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“That’s great news, Bob,” Richard Fairfield said when Bob stopped by his office on Monday morning to announce his decision. “You should call a press conference. Get Catherine to set one up, and, with your permission, I would like to attend and give my public endorsement of your candidacy for Congress. Over the next few weeks, we can get several prominent Republicans to give you their endorsement. That will keep your name in the news and maybe discourage serious opposition in the primary.”

“I appreciate that Richard. I will have Catherine check with you on the timing.”

Bob’s press conference was well attended, and his announcement that he was changing his party affiliation and would run for Congress on the Republican ticket, caused a sensation. News coverage was good, not only state wide, but also in the national media. The possibility of a show-down between Bob and Barbara Bickel was an intriguing prospect.

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As one national magazine put it, "Hill won the battle on the Senate floor, but now we will see who wins the war." Obviously, the writer expected the winner to be Barbara Bickel.

Within a few days after his press conference, Bob started receiving mail from right-to-life supporters all over the country. Many of the letters contained small checks or cash for his campaign. Sherman Miller agreed to serve as treasurer for Bob's campaign and the records were kept at the office of Miller and Hill. Sherman spent several days traveling around the district with Bob, introducing him to committee people and other party workers. Most of them had already heard of Bob because the "Drums of Moloch" speech and also because of his reputation as a tough prosecuting attorney.

On June 30th the Senate adjourned for the year, and Bob adopted a schedule of 4 days per week for the law practice, and 2 days per week, including Saturday, for his campaign. Sunday was reserved for church and family. The congressional district was made up of 30, basically rural counties, and included all 8 of the counties in Bob's senatorial district. The largest city was Barbara Bickel's home town of New Dresden. With help from Sherman, Richard Fairfield, several other Republican leaders, all of the right-to-life organizations, and numerous church groups, Bob had been able to schedule speaking engagements all over the district. During the summer and fall months he averaged at least 4 speeches per week, and in this way was able to meet hundreds of people and to get good publicity in the local news media.

In January, the Senate reconvened on the first Wednesday after the first Monday, and Bob made his formal filing for Congress. The early endorsements by Senator Fairfield and other Republican leaders had made Bob the favorite in the Republican primary and had discouraged opposition. Three other candidates did file, but none of them had a large follow-

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ing, and Bob appeared to be a certain winner in the four-way race. Nevertheless, Bob continued campaigning as much as his schedule would allow. He remembered that he had won his race for the state Senate because of his opponent's over confidence. Furthermore, he knew that the work he was doing now would payoff at the general election in November.

On May 15th, the Senate adjourned for the year, and Bob stepped up his campaigning to 3 days per week. Bob had much of his father's ability to remember names and faces, and, as he traveled over the district, he was able to greet by name many of the people he had met in the previous months. In the August primary, Bob received 56% of the vote and his 3 opponents shared 44%. Barbara Bickel was an easy winner in the Democratic primary.

Now at last the long awaited Bickel versus Hill battle was on and Bob was devoting almost full time to the campaign. The young lawyer hired by Miller and Hill the previous fall was doing a good job, and Bob merely checked by the office early each morning, and then hit the campaign trail. With the primary out of the way, the Republican organization, from the National Committee on down, was able to give him full support, including financial and technical help. The right-to-life people were busy registering voters, passing out pro-Hill literature, and preparing lists and workers for a get-out-the-vote drive on election day. Maria also had a heavy speaking schedule and had made several television spots for Bob. Matthew and Hannah often accompanied Bob on speaking tours, circulating among the crowd, greeting old friends, and making new ones.

In late September, Richard Fairfield came to Adamsville and spent the night with Bob and Maria. After supper, they sat in the living room and discussed the campaign.

Richard said, "Folks, I picked up an interesting rumor in

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Jeff City this morning. The word is the Bickel camp has hired an expensive polling firm to do an in-depth survey, and they have found that you are several points ahead. If that is true, then they must be wild with frustration. They have thrown everything at you they can get their hands on. They have outspent you about 3 to 1. They have brought in big guns from all over the country. Barbara has worked her head off. I would say they are reaching the point of desperation.”

“I hope that rumor is true, but I am not going to count on it. I don’t plan to let up one bit until the polls are closed.”

“Of course, that is what you have to do, Bob. Keep at it until the race is won,” Richard replied. “But just in case the rumor is true, we have to consider what they might do next. Desperate people do desperate things, and you need to be ready. It might help to look at the situation up to this point. Barbara’s advantages are: there are more Democrats than Republicans in this district; the pro-abortion people have given her unlimited financial support; the news media are on her side; she has the endorsement of the labor unions, although a lot of the rank and file are supporting you; she has workers from various women’s organizations and pro-abortion groups; the largest city in your district is her home territory; she will get the votes of a few racial bigots; and Barbara herself is a good speaker and makes a good appearance on television.

“Now, Bob, here are your advantages: you are a better person to person campaigner — your ability to go around calling people by name has won you a lot of votes; you are really killing her on the law and order issue — no doubt Barbara regrets some of her criminal-coddling past; you are hurting her on the peace through strength issue; the right-to-life people are really beating the bushes for you; your church background, your attractive family, and your pro-family stand, have won

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you the support of most Christian groups; some people will vote for you just to prove that they aren't racial bigots; and you too are a good speaker and make a good appearance on television.

