the feedback that I have received very strongly is that when they go to Wash-
ington, they are first of all going to have to stand side by side with ANFA representatives to present their case in effec-
tively. They are then going to be limited any-
way, and they would like to have the
strongest possible resolution so that they
can hit these congressmen with a piece of
paper which is not going to be dumped in
the garbage as just another piece of union
propaganda.

I wish that some congressmen did not
have that attitude, but it is a fact of life
that they do, and in the meantime, we are
fighting a desperate battle, and I urge you
that you include this in the overall resolution.

Therefore I ask you to please vote
"yes" for the minority report.

Thank you. (Applause.)

BROTHER BRIAN BARGER (Wash-
ington-Baltimore): I would like to speak
in favor of the resolution as was adopted by
the Resolutions Committee.

While I sympathize with Brother Daw-
son’s concerns, I think that the role of this
convention it to express the aspira-
tions of The Newspaper Guild, which
very rarely finds itself in the same
situation as the ANFA, and regardless of
what happens on Capitol Hill I think
that the resolutions that we adopt here
are to be expressing our interests.

Thank you. (Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: The miles are
clear. Are you ready for the vote? The
vote will occur at this time see the Min-
ority Report of the Resolutions Com-
mittee—the one on the blue report.

All in favor of adoption of the minority
report please say aye. All opposed? The
eyes have it. (Applause.)

MOTION CARRIED

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: We now re-
turn to the main resolution, “Communica-
tions Law,” as amended. Is there dis-
cussion on the main resolution? The
miles are clear. All in favor of adoption of
the resolution, “Communications Law,”
please say aye. Opposed? The resolution
is adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BROTHER MORRESEY: A resolution
entitled, “For A Choice.” It is on green
paper.

FOR A CHOICE

Under the Criminal Code of Canada, a
woman may choose a safe and legal abor-
tion if a hospital therapeutic abortion
committee exists. More and more often
these committees are being disbanded,
Doctors, who perform abortions without
the sanction of a therapeutic abortion
committee, risk jail and women are forced to
risk their lives at the hands of unqual-
ified abortions.

Women themselves must have the right
to choose a safe and legal abortion.

Therefore the Convention demands that
the Canadian government remove abortion
from the Criminal Code and leave the de-
cision to the women.

Brother Chairperson, I move for adop-
tion of the resolution.

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: Adoption of
the resolution has been moved.

BROTHER SCHREER (Ottawa): I move
to postpone consideration of this indifi-

erably.

(Seconded by several.)

BROTHER HUNTLEY (Southern On-
tario): I second that, Brother Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: It has been
moved and seconded that consideration of
this resolution be postponed indefinitely.

BROTHER HUNTLEY: Brother Chair-
person, I move the previous question.

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: Scheer, Ottawa,
seconds.

BROTHER HARPER (Ottawa): I will
second.

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: It requires
twelve seconds from five locals for the
motion.

BROTHER O’DONNELL: O’Donnell,
Canadian Wire Service, seconds.

SISTER WENDY BATENANT, Northern
Ontario, seconds.

SISTER PETRISON: Petersen, Ottawa,
seconds.

BROTHER MACDONALD: MacDonald,
Canadian Wire Service, seconds.

BROTHER LA ROCHELLE: Doug La
Rochelle, Southern Ontario, seconds.

BROTHER MALLON: Mallon, Southern
Ontario, seconds.

BROTHER LEG MALTAIS (Southern
Ontario): Maltais, Song, seconds.

BROTHER ROHRMAN: Will Rohrman,
Peart, seconds.

BROTHER GOODMAN: Goodman, Hud-
son County, seconds.

BROTHER TOWNSSEND: Townsend,
Brockton, seconds.

BROTHER DALY: Chuck Daly, Ottawa,
seconds.

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: That’s suf-

ficient.

All right. This motion is not debatable,
and the question before you is to move
the previous question which would cut
off debate on the previous motion.

All in favor of moving the previous
question please say aye. All opposed?
The eyes have it.

MOTION CARRIED

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: We are now
back to the motion to postpone indefini-
tely, and the vote will occur on that
question. The effect of this motion would
be to kill the original resolution. All in
favor of the motion to postpone in-
definitely please say aye. All opposed?
The “noes” appear to be it. The “noes”
do have it. (Applause.)

MOTION LOST

BROTHER SCHREER: Excuse me.
Scheer, Ottawa, moves for a roll call.
(Grunts.)

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: This will re-
quire twelve seconds from five locals.

BROTHER HUNTLEY: Huntley, South-
ern Ontario, seconds.

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: Are there
any other seconds?

The miles are clear, so we will have
to say that the motion dies for lack of a
second. (Applause.)

Now we are back on the resolution,
“For A Choice.” Are there any addi-
tional names to that resolution?

BROTHER BARGER (Washington-Bal-
timore): Brian Barger, Washington-Bal-
timore. Please add my name.

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: Are others?
All right, Will there be debate? Center
mike.

