

RNC *For Life* REPORT

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New President, More Abortions *The Pro-Life Battle Begins Anew*

By Nat Hentoff

Our new president-elect has not equivocated in his reverence for abortion rights. Speaking at a Planned Parenthood event on July 17, 2007, Barack Obama pledged that his first act as president would be to sign the Freedom of Choice Act. It is the most radical attack yet on the deep beliefs of millions of American pro-lifers.

As Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer, a champion of the bill, exulted: “Women would have the absolute right to choose whether to continue or terminate their pregnancies before fetal viability, and that right would be protected by this legisla-

tion. The Freedom of Choice Act also supersedes any law, regulation or local ordinance that impinges on a woman’s right to choose,” she said. With regard to “fetal viability” – the ability to survive on his or her own – the ardent supporters of FOCA slide over the language in the surviving 2007 version of FOCA bill that, as Douglas Johnson of the National Right to Life Committee points out, “contains no objective criteria for ‘viability,’ but rather, requires that the judgment regarding ‘viability’ be left entirely in the hands of ‘the attending physician.’ ”

Guess who that would be? The abortionist! There’s more. The restrictions on “the absolute right to choose” would also apply even after “viability” if

a woman wanted to abort what would undeniably be seen during pregnancy as a baby in ultrasound for reasons of her health.

But the Supreme Court in 1973 (the same year as *Roe v. Wade*) in *Doe v. Bolton* defined very broadly “health” justification for aborting a viable

human being, as “physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman’s age.” This was nearly a blank check to dispose of that aborted person.

It’s no wonder that Mr. Obama opposed the Supreme Court decision that eventually ruled against the lawfulness of “partial-birth abortion,” which the late Democratic Sen.

∞ *“To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.”* ∞

Thomas Jefferson

Daniel Patrick Moynihan (who was pro-choice) said was infanticide.

The rabidly pro-abortion Freedom of Choice Act Mr. Obama supports would – unless there is an unlikely successful filibuster in the Democratic controlled Senate – invalidate parental-notification laws; any state’s requirement of full disclosure of the physical and emotional risks inherent in abortion; and (can you believe this?) all laws prohibiting medical personnel other than licensed physicians from performing abortions because such restrictions might “interfere” with access to this absolute right to abortion.

More Abortions *continued on next page*

This is respect for women? As of now, before our abortion president gets his wish, 26 states have informed-consent laws, 36 have parental-involvement laws and 34 states have restrictions on funding for abortions.

Also disposed of will be the “conscience rights” in many states. They include, Mr. Johnson reminds us, “all laws allowing doctors, nurses or other state-licensed professionals, and hospitals or other health care providers, to decline to provide or pay for abortions.” What about religiously based hospitals and clinics that refuse to perform abortions? At presidential press conferences, can we depend on at least some members of the Washington press corps to ask Mr. Obama about that provision or the others I’ve cited? Sen. Dianne Feinstein, California Democrat, heralded the election of Mr. Obama as “a new birth of freedom.” Not, however, for the early-stage human beings – each with his or her own distinct DNA – who, under this law, could never become citizens.

Matt Bowman, an attorney with the pro-life Alliance Defense Fund, projects that if FOCA is passed into law (*Lifenews.com*, Sept. 24), there will be an increase in abortion “by 125,000 per year” in the United States because of the abolition of laws in states that have parental involvement, informed-consent laws and funding restrictions. “Even with this minimum,” Mr. Bowman adds, “that’s 125,000 children that were not killed this year because we (still) have these laws, and 125,000 (added to the existing 1.3 million abortions) who will be killed in 2009” and beyond.

On Jan. 22, 2008, the 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, Mr. Obama said with pride: “Throughout my career, I’ve been a consistent and strong supporter of reproductive justice and have consistently had a 100 percent pro-choice rating with Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America . . . To truly honor (*Roe v. Wade*), we need to update the social contract so that women can free themselves and their children from violent relationships.”

What, Mr. President, can be more violent than murder by abortion? Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, said on Nov. 11 (*Lifenews.com*) that

“his dream of full equality remains just a dream as long as unborn children continue to be treated no better than property. The elections are over. The pro-life battle begins anew.” □

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Abortion Administration In Progress

As expected, President-Elect Barack Obama is putting together an administration which, together with a House and Senate dominated by liberal Democrats, promises to make the Clinton presidency look positively benign.

TOM DASCHLE has been named by Obama as the incoming **Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services**, subject to confirmation by the Senate. A former U.S. Senator, Tom Daschle of South Dakota, was Senate Minority Leader when he was defeated in 2004 by pro-life Republican, John Thune.

Tom Daschle’s voting record on abortion-related legislation, according to the National Right To Life Committee Scorecard reflecting votes cast from 1997 through 2004, shows he voted **against** prohibiting abortions in U.S. Military medical facilities, **against** the Child Custody Protection Act, **for** including abortion coverage in the S-CHIP insurance program for children, **for** abortion coverage for federal employees, **for** abortion-dependent fetal tissue research, **against** the “Mexico City” policy, **against** prohibiting funding for agencies that promote or perform abortions overseas (UNFPA), and **for** the Harkin Amendment endorsing *Roe v. Wade*.