"Now what can they do?" Richard continued. "How can they use their assets more effectively, or how can they penetrate your armor? We know they have checked your background from the 2nd grade on, and haven't come up with anything useful. What can they do next?"

Maria said, "Barbara has 15 minutes coming up on television. Do you want to hear what she has to say?"

Richard nodded. "According to the rumor, their poll gives her 40%, Bob 44%, and 16% undecided. Barbara has had time to think that over. Let's see what she says."

Maria switched on one of the New Dresden television stations as the announcer was introducing Barbara. After expressing her deep appreciation for all the help and encouragement she was receiving from good people all over this congressional district, and after expressing her deep gratitude for this great country of ours where people have the freedom to make their own choices, Barbara said, "In just over 6 weeks this election will be over. The voters will have decided who will be their new congressman. While that choice is important to every citizen of this district, it is of special importance to the woman of this district and to the women of this whole great nation of ours.

"Because, friends, my opponent is determined to take away from the women of America their most basic, and most personal right of free choice. He would deny to the women of this great nation, the freedom to plan their own families as they choose. He would deny women the right to control their own bodies. For he has declared, my friends, that he would make it a criminal offense for a woman freely to choose to ter-

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minate her own pregnancy at any time from conception to birth, and for any reason except to save the woman's life. Now this means, dear friends, that my opponent would actually force a woman who had been brutally raped, to go ahead and bear the child of the rapist. Can you imagine what a cruel and traumatic ordeal that would be for the helpless victim of rape?

"Now my opponent doesn't like to talk about this. He prefers to go up and down the district talking about what a Rambo type, law and order man he is. He would rather talk about how we need to keep pouring money into the military-industrial complex, instead of using it to help the elderly and homeless. He likes to scare people by rattling the saber to distract their attention from the real issues. But we can't let him get away with this, can we? It's time we made him stand up and tell us how he plans to take away our freedom of choice, and our right to control our own lives.

"So, as a service to the voters of this district, I have arranged for one hour of time on this television station, at 9 p.m. on October 9th. I will pay all expenses. It won't cost my opponent one cent. I hereby challenge him to appear with me at that time to debate the sole issue of a woman's freedom of reproductive choice. This will be a real debate. We will talk directly to each other and ask each other direct questions on the subject. There will be a moderator whose only duty will be to keep us from getting off the subject, and to keep one candidate from monopolizing the time by talking more than 3 minutes on any question or answer. My friends, I am sure that you will agree that my offer is more than fair. I hope my opponent cares enough about the voters of this district to give them the opportunity to hear how we both stand on this important issue. I will be waiting to hear from him. Thank you, and good night."

Maria switched off the set and said, "She talked for 15

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minutes about abortion without once using the word and without once mentioning the baby. I can't help being angry."

"I don't blame you, Honey," Bob said. "It is the same old 'Drums of Moloch' technique they all use. Pound the drums of choice so loud that no one can hear the baby."

"Well, the rumor must be true," Richard said. "They must have an unfavorable poll, and this is their response. Obviously, they think Barbara can cut you to pieces. At least, they figure they have nothing to lose, and everything to gain. What do you think, Bob? Are you going to debate her?"

Bob nodded. "I think I have to. If I back down, she will ride that issue from now until November. But actually, I want to debate her. She thinks I am trying to avoid the abortion issue, but I am not. I don't want to run on that issue alone, but I am sure not ashamed of it. Yes, I will debate her. I'll be glad to get on television and talk about killing babies just as long as she wants."

"I agree," added Maria. "I believe Barbara will end up being sorry she brought this up."

"Well, we have to be careful," Richard cautioned. "Barbara is smart and she has a whole stable full of experienced political advisors. We know they have given this a lot of thought and have decided Barbara can gain some advantage from this. Obviously, they will hope to stack the deck against you some way. It appears that they have made the rules and they have chosen the moderator. But surely they wouldn't dare treat you unfairly right in front of the television audience. However, I think that you should insist on a moderator acceptable to both sides."

"They can hardly object to that," Bob replied. "How should I communicate my acceptance to her?"

The phone rang, Maria answered, and said, "Bob, Sherm wants to talk to you."

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Bob talked a few minutes and then hung up. "Sherm heard my worthy opponent and he thinks I should debate her. He thinks I can more than hold my own with Ms. Bickel."

Richard said, "Tomorrow, I would send Ms. Bickel a telegram of acceptance and at the same time release copies of it to all the news media. You might say something like this: Your challenge for a debate on October 9th is accepted with the understanding that we select a moderator acceptable to both sides and that the rules be reduced to writing and approved by both sides."

Bob smiled. "That sounds good to me. And Richard, you probably were debating before I was born. I will appreciate any advice you can give me."

"Bob, I will help any way I can. But I doubt if there is much that I can teach to you. Be sure you are ready for her. This could be the critical point of the whole campaign."