

HAYES PUBLISHING CO., INC.
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IN RE: "SLAUGHTER OF
THE INNOCENTS" --
SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED
BY CROSSWAY BOOKS,
WESTCHESTER, ILL.

May 14, 1980

John Warwick Montgomery
2530 Shadowridge Lane
Orange, CA 92667

Dear Dr. Montgomery:

We have had several people read your proposed manuscript and find that we must with regret return it to you.

First and foremost, we find that it would not necessarily find a place in the armamentarium of books that have already been published by people of the same religious persuasion as yourself, as other books that cover the field already exist and are well known. We doubt if a commercial venture would be justified.

You may be interested to know some of the comments of our reviewers. We give you these for your information.

Comments from all three spoke to the fact that with a few exceptions, very little material was included in the manuscript dated later than 1975.

One of our readers, a well versed Roman Catholic, notes that your article on birth control is, as he puts it, quite dated and in places erroneous in it's interruption of Roman Catholic attitude toward contraception. He notes your "over exaggeration of marriage as simply procreative" and notes that the Council of Vatican II gave equal weight to the fostering of the love relationship inherrent in the married sexual relationship.

In the Christian view of the "fetus" our readers find your view of probable co-creation of the soul as the time of existence of the total human body (fertilization) to be a theme that would be consistent with the publishing ethic of this House. Contemporary pro-life thinking is solid in equating human life with completion of the process of fertilization and asks for equal protection by law of that human life on the basis of civil rights. An exploration of theologic thinking and/or philosophic thinking regarding soul is valid but must accept the simple fact that the total human being is present at the time of fertilization, as only nutrition and oxygen will be added from that time until the old man dies. There were problems with your hesitancy in "legislating morality." This would in fact be true if the only basis for the law were Christian theology and it's belief in the creation of a soul. Since however, civil rights go far beyond sectarian Christian morality, it is quite permissible, even quite clearly the absolute duty of a state, to "legis-

late morality" as there is no higher duty of a nation state than to protect the greatest value that any human within that state has and that is life itself. Homicide is homicide. Judgments as to guilt are certainly ameliorated by self-defense and by other issues. The law however, should speak clearly. Objective evil to which law speaks should be clear in this case. Subjective fault to which our Christian faith speaks, guilt and forgiveness, is an entirely different story.

We respect your thinking on this, but must tell you that we, at this publishing house, would not take it upon ourselves to publish a book that advocated or allowed abortion for any reason except that which balanced one life against another life. We adhere to the ethic of the Right to Life groups and that is that no reason is serious enough to justify the legalization of direct killing of another human.

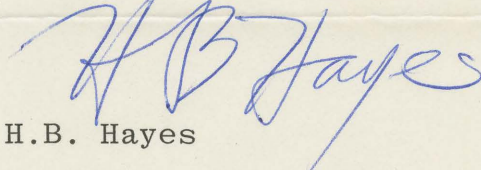
All of our reviewers liked your ABORTION AND THE LAW.

Again, we submit the above several comments to you as reactions of our reviewers. In my perusal of your manuscript, I found your prose lucid, pointed and quite understandable. I appreciate your Christian viewpoint, understand that it is not monolithic on this subject, but would agree with the above arguments on equal protection by law from fertilization to the extent that that is possible and also to the value of human life as being one of such import that it cannot be "traded" for any other value except another life itself.

In final analysis, the above would not be fatal to our thinking in evaluating your manuscript in so far as our publishing would be concerned, our primary evaluation, which does rest with us and can only be reported to you as a final judgment is that we do not see this as a commercially viable venture.

We wish you good luck in finding another publisher. I am pleased to have expedited this through the hands of three readers and myself within the period of the month we had it. We tried our best on your manuscript, as we had been contacted by Dr. Willke, who said that Dr. Brown had also phoned to ask for an expeditious review of it.

Sincerely for Life,


H.B. Hayes

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Enc. manuscript

