

"Moving Down The Slippery Slope"
by Tom Wacaster

Jack Kevorkian is back in the news. Believe it or not, Dr. Death (as he has come to be called) is now running for U.S. Congress. His candidacy was announced March 23 of this year, and in his own words called his bid for a seat in Congress as "audacious, even outrageous." His goal is "to raise awareness of the Ninth Amendment to the U.S. Bill of Rights, which says rights spelled out in the Constitution do not diminish rights that aren't specifically spelled out." He believes that our "innate rights" allows a person to do as he pleases in the privacy of his home: "If you want to have 10 pounds of marijuana in your house, why not? As long as you don't hurt anybody," he said. Many of you may remember that Kevorkian has, for a number of years, advocated assisted suicide and euthanasia for the terminally ill. He still believes that every person has an "innate right" to assisted suicide. Several years ago the editor of one conservative newspaper commented on Kevorkian's twisted attitude toward life. I think this is worthy of passing along to our readers. I do hope you will forward it to others after you have finished reading it.

"On page 214 of his book, Prescription Medicine, [Jack] Kevorkian made it clear that easing suffering is not his primary goal in assisting suicides. Rather, he states, '[W]hat I find most satisfying is the prospect of making possible the performance of invaluable experiments or other beneficial acts under conditions that this first unpleasant step [assisted suicide] can help establish.' In other words, Kevorkian's ultimate goal is to use living human beings as guinea pigs in 'medical' experiments, as part of their death process. Although barely reported in the media, under cross examination in both of his last two trials, Kevorkian was forced to concede his goal of establishing the right for doctors, to experiment on living patients who have chosen to have their deaths hastened. Illustrating the collapse of critical thinking in this country, and the progressive decay of American culture, even this macabre admission did not affect the juries who acquitted him, or the public's seeming approval of Kevorkian's ends and means. If we don't return to our senses, if through passivity or judicial tyranny, we permit euthanasia to become just another 'medical treatment,' big trouble will lie ahead."

As I read this item, my mind reflected upon the early 1970's when the debate over abortion was raging in our country. A number of the opponents of abortion argued, among other things, that acceptance of the practice would lead to a cheapening of life, and that if approved and legalized, "mercy killing" would not be far off. It was Albert Schweitzer who said, "If a man loses reverence for any part of life, he will lose reverence for all of life." In 1984 a little book was published, entitled, *"Abortion And The Conscience Of The Nation,"* by Ronald Reagan. It contains not only his moving article regarding the evil of abortion, but also articles by Dr. C. Everett Koop, *The Slide To Auschwitz*, and Malcom Muggeridge, *The Humane Holocaust.*" I not only recommend, but strongly urge you to obtain a copy and read it.

Our nation is presently at a crossroads. In fact, it may be said that we have passed that crossroads and have now entered the path to self destruction. The very foundations are being shaken, and the ethical and moral principles that brought this nation into existence, and sustained her for more than two hundred years, are being torn asunder. The time has come for complacency and passivity to be cast aside, and courageous men and women to make their voice heard. Now, before it is too late. I want to close with a quote from President Reagan's book: "We will never recognize the value of our own lives until we affirm the value in the life of others, a value of which Malcom Muggeridge says, '...however low it flickers or fiercely burns, it is still a Divine flame which no man dare presume to put out, be his motives ever so humane and enlightened.' Abraham Lincoln recognized that we could not survive as a free land when some men could decide that others were not fit to be free and should therefore be slaves. Likewise, we

cannot survive as a free nation when some men decide that others are not fit to live and should be abandoned to abortion or infanticide... [T]here is no cause more important for preserving that freedom than affirming the transcendent right to life of all human beings, the right without which no other rights have any meaning."