.)

This contamination of sports is predictable evidence of the corrupting progression that follows gambling. Gambling causes people to do outrageous things. It always has. Last year scores of members of the US Congress from both parties corrupted lawmaking after they received hefty campaign contributions from gambling tribes through Jack Abramoff.

Many Americans have watched in horror as friends, relatives, and coworkers have destroyed their families and lost their resources to gambling; some

resorting to crime to raise money for gambling, and some even committing suicide in their despair.

Through all of this, Americans have not risen in mass to defend families and friends. Perhaps they will rise to defend sports, which will inevitably be altogether corrupted if this predator is not stopped.

Gambling transforms sports completely. In sports betting parlors, people bet on who will win the opening coin toss. They bet on who will make the next basket. They care more about point spreads than they do about who wins the contests. The whole point of the game changes. Jai Alai is a classic example of sport taken over by gambling. There players wager on such nonsense as "Select the winning quiniela in the 11th and 12th games."

Perhaps all of this will help Americans become more "convinced" than they are "surprised" about the natural and predictable behavior that gambling causes. If this nation can gather the strength of character to kick gambling out of sports, perhaps we will have the vision to remove it from our government and our communities.

If we don't, gambling will ultimately destroy sports and a lot of other institutions we hold dear. National sport franchises know all of this better than anyone. That's why the NBA, NCAA, NHL, NFL and MLB all signed an August 14 letter against Internet gambling. These incidents of dog fights and compromised games are not anomalies. They are part of the scenery that comes with gambling.

(Grey is field director and national spokesman for National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and the National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion)



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 statistics and other information can be found at the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission - www.erc.com/topics

FACTS & ISSUES

Compiled by Joe Bob Mizzell, Director
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BOTTLED WATER

San Francisco and Salt Lake City have banned the use of city funds to purchase single serving plastic water bottles. The Earth Policy Institute points out that it takes 1.5 million barrels of oil annually to bottle water each year in the U.S., which equals the fuel for 100,000 cars. Worldwide some 2.7 million tons of plastic are used for it.

U.S. sales of bottled water are now second to soft drinks. Most consumers think bottled water is healthier. In truth, 40% of bottled water is tap water, including Pepsi's AquaFina and Coke's Dasani. There are more quality standards for tap water than bottled water.

A 20 oz. bottle of AquaFina costs \$1.57. Regular gas is at \$3.07 per gallon. This works out to 2.4 cents for an ounce of gas vs. 7.9 cents for bottled water.

ADVISOR, Teachers Retirement Systems of Alabama,
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DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND JOBS

Most of the nation's approximately 16.4 million current illicit drug users and approximately 15 million heavy alcohol users hold full-time jobs, according to a new study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The report says the highest rates of current illicit drug use were among food service workers (17.4 percent) and construction workers (15.1 percent). Highest rates of current heavy alcohol use were found among construction, mining, excavation and drilling workers (17.8 percent), and installation, maintenance, and repair workers (14.7 percent).

Illicit drug use and heavy alcohol use are associated with higher levels of absenteeism and frequent job changes, the report said. For example, nearly twice as many current

illicit drug users skipped one or more days of work in the past month compared with workers who did not abuse drugs. Drug users were also far more likely to report missing two or more work days in the past month due to illness or injury compared with workers who did not abuse drugs.

Substance users also had far higher job turnover rates. Among full-time workers who reported current illicit drug use, 12.3 percent said they had worked for three or more employers in the past year, compared with 5.1 percent of non-abusing workers.

The American Issue, American Council on
Alcohol Problems, July-September 2007

BIG ALCOHOL TAKES AIM AT YOUNG PEOPLE

In 2006, more than a third of advertising placements for alcohol products in 28 of the largest radio markets (120,299 or 35.6%) were on programming that youth, ages 12-20, were more likely to hear on a per capita basis than adults.

- Advertisements on programming that youth were more likely to hear than adults accounted for more than half (58%) of youth exposure to alcohol advertising on the radio.
- Approximately one in twelve alcohol advertisements (27,682 or eight percent) were on programming with youth audience compositions greater than the alcohol industry's voluntary maximum of 30%, and 18 out of 143 brands placed 20% or more of their advertisements above that threshold.
- Twenty-six brands placed more than half of their advertisements on programming that youth were more likely to hear on a per capita basis than adults.

The Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY)
at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



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