

Bush's rhetoric thin at pro-life march

by Linda Everett

"Like the Berlin Wall, the formidable wall of apathy against unborn babies shall fall." Some 200,000 to 225,000 Americans (unofficial police estimates) poured into Washington, D.C. on Jan. 22, the 17th anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision, to signal their opposition to the ruling that legalized abortion on demand, and to commemorate the 27 million lives—one-third of all American children—lost to abortion since 1973.

Tens of thousands attended hundreds of events which were as varied as a candlelight vigil in New Castle, Pennsylvania; a memorial service in Tallahassee, Florida; a Nashville, Tennessee legislators' reception; and a Lincoln, Nebraska "Walk For Life." Six thousand people marched in Olympia, Washington; 5,000 in Wisconsin; 4,000 in Ohio; and 1,000 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. A week earlier, several national leaders of the pro-life movement addressed a panel during the Martin Luther King Tribunal in Washington, where the fight for the rights of the unborn was put in the same context of the fight for justice for American statesman Lyndon LaRouche and the struggles for democracy and sovereignty of people in Eastern Europe, China, Lebanon, and Panama.

The national focus for this anniversary and for those of the last 16 years, centers around the annual D.C. rally and March for Life with vigorous lobbying in Congress afterwards. This year's events also included an all-night prayer vigil beginning and ending with several thousand attending religious services at the National Shrine. Among the congressional speakers at the rally were Senators Jesse Helms (R-N.C.)

Chris Smith (R-N.J.)

President Bush, who spoke to the rally via telephone hookup, lacked his recently acquired zeal in opposing abortion. "I want to take a minute to share my deep personal concern about abortion on demand which I oppose," the President said. "And I think all of you know my deep conviction on *Roe v. Wade*. Human life in all forms must be respected." The President concluded his one-minute message by endorsing the moral superiority of adoption over abortion. Nellie Gray, president of March For Life, noted that the President stood by his word when he twice vetoed the budget for Washington, D.C. which included federal funding of abortions for the poor. That veto eliminated \$2 million targeted to pay for abortions of some 10,000 District children a year.

But thousands are growing leery of George Bush's "pro-

life" stance. Rally participants wanted to talk about Bush's recent genocide in Panama and his schmoozing, Kissinger-style, with Chinese butchers who today ruthlessly force abortions on women (some nine months pregnant) as in China. As several rally signs read, "Chinese student martyrs know George Bush is not pro-life."

Senator Helms told the crowd that their yearly pilgrimage to Washington is "a mission of mercy."

Rep. Dornan didn't need the microphone when he announced to the rally that "God Bless the U.S.A. stands for the United States of America—not the United States of Abortion!" A few New Yorkers, tiring of his jesuitical rhetoric, sported "Excommunicate Cuomo" signs, but everyone applauded the former governor of New York, Hugh Carey, when he told them, "You are here today as the best example of what this country stands for."

Abortion is child abuse, not humanism

Another congressional veteran of pro-life battles who addressed the rally was Rep. Chris Smith. "Future generations of Americans," he said, "will inevitably look back on America's slaughter and abuse of unborn children, about 4,000 babies killed per day—and will be utterly perplexed as to how a society that manifested such concern for civil rights at home, and human rights abroad, could have been so blinded and fooled by the abortionists." Smith said abortionists have cloaked their killing in the language of humanism, but it is really an issue of child abuse—and that is not a matter of choice in a civilized society. "Just as the Berlin Wall wasn't destroyed in a day . . . the formidable wall of ignorance, apathy, and prejudice against unborn babies, likewise, will be toppled incrementally. . . . Like the Wall in Berlin, this wall, too, shall fall."

Among the religious leaders at the podium were several representatives of the Orthodox Church of America, along with Roman Catholic bishops from Scranton and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, New Orleans, Louisiana, North Carolina, Florida, and Ohio, as well as three cardinals: John O'Connor of New York, James Hickey of Washington, D.C., and Bernard Law of Boston. Rabbi Levin of Brooklyn blew the shofar after reading a prayer that said the blowing of the ram's horn was a call to arms ("Who shall prepare himself for battle")

nership with God.

Later in the day, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, a former abortionist now solidly pro-life, targeted political candidates who base their "principles" on the direction of the political winds. About those "pro-life" candidates who changed camps to grab pro-abortion votes, Nathanson says, this is the first time we see rats swimming toward a sinking ship. Referring to candidates who waffled on abortion, and, as a result, lost their races (the pro-abortion crowd didn't want them, either), the doctor quipped this the first time we see a sinking ship destroying the rats.