Ontheissues.org lists Mr. Daschle’s vote **against** banning human cloning.

He was one of 58 Senators who signed a letter to President Bush requesting expansion of taxpayer funding **for** research involving the killing of human embryos.

Daschle voted **for** the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, which, considering his record, may garner him membership in the Humane Society but nothing more. He also cast a vote **in favor** of the Unborn

Victims of Violence Act (resulting from the Laci Peterson case), but he did so only after voting **for** Senator Dianne Feinstein's failed substitute which excluded the unborn child as a victim.

Tom Daschle led Senate Democrats in preventing up-and-down votes on ten of President George Bush's nominees to ten federal courts of appeals. He did this by using the filibuster (unlimited debate) which is allowed under Senate rules, because the nominees would have been confirmed by simple majorities on up-and-down votes. (*National Right to Life News*, October, 2004)

The Department of Health and Human Services <http://www.hhs.gov/about/index.html> develops policies and regulations for every aspect of the American healthcare system—the food we eat, the drugs we take, the funding for a multitude of health-related programs including “family planning” and adolescent health services, Medicaid and Medicare—and Tom Daschle, along with other like-minded Obama appointees, will be running the show.

If Congress does pass the Freedom of Choice Act, Obama has said he would sign it into law “first thing,” resulting in tax-funded abortions through Medicaid in all 50 states and nullification of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Will the Senate Republicans stand and fight his confirmation? Will they reveal his repugnant pro-abortion record to the American people? Will they use the filibuster, as Tom Daschle did? Will they vote **NO**? No doubt we will witness the votes of those who have the backbone and integrity necessary to rebuild the Republican Party—and those who do not.

Could it be that *C-SPAN* coverage of Congress may become more interesting than *Dancing with the Stars*?

ELLEN MORAN, executive director of EMILY's List <http://www.emilyslist.org/>, has been named the new **White House Communications Director** by President-Elect Obama. EMILY's List raises millions of dollars to elect pro-abortion-choice Democratic women to Congress.

RAHM EMANUEL, a three-term Congressman from Illinois 5th District, will become White House Chief of Staff in the new administration. A hard-core liberal who plays hard-ball politics, Emanuel

is described in press reports as a “good tactician” and “creative thinker” with a “combative style.” His political journey includes major fundraising for President Clinton's campaigns, White House Senior Advisor to President Clinton, a one-year stint on the board of Freddie Mac, and Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

While in Congress, Rahm Emanuel received a 100% score by the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) and a 0% score by the National Right to Life Committee. When it comes to legislation, it is impossible to be more pro-abortion than Rahm Emanuel. □

The Race for RNC Chairman Stirs Controversy

A new chairman of the Republican National Committee will be elected during its January meeting. Some candidates have already emerged in what could become an interesting and possibly controversial contest among Republicans holding differing views on how to move the Party forward.

So far, two candidates from Michigan have started making calls seeking support—current state chairman Saul Anuzis and former National Committeeman Chuck Yob. South Carolina state chairman Katon Dawson has announced his candidacy and Texas state chairman Tina Benkiser is being encouraged to enter the race as well as former Ohio Secretary of State, Ken Blackwell.

Another contender is Michael Steele, former Lt. Governor of Maryland and current contributor to FOX News Channel. While those mentioned above appear to have no apparent negative associations, Michael Steele's long partnership with former pro-abortion Governor of New Jersey, Christine Todd Whitman and the Republican Leadership Council is deeply troubling.

The Republican Leadership Council (RLC), which was formed for the express purpose of raising money to help elect pro-choice Republicans to Congress, lists on its web site Michael Steele as co-founder along with Christine Todd Whitman

and former Senator John Danforth. <http://www.republican-leadership.com/aboutus>. Prior to the November 4th Presidential Election, the RLC sent a letter dated October 28, 2008 to its donors requesting funds to put fiscally conservative, *socially tolerant* [code for pro-abortion-choice] Republicans in office.

Whitman and the RLC oppose the pro-life plank in the Republican National Platform. Her book, *It's My Party Too: The Battle for the Heart of the GOP and the Future of America*, co-authored by Robert M. Bostock, shows their antipathy toward the base of the Party. The central thesis of the book, as described on the RLC web site is: "the Republican Party had been taken hostage by social fundamentalists," from whom the Party must be freed. <http://www.republican-leadership.com/node/669>

RLC's analysis of the election loss is an attack on the base of support in general and Sarah Palin in particular, and it is exactly backwards. John McCain never did attract the support of the base, and by the time he named Governor Palin as his running mate, it was too late no matter how much heavy lifting she did. The Reagan Democrats who might have voted Republican fled back to their comfort zone after eight years of Republican profligate spending, the abandonment of conservative principles, the economic downturn, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Big media had plenty of ammunition to deliver the election to Obama.

We urge the members of the Republican National Committee to carefully consider the political philosophies and associations of the candidates for RNC chairman. Many of us learned at our mother's knee that "you are known by the company you keep." Unfortunately, Michael Steele has been keeping company with those who justify *Roe v. Wade*, oppose the pro-life plank in the Republican National Platform, wish to purge the Party of its "social fundamentalist" base, and ensure the further decline of the Republican Party by trying to attract "moderates" who stand for nothing but tolerate anything.



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