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Bob reached the top of the hill on Jefferson Street and turned west on High. Miniature leaves, sprouting under the warm April sun, gave the Capitol lawn a delicate green hue. His walk to work that morning had been a time of meditation and prayer. Just voting for HB 160, he had decided, was not enough. Babies' lives were at stake, and he had to do all he could to help pass that bill. So he had decided that he must take the floor of the Senate and speak in the bill's behalf, knowing that this would assure strong opposition in next year's campaign for re-election.

He paused in front of the Supreme Court building and faced the Capitol. The view lifted his spirits as he crossed High Street and walked slowly up the central approach between the two stately fountains, the one on his left representing the Arts, and the one on his right representing the Sciences. To his front was the commanding bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson, standing in the center of the great stairway

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that leads to the main entrance of the Capitol. On either side of the stairway were the reclining bronze figures, representing Missouri's two great rivers — the female figure being the Missouri, and the male figure being the Mississippi.

Bob stopped in front of the Jefferson statue. In making this likeness, the artist had used Gilbert Stuart's full length portrait, C.W. Peale's head portrait, and the life mask of Jefferson by Brower. The result was magnificent. Dignified, powerful, and meditative, yet charged with vital energy, the statue dominated the entire scene. Bob felt a sense of pride at being a part of the great political party that Jefferson had helped found. Was Bob's stand on abortion an act of disloyalty? No, Bob thought, nothing in the historic principles of the Democratic Party required him to support abortion on demand. Still, he felt a vague sense of dread about today's session, for today the Senate would vote on HB 160.

Entering the Senate chamber, Bob stopped at Senator Fairfield's desk. "How does it look," he asked?

Richard Fairfield shook his head. "Not too good. We have 15 'yes' votes, and 14 are definitely 'no'. That leaves 5 who say they are undecided, but I fear most of them are leaning 'no'. We have to have 3 of these undecideds. It's an uphill battle."

"I have decided to speak in favor of the bill," Bob said.

"Bob, I am glad to hear that. You can help."

After the Chaplain's opening prayer, the President announced that debate on HB 160, which had begun the previous day, would resume. Bob listened intently as each senator spoke. His experience on the Adamsville High School debate team had taught him the value of knowing exactly what his opponents had said.

Following the noon recess, the debate continued. Senator Barbara Bickel of New Dresden, a leader of the pro-abortion camp, had the floor. Her senatorial district adjoins Bob's

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district on the north, and is included in the same congressional district. Simultaneously with the present congressman's announcement that he would not seek reelection, Barbara Bickel had announced that she would seek the Democratic nomination for Congress. Bob felt sure that Barbara was a David Mullins recruit.

She was saying, "In conclusion, Mr. President, let me quote the words of that distinguished justice of the United States Supreme Court, the Honorable Harry Blackmun. He wrote these words in a case before that court involving a so-called 'informed consent' statute that had been adopted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and which contained provisions similar to those in HB 160.

"Justice Blackmun wrote as follows: 'The printed materials required seem to us to be nothing less than an outright attempt to wedge the Commonwealth's message discouraging abortion into the privacy of the informed-consent dialogue between the woman and her physician. The mandated description of fetal characteristics at 2-week intervals, no matter how objective, is plainly over-inclusive. This is not medical information that it is always relevant to the woman's decision, and it may serve only to confuse and punish her and to heighten her anxiety, contrary to accepted medical practice.'

"Mr. President," Barbara Bickel continued, "these wise and compassionate words by Justice Blackmun, go to the very heart of our issue here today. HB 160 is nothing less than an attempt to thrust the overbearing arm of state government into the intensely personal and private decision that should be made by the woman and her physician. It is nothing less than an attempt to bully and intimidate the woman at a very difficult time in her life, and to keep her from exercising her right to control her own body. The people of this state are over-

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whelmingly opposed to such cruel intrusion into the lives of the women of Missouri. I must warn those who vote for this bill that they will be called to account by the voters of their district. Let us give HB 160 the firm rejection that it deserves. Thank you.”

Senator Bickel sat down and Bob Hill rose to his feet. The Presiding Officer looked about the chamber, and then said, “The chair recognizes the senator from Adamsville.”

“Mr. President,” Bob began, “honorable members of this Senate. The language you have just heard quoted is from Mr. Justice Blackmun’s opinion in *Thornburgh v. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*. My colleagues, I am sure, will be interested in knowing that the Pennsylvania statute in question, contained a provision requiring the attending physician to make an effort to save the baby’s life. Those who have not read this case will, no doubt, be shocked to learn that this provision too was declared to be unconstitutional. In other words, Mr. President, this judge, to whom we are referred as a shining example of wisdom and compassion, actually declared that our constitution forbids a law requiring a doctor to attempt to save a little baby’s life.

“Fortunately, the *Thornburgh* case no longer controls. *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* is now our guide, and we have every reason to believe that HB 160 will be upheld by the Federal Courts.

“Mr. President, I have listened carefully to the words spoken these last two days by the opponents of this bill, and I have noted certain common threads that run through them all. While they have rarely mentioned the word ‘abortion’, they have made frequent use of the word ‘choice’. It appears that they are absolutely devoted to freedom of choice. With such a noble objective as this, one wonders why they are opposed to HB 160. The purpose of this bill is simply to assure

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that any woman seeking an abortion in this state, is fully informed as to the nature of the procedure she is about to undergo, the consequences of her procedure, and the alternatives she may choose. It is unthinkable that a doctor would perform a hysterectomy, or an appendectomy, or even pierce a woman's ears, without furnishing her with this information. All of these medical procedures require the woman's informed consent. Why do the honorable senators object to a requirement that such information be furnished to a woman who is considering an abortion? Certainly a free choice must be an informed choice.

