

problem of priests who want to get married. "Won't hurt their waists, either," he winked.

This highly amusing put-on is the product of the satirical (dare I say fertile?) brain of P. J. Laux, director of the Canisius College library.

Walter Fidman
Wilmington, Delaware

REPEAL ALL ABORTION LAWS

We must put an end to *all* abortion laws. Liberalization is insufficient, especially when one considers that total repeal of abortion laws would produce the following benefits:

The increased number of abortion requests would make the medical community aware of the need for extensive contraception and sterilization programs, and this long-standing need would at last be responded to.

Illegal abortions would almost disappear. Most abortions would be performed in hospitals that, by their standards of safety, show proper regard for "the sanctity of human life."

The status of women would be improved, because each would be allowed to regulate her own bodily functions. (No woman should have to plead a case to obtain an abortion.)

Mental health would improve, because sane attitudes toward sex would evolve as a result of lessened anxiety about unwanted pregnancy.

Poverty would diminish, since families would be smaller and better suited to their incomes. An important side benefit would be happier homes.

The era of *wanted* children would arrive at last. Almost every child would be planned and joyfully anticipated.

Appreciable amounts of public funds would be saved, because there would be less need to wage war on poverty and to provide welfare support.

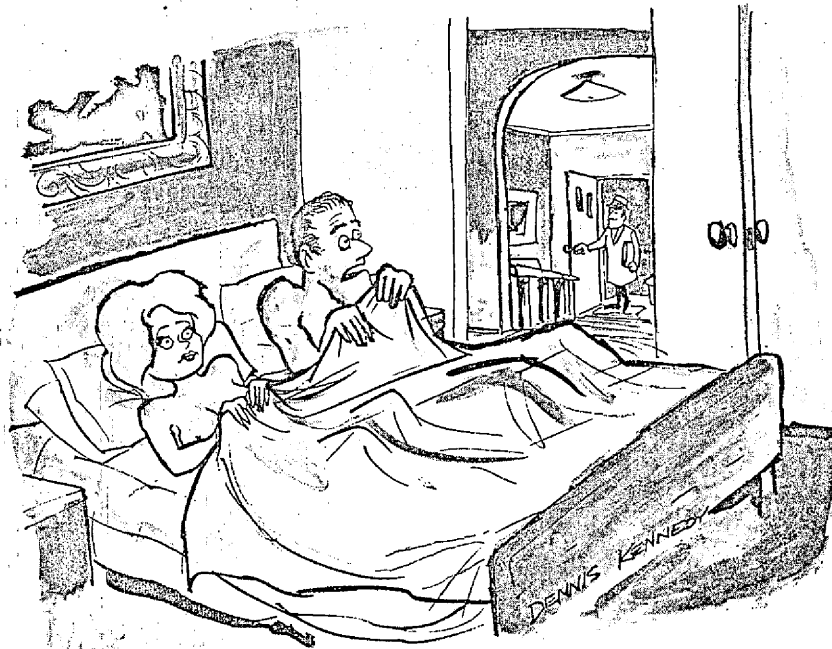
As these primary results spread their beneficial effect throughout our society, the general rise in happiness would be incalculable. Is it any wonder that so many physicians and clergymen favor the complete repeal of abortion laws?

H. B. Munson, M. D.
Rapid City, South Dakota

CAPOTE AND THE WARREN REPORT

Surprise, surprise! Just a few short months ago, in his March interview, Truman Capote told *PLAYBOY*, "The Warren Report is correct. Oswald, acting alone, killed the President. And that's it." Capote, like Dwight MacDonal before him, imperiously said "the last word on the Warren Report," only to develop a bad case of hiccups upon suddenly swallowing his final verdict.

Capote now acknowledges that the Dallas assassination may have been a conspiracy, after all. According to Jack Gould, who in June in his *New York*



"God, Gloria! It's my husband!"

Times TV column described Capote's appearance on the Johnny Carson show: "Mr. Capote adroitly argued that there was a possibility all three assassinations were part of one large conspiracy. . . . Mr. Capote threw out the conspiratorial concept and then deftly backtracked that it might not be so." He was moved to reverse himself as to the sacrosanctity of the Warren Report by the appalling assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, *not* by his examination of the official records of the Warren Commission.

Capote's change of heart is uninformed, no less than was his earlier orthodoxy, and evidences merely the same disdain for fact and evidence. I am therefore not overjoyed by the hint of his capitulation to the camp of the critics of the Warren Report. Nor have I formed an opinion about the two latest assassinations, since the evidence remains fragmentary and uncertain.

I would only point out that it would be graceful if Mr. Capote, having advanced to the point of conceding the possibility of conspiracy in the Dallas assassination, would now retract his description of some of the critics of the Warren Report as "a bunch of vultures [that] has discovered that pecking at the carrion of a dead President is an easy way to make a living." Sauce for the goose is, after all, sauce for the vulture.

Sylvia Meagher
New York, New York

Mrs. Meagher is the author of "Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings & Exhibits" and "Accessories

After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities and the Report," two widely acclaimed studies of the "Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy."

COURT RULINGS AND THE POLICE

We challenge the assertion of Police Chief Edward S. Kreins (*The Playboy Forum*, April) that U. S. Supreme Court decisions have shackled law enforcement. Police authorities of several major cities agree that recent decisions of the Court have not reduced the conviction rate. Note that the FBI, which had to work with these restrictive rules years before the states' laws were changed, has a conviction rate of over 90 percent.

Where Court decisions have had any effect on law enforcement, the effect has been good. In Detroit in 1966, the police started warning murder suspects of their legal rights, as required by the *Miranda* decision. There were actually more confessions than before, but they were considered essential in only 9.3 percent of the homicide cases—all because of sharper sleuthing before arrest. Former California Governor Edmund Brown states that police are doing better work since the search-and-seizure decisions and that investigations are producing more guilty pleas as a result of this work.

Those few police chiefs who still blame the Supreme Court for lack of police effectiveness are ignoring the real problems—their own inefficiency and their communities' indifference. The policeman of today is often undertrained