

Gregg L. Cunningham, Executive Director

May 2010

Dear Pro-Life Friend,

On May 29, 2010, we received a message from a twenty-five-year-old woman from Martinsburg, WV. She wrote to say: "I was under general anesthesia during my abortion so it did not seem real to me I hadn't really experienced it until I watched this video. I am still crying." Abortion flourishes because its horror is hidden *from* almost everyone *by* almost everyone. The American people are also "under general anesthesia" and abortion "isn't real" to them either. They don't want to know who the baby really is and what abortion really does to him: The women on whom abortions are performed are often in willful denial, as are the men who pay for abortions; the doctors who perform abortions; and the voters who permit abortions.

Without denial, abortion would cause unbearable psychological stress for most Americans. Our movement is losing the abortion wars precisely because most pro-life groups have allowed our adversaries to keep abortion stress from becoming intolerable. But abortion pictures now give us the ability to subject the public to the same stresses, vicariously, to which doctors are subjected personally when they perform abortions. Horrifying pictures have always provided the impetus for social reform, and the parallels between abortion and historic examples of injustice are striking.

Prolonged involvement in mass murder created disabling stresses for many Holocaust executioners. Similar crimes against humanity create identical stresses for many practitioners of abortion medicine. In his book *The Architect of Genocide*, historian Richard Breitman, Knopf (1991), describes the crippling effects of the emotional trauma experienced by Nazi and Waffen SS leader Heinrich Himmler as he witnessed mass executions carried out at his command in Minsk, in the Soviet Union, during World War II. As these particular killings proceeded, Himmler became more increasingly agitated. Historian Heinz Hohne, in his *Order of the Death's Head*, Coward-McCann (1970) (translated by Richard Barry), reports that:

[SS-Gruppenfuhrer Karl] Wolff, the Head of his Personal Staff, barely managed to prevent Himmler from collapsing. 'Good for him to see what he expects people to do,' Wolff commented. [SS-Obergruppenfuhrer Erich von dem] Bach-Zelewski took advantage of his momentary weakness to press Himmler to spare not the victims but the policemen. Pointing out how shaken the executioners were, he complained that these men were now finished for the rest of their lives: They would either be neurotics or savages. (In fact, one member of the police battalion soon had a breakdown in Mogilev.)

Compare the Nazi SS experience with the experience of notorious late-term abortionist Warren Hern, MD, who, along with Billie Corrigan, RN, presented a paper at the October 26, 1978 meeting of the Association of Planned Parenthood Physicians. The paper was titled "What About Us? Staff reactions to D&E," *Advances in Planned Parenthood*, Vol. XV, No.1, Excerpta Media (1980). A survey of abortion clinic staff members found that "Two respondents felt that performing D&E must eventually damage the physician psychologically."

In his book *Abortion Practice*, Lippincott (1990), abortionist Hern expresses the universal clinical preference for shielding mothers from the reality of their abortion. "... [I]t is not advisable for patients to

view the products of conception, to be told the sex of the fetus, or to be informed of a multiple pregnancy." He also urges the use of fetal heart monitors with "outputs inaudible to the patient." Abortionist Hern struggles to hide the terrible truth from his staff and abortion patients.

Heinz Hohne says: "Himmler then visited an insane asylum in Minsk, where he ordered [SS-Gruppenfuhrer Arthur] Nebe to grant the inmates an end to their 'suffering' as soon as possible. Still shaken by what he had just witnessed, however, he said he was now convinced that shooting was not the most humane method." Reichsfuhrer Himmler struggled to hide the terrible truth from his SS troops.

The September 15, 1979 issue of *The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* published an article by Drs. Nancy Kaltreider, Sadjia Goldsmith and Alan Margolis entitled "The impact of midtrimester abortion techniques on patients and staff." It compared abortion techniques which require the mother, by herself, to deliver (and see) her dead baby, often after lengthy, painful labor (amnio methods) with techniques which involve an abortionist rapidly killing the baby by dismembering and removing fetal body parts, out of the mother's line of sight (dilatation and extraction or D&E): "The two procedures have markedly different effects on patients and medical personnel; change from amnio to D&E methods shifts some of the emotional problems of the abortion away from the woman and onto the physician."