"And then, Mr. President, I have noticed that the opponents of this bill have avoided all mention of the baby. Apparently they believe that no one is involved in an abortion but the woman. Alright, let us talk about the woman for a moment. Only God knows how many thousands of women in this country today are bearing a burden of guilt and remorse because of an abortion. A woman who chooses abortion without being fully informed of the nature and consequences of her act, will some day realize what she has done, and may have her life ruined by a devastating load of guilt. How much better for her to have this information before she takes that fatal step.

"But, Mr. President, the woman is not the only one involved in this choice. She is not even the one who is the most deeply involved. For the little boy or girl in her womb, it is a matter of life or death. It is my hope and my prayer that HB 160 will save the lives of some of these precious little children. It is my hope and my prayer that HB 160 will cause some women to choose life. Surely the opponents of this bill do not object to that.

"Yet, Mr. President, it seems almost that they do object. Perhaps the strangest thing about this whole abortion contro-

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versy is the definite impression which one gets that the pro-choice people consider it a defeat for their cause every time a woman chooses to let her baby live. If they are so committed and devoted to freedom of choice, why do they object to a woman choosing life? Why do they object to a woman being fully informed before she makes her choice?

“A most revealing incident occurred a few years back involving a newspaper published in North Carolina. This newspaper had, since *Roe v. Wade*, consistently taken a stand in favor of abortion on demand. One day it published a picture of an unborn baby. The result was astonishing. The pro-choice readers deluged the paper with letters and phone calls, furiously denouncing the paper's action, and canceling many subscriptions. No one claimed that the picture was inaccurate. No one claimed that it did not fairly show that tiny, helpless, human being. No, Mr. President, the objection was just to the publication of the picture at all. The objection was to letting the people of North Carolina see what a little, unborn, human being looks like.

“Can't we see something like this in the opposition to HB 160? No one contends that the information furnished to the woman is inaccurate. The objection is just to the furnishing of the information at all. I keep asking myself, why should anyone object to a bill that simply requires that a woman be fully informed before she consents to an abortion? Why should anyone object to a newspaper publishing a picture that fairly and accurately shows an unborn baby? I am forced to this conclusion — the pro-choice people don't want to see the babies, they don't want to hear the babies, and especially they do not want the mothers to know about their babies.

“Mr. President, when God directed the Children of Israel to go in and conquer the Promised Land, He told them to destroy the peoples who lived there. This command was

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necessary because of the vileness of the pagan religions practiced in that good land. The most brutal worship of all was that demanded by Moloch. This cruel demon was represented by an iron idol with hollow belly and with both arms bent in front in a cradling position. A fire was built in the hollow belly, and each mother was required to sacrifice her first-born by placing him in the idol's arms to be burned alive. During this horrible ceremony, the priests and priestesses of Moloch beat drums which reached a deafening crescendo as the mother laid her baby in the idol's arms. The purpose, of course, was to keep the mother from hearing her baby's screams.

"Just as the priests and priestesses of Moloch knew that once the mothers of ancient Canaan heard their babies' screams, they would abandon that pagan god in droves, so the priests and priestesses of abortion know that once the mothers of modern Missouri are fully informed about the helpless babies in their wombs, they will abandon the abortion camp by the thousands. And so they beat the drums of choice, choice, freedom of choice, and drown out the knowledge that makes a real choice possible. Mr. President, we must silence those pounding drums. For the sake of those helpless babies, the school children of tomorrow, the very future of our state, we must pass this bill and let the mothers of Missouri hear their babies scream.

"One more brief point, Mr. President, and then I am through. I know that the members of this Senate have been subjected to great pressure. I know they have been warned, yes even threatened, that a vote in favor of this bill will bring them powerful, well-financed, opposition in their next election. All over this nation, a great campaign is underway to scare lawmakers away from their pro-life convictions. But I say stand fast. Be true to your convictions. And if you will let the voters know where you stand, and why you take that

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stand, the good people of Missouri will rally to your cause. I cannot say it nearly as well as that inspiring inscription to our left front, upon the wall of this chamber; 'Nothing Is Politically Right That Is Morally Wrong'. Thank you."

Bob returned to his seat. The Senate chamber was silent, Barbara Bickel started to rise, changed her mind, and sank back into her chair. Finally the President said, "It appearing that no other senator wishes to speak to this bill, the sponsor of the bill, Senator Richard Fairfield, may close."

Deliberately Richard Fairfield rose to his feet, looked about the chamber, and then said, "I have nothing to add to the eloquent words of our young colleague from Adamsville. I close."

Senator Fairfield sat down, and the President said, "The Clerk shall call the roll to determine the sense of this Senate on HB 160."

All 34 senators were present, and as the Clerk called the names in alphabetical order, Bob kept a running tally of his own. The lead shifted back and forth between the "yeas" and the "nays", until finally the magic number of 18 was reached and passed. The President announced, "The Chair is informed by the Clerk that the yeas are 19 and the nays are 15. I therefore declare that HB 160 has passed this Senate."

The Senate adjourned until Monday at 2 p.m. Richard Fairfield was waiting by the door. He shook Bob's hand and said, "Young man you made the difference. I think I know how much that cost you."