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Why Obama is silent on killed babies

By: Nat Hentoff, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute May 22, 2013

After reading ghastly headlines about recently convicted Philadelphia abortion doctor Kermit Gosnell, such as "Gosnell Jury Hears About Baby Surviving Abortion in Toilet"

(Steven Ertelt, lifenews.com, May 9), there was this sudden message: "White House: No Comment on Gosnell 'Beheading' Babies in Abortions" (Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, April 15).

Why was Barack Obama silent about this "house of horrors"? Maybe because, as I've previously reported, he didn't want it known that as a state senator in Illinois, he had persistently opposed a bill, the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act, which would have provided medical care for babies who survive botched abortions.

He had voted "No" on the bill in March 2001 and "Present" later that same month. Explaining Obama's vote, WorldNetDaily reports, "in the Illinois senate, voting 'Present' is the equivalent of voting 'No,' because a bill must have a majority counting only 'Yes' votes to pass" ("Gosnell Conviction a Setback for Obama," May 13).

Jill Stanek, an Illinois nurse and pro-life advocate whom I had previously interviewed, testified in 2003 before the Illinois Senate Health and Human Services Committee on the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act. She told of a colleague who "accidentally threw a live aborted baby in the garbage who had been left on the counter of the Soiled Utility Room wrapped in a disposable towel.

"When the associate realized what she had done, she started going through the trash to find the baby, and the baby fell out of the towel and on to the floor."

As president, Obama has steadfastly supported late-term abortions. But he doesn't need to worry about the public being reminded of his rejection of the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act. That's because of the unyielding media attention that's been concentrated on his Justice Department's invasions of the Associated Press' First Amendment freedoms, as well as the Internal Revenue Service's questioning of citizens' political groups, focusing, for example, on those with "patriot" and "tea party" in their names. The IRS was also curious to know if any of these groups had publicly opposed specific policies, like Obamacare.

Of what country does Obama think he's president?

As for Dr. Kermit Gosnell, his case is done. In the May 15 Wall Street Journal, Peter Loftus reports that he has been sentenced "to spend the rest of his life in prison for the murders of babies who were born alive at his Philadelphia abortion clinic, avoiding a potential death penalty in a deal with city prosecutors."

But the horrifying details of his case have startlingly educated many Americans, including this one, about the extent of other "houses of horror" throughout this nation.

The Washington Times' Jeanneane Maxon writes: "Gosnell's clinic is not the only 'house of horrors' in our nation. In recent years, 15 states have investigated substandard conditions and providers" ("Why Big Abortion shares Gosnell's guilt," May 15).

For one of many examples, Helen Pow reveals in the Daily Mail that "Houston doctor Douglas Karpen is accused by four former employees of delivering live fetuses during third-trimester abortions and killing them by either snipping their spinal cord (the Gosnell method), stabbing a surgical instrument into their heads or 'twisting their heads off their necks with his own bare hands'" ("Second 'house of horrors' abortion clinic where doctor 'twisted heads off fetus' necks with his bare hands' is investigated in Texas," May 16).

Pow, citing anti-abortion group Life Dynamics' video interview with one of the doctor's former employees, writes that in these latter murders, the fetus coming completely out "was still alive because it was still moving and you could see the stomach breathing."

The Texas Department of State Health Services is investigating.

As for Gosnell's "house of horrors," we now know that his "abortion center was inspected only after a federal drug raid in 2010. It was the first time the facility had been inspected in 17 years because state officials ignored complaints and failed to visit Gosnell's Women's Medical Society for years" ("Kermit Gosnell Jury Hung on Two Counts, Doesn't Say Which Ones," Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, May 13).

While some states didn't need Gosnell to be awakened to the need for strenuous oversight of abortions, what about the many others that do? As WorldNetDaily senior correspondent and author Jerome Corsi insists:

"After the Gosnell conviction, no state health official can rest comfortably that abortion doctors are acting responsibly, unless the state has a history of rigorous health standards applied by abortion clinics operating in the state."

This includes, he adds, making sure restrictions on late-term abortions are actually being followed.

Because I am among the many pro-life and pro-choice Americans mourning those babies who were assassinated by Dr. Kermit Gosnell, I will end with this:

Notorious late-term abortionist LeRoy Carhart "was awarded the 2009 William K. Rashbaum, M.D., Abortion Provider Award by Physicians for Reproductive Health ... NARAL Pro-Choice America (which no longer stands for National Abortion Rights Action League, given that some people might think that name icky) gave him its Hero Award that same year" ("Kermit Gosnell Is Not an Outlier," Shannen W. Coffin, nationalreview.com, April 12).

Coffin contiues: "There's very little difference between what Carhart does on a regular basis and what Kermit Gosnell (stood) on trial for."

When is NARAL Pro-Choice America going to demand the return of that Hero Award?

I'm a pro-lifer who agrees with Jerome Corsi: "Now that murder charges have been found to apply to abortion practices in Pennsylvania, no state should assume a health department trying to be politically correct can be assumed in the future to be free of criminal liabilities."

Including murder.

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