Hohne next reveals that SS-Gruppenfuhrer Nebe "... supposedly suggested the use of dynamite.... So Nebe received authorization to experiment with explosives." Hohne reports that SS-Oberstrumbannfuhrer Rudolf Hoss and SS-Oberstrumbannfuhrer Adolf Eichmann "... also discussed methods of killing [which would be less stressful for the killers]. Because of the large numbers of Jews involved, shooting was out of the question: It would have placed too heavy a [psychological] burden on the executioners, Hoss said." Hohne reveals that "Himmler had wanted a neater, cleaner, less upsetting way of killing large numbers of people, and poison gas was the obvious solution." Efficiency. "Poison-gas technology offered the prospect of a better and quieter way to exterminate additional millions."

"The impact of midtrimester abortion" article says "respondents noted several differences between first-trimester [suction] abortions and second-trimester abortions done by D&E. For second-trimester abortions, there was an increased fear of complications, the visual impact of the fetus, and the violence of D&E." In "What About Us?" abortionist Hern observes that "About one third [sic] of the respondents felt that D&E was longer and harder on the patients, and several thought it was more difficult to rationalize or intellectualize D&E."

Early SS experimentation with the use of gas involved van-like motor vehicles into which Jews were packed and then asphyxiated with carbon monoxide. Even this method would cause stress for the killers. Hohne says that "The gas vans, he [SS-Hauptsturmfuhrer Otto Ohlendorf] thought, would produce 'an intolerable psychic burden' for his men, for after the execution they would have to unload the distorted bodies – frequently covered in excrement – and so the executioners would be brought face to face with what they had done – the moment of truth from which Ohlendorf wished to save them."

In "What About Us?" abortionist Hern says: "National statistics are beginning to suggest that dilatation and evacuation (D&E) may have important advantages for the patient experiencing a second-trimester abortion. However, significant emotional reactions of medical and counseling staff tend to accompany this procedure." Those reactions to the dismembered fetus "... ranged from purposely not looking at it, to shock, dismay, amazement, disgust, fear, and sadness...."

"Eichmann: Last words of man who ensured the machinery of genocide worked like clockwork," independent.co.uk, March 1, 2000: "As I arrived I saw a Jewish woman with a small child in her arms in

the pit ... but then a bullet hit the child's head. My driver wiped small pieces of brain from my leather coat. I got back into the car.” Eichmann adds “I drank schnapps as if it was water,” and, “I had to dull my brain.”

“Can any sense come out of the Tiller murder?” *The Kansas City Star*, June 8, 2009: “He [late-term abortionist George Tiller] was a recovering drug and alcohol abuser.”

The Waffen SS’s frenzied efforts to protect the psyches of its executioners perfectly mirrors the abortion industry’s struggle to invent ways of killing babies which create emotional distance and therefore minimize trauma for abortionists and aborting mothers. A clinical hierarchy of horror has evolved: Very early babies are less stressful to kill than older children because they look less like “real babies.” Suction devices are less stressful for abortionists than sharp curettage methods because machines are more impersonal than manual instruments which rely on an abortionist’s own physical strength to crush, tear and cut. Chemical abortifacients are less stressful for abortionists to prescribe than suction machines are to use (like the higher stress of shooting visible Jews versus the lower stress of gassing invisible Jews) but more stressful for the mothers who must take those pills. With pills, the woman is the active agent. With suction or manual curettage, her role is largely passive. With pills, she is left alone to expel and flush her dead baby down the toilet. With suction or manual curettage, the baby is kept carefully out of her sight.

The February 15-28, 1986 issue of *Ob. Gyn. News* reported that “Sonography can make induced abortion safer, but care must be taken so that its psychological impact is not negative.” Dr. Sally Faith Dorfman said at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association.” Hohne: “An unending stream of propaganda ... aimed to eradicate any feeling among the executioners that the Jew was a human being....”

Hohne says: “Himmler gave a short speech in which he explained to the men that Nazi Germany ... had hard tasks to carry out. He said he was responsible – they were simply carrying out a repulsive but necessary duty.” Hohne reinforces this point with a related quote: “At a meeting of SS-Gruppenfuhrer as early as 1943 ... [Himmler] had said: 'All in all we can say that we have completed this painful task (the annihilation of the Jews) out of love for our people.’”

