

(The following is a column by Rep. Hostettler marking Jan. 22, 2003 as the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. Column length: 830 words.)

Deadly Lies: The Tragic Legacy of *Roe*

By U.S. Rep. John Hostettler (IN-8) Jan. 15, 2003

A troubling article appeared on the front page of *The Washington Post* last month. According to a new analysis of government data, the homicide rate for U.S. infants is now virtually equal to the murder rate for teenagers.

Calling it “a surprising demographic milestone,” the Post reported that a “slow, 30-year rise in the infanticide rate,” coupled with a drop in teen homicides, “means the two groups are now being murdered at almost equal rates.”

The article added that, “No one is sure why the infant homicide rate has steadily climbed over the past three decades. . .”

Perhaps not, but the time frame may reveal an important clue.

It was three decades ago this week that seven men conjured from the U.S. Constitution a right to exterminate a baby still in her mother's womb, at any time and for any reason. Abortion on demand was born - and millions of pre-born children would subsequently die.

The Supreme Court, in its 1973 decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, concluded that our Founders committed their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the noble ideal that a baby in his mother's womb could be poisoned or dismembered. While this notion seems more on par with the tyranny and inhumanity that our Founders fought *against*, the unelected and unaccountable men sitting on the high court made their decision unhindered by the facts.

The plaintiffs in the case - Norma McCorvey was “Jane Roe” and Sandra Cano was “Mary Doe” - acknowledge that their cases were built on lies. McCorvey and her lawyers told the court she had been gang-raped, which added an emotional component to the case but was untrue.

Sandra Cano wasn't even seeking an abortion. She approached a legal-aid office in an effort to gain custody of her three children who were in foster care. She says her legal-aid attorney had a different agenda and filed Cano's case as an abortion case, misleading both her and the courts.

Today, both McCorvey and Cano are pro-life and are asking the Supreme Court to rehear their cases.

The rulings were flawed and the results were deadly. In the 30 years since, it is estimated that at least 40 million pre-born babies have been killed. (An exact number

cannot be verified because facilities that provide health care for pets usually receive more regulation and oversight than facilities providing “reproductive” health care for women.)

It’s difficult to comprehend the scale of such a slaughter. It is the equivalent of killing every man, woman and child in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio.

Could there possibly be an upside that offsets such a staggering loss of human life and potential? If there is, it has not been articulated by even the most ardent supporters of abortion-on-demand. The National Abortion Rights Action League website, for example, welcomes visitors to its “Massive New Mobilization and Education Initiative,” but never mentions the word abortion, much less explains why taking babies’ lives is such a blessed “choice.”

This abortion-promoting organization even changed its name to “NARAL Pro-Choice America,” eliminating the word “abortion” from its title. No one doubts what the League of Conservation Voters, the National Rifle Association or the National Taxpayers Union fight for, but the abortion movement hides behind the meaningless euphemism “choice,” afraid to name the very procedure they want people to choose.

Abortion proponents are even less likely to discuss 30 years of growing disregard for human life. In addition to a record homicide rate for infants, we now have procedures like partial-birth abortion, where a late-term baby is delivered feet first through her mother’s birth canal so an abortionist can puncture the baby’s skull, suction out the brains, and deliver the rest of the baby for disposal.

Another late-term procedure, known as induced labor abortion, sometimes results in the unintended live birth of the baby. Jill Stanek, a Registered Nurse in Labor and Delivery at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois testified before Congress that if a baby was born before the abortion was complete, he would be set aside to die without attention or care. Her hospital is not alone in employing this cold-hearted practice.

Child abuse and illegitimate births have increased since *Roe*. It’s become so common for mothers to abandon their newborns that 41 states have enacted legislation to establish safe havens for abandoned babies. Abortionists have been convicted of murdering their patients. Biotech firms are pursuing human cloning. Could all of this have been imagined 30 years ago?

All this brings to mind the words of Thomas Jefferson more than 200 years ago: “God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever.”

Without question, the Supreme Court removed the conviction that life is a gift from God. Thirty years of calculated killing of the most defenseless should cause us all to tremble.