



THE MERCURY

Nat Hentoff: Martin Luther King Jr's niece vs. Obama

By Nat Hentoff - 10/12/2012

I was struck by this headline on LifeNews.com on Sept. 26: "Poll: Obama's Abortion Record Hurts Him in Battleground States."

Why? As I've written previously, the reason now that "a majority of swing voters (54 percent) are less likely to vote for President Obama" in crucial states is "after learning that he voted against a law (three times as an Illinois state senator) to give equal treatment and constitutional protections to babies born alive after a failed abortion (35 percent much less likely)" (Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, Sept. 26).

The poll was carried out by the polling company, inc./WomanTrend and, significantly, was authorized by one of the nation's most influential pro-life organizations, the Susan B. Anthony List.

Anthony was a major force in having finally enabled, after her death, the ultimate passage of the 19th Amendment, permitting women to vote. And in 1876, on learning that her sister-in-law had had an abortion, Anthony wrote in her diary, "She will rue the day she forces nature" ("Susan Palin Is No Susan B. Anthony," Ann Gordon and Lynn Sherr, newsweek.washingtonpost.com, May 21, 2010).

The president of the Susan B. Anthony List, Marjorie Dannenfelser, makes what may turn out to be a crucial point: "Today's poll confirms: Pro-life voters make up a sizable voting bloc capable of achieving victory in close elections" ("New Poll Reveals Swing Voters Repelled by Obama's Extreme Abortion Record," sba-list.org, Sept. 26).

In any case, the president left absolutely no doubt of his passionate dedication to abortion when, as an August Washington Times headline clearly stated, he assured a meeting of liberal bloggers in New York City that he wouldn't "give 'any ground' on abortion rights" ("Obama to women bloggers: I won't give 'any ground' on abortion rights," Susan Crabtree, washingtontimes.com, Aug. 2, 2012).

Among those with a determinedly opposite view is Alveda C. King, an influential force among our nation's many strong pro-life women. She is the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and works for Roman Catholic organization Priests for Life as its pastoral associate and director of African-American Outreach.

