

It may not go down in history as one of the oratorical masterpieces of all time. However, there was something about the dignity and passion of Senator Gordon Humphrey's opening remarks during last Saturday's memorial services at the Concord dump that should reach the compassionate impulses -- if such there be -- of even the most stone-hearted advocates of abortion-by-whim.

Standing by a tiny white coffin marking the grisly discovery last December of abandoned fetal remains, New Hampshire's senior US senator began his address to about 50 sign-carrying anti-abortion advocates with carefully chosen words he had penned to fit the occasion:

"Here They Lie ..."

By Senator Gordon Humphrey

"Human remains slumber here midst filth and rotting trash.

"Tiny hands and arms, meant for love's embrace, instead were torn piece by piece from life by Dr. Mengele's merciless machines.

"Here they lie, forsaken and dirty.

"These, our brothers and sisters, who yearned to grow, yearned to know the world, suffused with the primal urge to live which bore each of us through life's first months, then years and decades.

"Each began his passage as we began ours -- a unique human being, unlike any other.

"In the entire compass of human history never was there one like any one of these, nor can there be again.

"Yes, these were human infants, for human beings only beget human beings, our own kind -- human beings from the start unto the end.

"Here lie the remains of helpless infants, destroyed, midst filth and rotting trash.

"And here lies Mercy...

"And here lies Decency...

"And here lies Virtue...

"And here lies Justice...

"...with the children, murdered and deeply mourned."



NHRTL brings a symbolic coffin to the Concord Landfill as part of the observance.

The Babies in the Dump

Rep. Kathy Souza, NHRTL Legislative Director

On December 8, 1988, the Concord Monitor newspaper carried a story of fetal remains discovered in the Concord Landfill. NH Right to Life asked then Governor John Sununu (senior) to prosecute the perpetrators and to let us have the bodies for a decent burial. The Diocese of Manchester had offered space for them to be buried in the Mount Calvary Cemetery if we could obtain them.

After our request to John Sununu was turned over to the Attorney General, NH Right to Life Chairman Marie Taylor spent nearly a year visiting and writing to the AG's office, going to the environmental department, speaking with the dump workers, etc.. She was told by landfill officials that they found 50 to 80 bodies, dismembered and in separate containers -- with identifying information on each. She was assured by the AG that "the investigation is nearly complete," and that "a decision is imminent." Finally, on June 23, 1989, she received a final letter from Senior Assistant AG Dana Bisbee stating that "the enforcement action by this office is complete."

The AG fined the Concord Obstetrics and Gynecology Association \$5,000 for "infectious waste improperly disposed." At least two laws and the health code were violated, calling for penalties up to \$25,000 per day, but the AG felt a total of \$5,000 was a "substantial penalty" for years of dumping babies by the Concord OB/GYN. Worse, Mr. Bisbee informed us that "the precise location of the fetal remains is not known, and, in any event, much more material has been placed over them."

Whether the final chapter in this story has been written we do not know. We do know that the babies discovered on that day in December 1988 remain a symbol for all the babies killed and discarded since abortion became legal in America. By honoring the memory of these few, we hope to honor the memory of them all.