Abortionist Hern says of an abortion patient in “Life on the Front-Lines,” *Women’s Health Issues*, Vol. 3, Fall 1993: “I had helped her change her life. I was relieved that this young woman was safe to go on with her life and realize her dreams.” He adds: “I felt I had found a new definition of the idea of medicine as an act of compassion and love for one’s fellow human beings”

Henry V. Dicks, in his *Licensed Mass Murder, A Socio-psychological Study of Some SS Killers*, Chatto-Heinemann (1972), discusses the tendency toward self-pity among practitioners of genocide: “The people really worthy of pity were we, the liquidators, because our men were in worse nervous condition than those who had to be shot’ (Commander, EG 4A).” It gets worse: “It is regrettable that over and above this unsavoury work (uble Arbiet) we also have mud slung at us when we are merely doing our duty.’ (Gestapo/SD commander in Minsk area, referring to criticism by his Gauleiter.)”

In a March 13, 1993 op-ed piece in the *New York Times* entitled “Hunted by the Right, Forgotten by the Left,” abortionist Hern laments: “Feminist abortion clinics treat doctors like technicians and are especially contemptuous of male physicians. Entrepreneurs who treat abortion strictly as a retail business also tend to treat doctors as technicians.” His contempt for his colleagues is evident: “Doctors who perform abortions have usually acquiesced in these roles, and their status has plummeted ... and fees have been cut”

On August 12, abortionist Hern reappears in the *Times* with another pitiful letter to the editor: “I saw on the news that the former home of a colleague in Denver was again the site of an anti-abortion demonstration. He no longer lives there because he is being divorced.” He is now wallowing in self pity: “Were the demonstrations and threats as tough on his marriage as they were on mine, which also ended in divorce?”

Hohne says of the need for solidarity among Nazi executioners that “Dr. Otto Rasch, Head of Einsatzgruppe C, adopted other tactics. In his view every man of the Einsatzgruppe must partake of its collective guilt; scenes of horror witnessed in common were to form the bond of comradeship holding the unit together; collective blood guilt was to be its cement.”

Abortionist Hern makes the same point in “What About Us?” He admits: “In order to help staff members cope with the stresses of participating in D&E, we have adopted certain strategies.” He explains “...[W]e have consciously promoted the idea of team effort and the need for mutual support.”

Hohne concludes that “Every trick of psychology was employed to ease the work of the executioners.” Abortionist Hern echoes this statement in “What About Us?” where he explains the “... psychological defenses ... used by staff members ... to handle the traumatic impact of the destructive part of the [abortion] operation...” He details “... denial, sometimes shown by the distance a person keeps from viewing D&E; projection, as evidenced by excessive concern or anguish for other staff members ...; and rationalization.”

Hohne also observes that one of the SS men, “Haunted by his guilt, he would pass his nights screaming, a prey to hallucinations” Abortionist Hern reports in “What About Us?” that “Two [abortion staff] respondents described dreams they had had that related to D&E. Both described dreams of vomiting fetuses along with a sense of horror. Other dreams were about a need to protect others from viewing fetal parts.”

Hohne: “... [T]he SS murderers were now showing clear signs of exhaustion. [SS-Gruppenfuhrer Otto] Rasch, commanding an Einsatzgruppe, had gone on leave, never to return; ... Nebe had told his deputy, [SS-Oberfuhrer Paul] Werner, that he was for home (Werner's comment was, ‘Arthur, if you can't go on, I'll release you’); [Dr. Hans Bernd] Gisevius says that Nebe was, ‘a mere shadow of his former self, nerves on edge and depressed’; Nebe's driver, Kohn ... had shot himself in horror at the anti-Jewish atrocities.”

The same stress suffered personally by SS executioners is suffered personally by doctors who must look, in varying degrees, at the abortions they perform. Some quit. But that stress can also be imposed vicariously upon the public when society is forced to look at pictures of those abortions. And just as prolonged exposure to the killing can cause stresses which force those killers to stop killing, prolonged exposure to pictures of that killing can cause stresses which can force those who tolerate killing to stop tolerating it.

The *Los Angeles Times*, May 29, 2010, published an essay titled “Framing today’s abortion debate.” It reported *Washington Post/ABC News* polls which found that “6 out of 10 Americans have said they wanted the next justice to uphold *Roe v. Wade*” The reason for this long-running and high level of support for *Roe v. Wade* is that the public mistakenly believes that *Roe* permits abortion only early in pregnancy, that the baby really isn’t a baby early in pregnancy, and that abortion early in pregnancy is not an evil of sufficient enormity to criminalize the act. Thanks for helping us rebut those lies as no other group can.

Lord bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Cunningham', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gregg Cunningham
Executive Director