P.S. to the NEWS
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RATING CONGRESSMEN ON FAMILY ISSUES

How does your Congressman rate on family issues? The answer to that question may turn out to be a more potent political weapon even than his vote on taxes, other economic issues, or defense, because more and more single-issue groups care more and more about family issues than anything else, and are putting out more and more ratings and fliers which record the Congressional votes.

A quick listing of some of the family issues which have been voted on by Congress since the last election will convince you why these issues are variously described as "moral," "emotional," or "gutsy." The reason they scare the politicians is that they are "crossover" issues, that is, issues for which a voter will forsake his longtime affiliation with a political party and cross over to vote for another party's candidate.

Shall voluntary prayer be permitted in the public schools? On June 11, 1979, by a vote of 255 to 122, the House adopted the Robert Walker (R-Pa.) Amendment which would permit "in all public schools providing elementary or secondary education a daily opportunity for prayer or meditation, participation in which would be on a voluntary basis."

Shall the Internal Revenue Service be prohibited from threatening private schools with the loss of their tax exemption? On July 13, 1979, the House by a vote of 297 to 63 adopted the John Ashbrook (R-Ohio) Amendment to prevent IRS from using any funds "to formulate or carry out any rule, policy, procedure, guideline, regulation, standard, or measure which would cause the loss of tax-exempt status to private, religious or church-operated schools."

Shall forced busing be stopped by a constitutional amendment? On July 24, 1979, the House voted on a proposed constitutional amendment that "No student shall be compelled, on account of race, color or national origin, to attend a public school other than the public school nearest to the residence of such student which is located within the school district in which such student resides and which provides the course of study pursued by such student." It was defeated 216 to 209.

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Shall a new Federal Department of Education be established? On July 11, 1979, the House by a very narrow vote, 210 to 206, voted to establish a new Cabinet-level Department of Education which Rep. Thomas Evans, Jr. (R-Del.) charged would "tamper with areas in both public and private education that rightfully belong to parents and the local community."

Shall parental consent be required before abortion services or contraceptives are given to children? On December 11, 1979, the House defeated by 225 to 163 a motion by Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Cal.) to recommit the Child Health Protection Act with instructions to require that abortion and contraceptive services be given to minors only with the consent of the parent or legal guardian.

Shall taxpayers fund abortions? On June 27, 1979, the House defeated by 241 to 180 an amendment by Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.) to take the teeth out of the Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) Amendment by allowing abortion funding in most circumstances.

Shall the Federal Government regulate family relationships? On December 12, 1979, the House by 292 to 106 passed the Domestic Violence and Services Act to bring the Federal bureaucracy and funding into the area of domestic violence. Rep. Richard Ichord (D-Mo.) argued that this is "not a problem for the U.S. Government to solve. We have state governments ... We have the family ... We have the churches. Why cannot we rely on those existing institutions instead of embarking on a program that is going to cost $15 million, that is just the beginning?"

Shall we ban racial quotas in education? On June 12, 1979, the House by 277 to 126 adopted a Robert Walker (R-Pa.) amendment stating that "no individual shall be denied such educational opportunities by rules, regulations, standards, guidelines, and orders which utilize any ratio, quota, or other numerical requirements related to race, creed, color, national origin, or sex."

Most of the above roll-call votes touch people deeply in their values, in their religious beliefs, in their family relationships, and in their children. That is why we are witnessing an awakening by citizens to what government has done to their lives.

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