SISTER WILSON (Montreal): I would
like to speak in favor of the motion. This
motion came through the women’s caucus
and certainly has the support—it has my
support as well as the people who worked
at drafting it.

I would just like to address a couple of
the issues which I think are contained in
here.

I think that, first of all, the issue of
abortion is a very appropriate one for this
convention to be addressing. I think it has
to do with human rights and certainly has
to do with women’s rights. This conven-
ion repeatedly takes stands on human
rights and rights of minorities and women,
and I don’t think you can argue that abor-
tion doesn’t fall into that category. I think
that women must have the choice. Nobody is precluded. What we are for
is the choice.

Right now it is in the criminal code
of Canada. That means that it is illegal.
The only time it is legal is if you go
through an abortion committee. We have
a lot of trouble with abortion committees.
In Quebec, in fact, the money is taken
from the provincial government and not
used for abortion committees. Throughout
most of the provinces of Quebec you can-
not get an abortion. You can pretty well
get an abortion in Montreal. All of the
population of Quebec does not live any-
where near Montreal, and I think the
situation is the same in the rest of Canada.

I think that women have to have con-
trol over their own bodies, and that is
part of having human dignity. It should
be our choice or not we what we want
to bear a child.

It is nobody’s else’s choice. It is not the
choice or decision of the doctors, it is not
the decision of the hospital, it is not the
decision of my doctor or anyone else’s
doctor. It has to be the choice of the
woman if she is to have any self
dignity at all.
I think what this motion does is, it asks that the convention demand that it be taken out of the criminal code and put into the hands of the people who are most affected by it—in fact, the only people who are truly affected by abortion—and that is women. (Applause.)

BROTHER STEWART (Albany), I would like to speak in favor of this. It may seem funny that a man stands at the microphone, but in 100 years of trade unionism, we have all fought for human dignity and the right to control our own lives as individuals. That is what unionism is basically all about, and there is a quote in the Bible that says maybe that if it happens to the least of my brethren and sisters, it happens to me, and I think that my sisters deserve the right to control their lives also. (Applause.)

SISTER LANE (Vancouver): I move the previous question.

BROTHER HUNTLEY (Southern Ontario) Chairman, I rise on a point of personal privilege.

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: All right, proceed on your point of personal privilege.

BROTHER HUNTLEY, Brother Chairman, this may be slightly longer than the average point of personal privilege, it is a crisis of conscience on my part. I do not believe in abortion. I do believe, however, that I have been given an average point of personal privilege. It is my privilege to speak in favor of this. I do not want to have to have my name associated with the majority decision of my caucus.

I am, therefore, bound to have my name registered as voting in support of a monstrous act which I cannot accept. Therefore, I am asking, for your permission, Brother Chairperson, and that of this Convention, to withdraw my name as a delegate to this Convention and to withdraw from the floor of this Convention and sit as a visitor. (Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: You have heard the request. I don't know whether that authority lies with the Convention, but at least you have stated your position.

Now, there was a motion to move the previous question.

BROTHER SCHEER (Ottawa): I would like some information on procedure. Is the motion for the previous question, after it has been seconded and voted on, debatable?

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: No, it is not. The previous motion to move the previous question applied to another motion which was to proceed indefinitely. The motion to move the previous question applies to the principal question, the resolution, "For A Choice." There is a motion before you to leave the previous question, but it will require 12 seconds from five locos if it stands.

SISTER FOLEY (Second, Foley, Lexington): Second, Foley, Lexington.

BROTHER BRYANT (Second, John Bryant, Southern Ontario): Second, John Bryant.


CHAIRPERSON CULVER: All right, that is sufficient. I will put the motion to a vote at this time on the question, which will cut off debate.

SISTER FOLEY: Second, Foley, Lexington.

BROTHER BRYANT: Second, John Bryant, Southern Ontario.

SISTER FOLEY: Second, Foley, Lexington.


CHAIRPERSON CULVER: Now we are ready for the vote on the resolution, "For A Choice." All in favor of the adoption of the resolution, "For A Choice," please say aye. All opposed? The ayes have it. (Applause.)

MOTION CARRIED

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: Now we are ready for the vote on the resolution, "For A Choice." All in favor of the adoption of the resolution, "For A Choice," please say aye. All opposed? The ayes have it. (Applause.)

MOTION CARRIED

BROTHER MORGANBEY (New York): I move adoption of the resolution entitled, "The Human Life Amendment." It is a pink paper.

THE HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT

Whereas the Human Life Amendment, an amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Legislation of Similar Intent

SISTER RUSH (New York): I have to disagree. The opposition of abortion and the opposite of abortion which is carrying a pregnancy to a term, affects a woman very fundamentally. If you don't have the opposition of abortion, which should only be used in the extreme case—as a last resort—then you are obliged to go through a physical process of carrying a child to term, risking the child. The process doesn't stop at birth. It is just a beginning, and it is a lifelong obligation that you put on women under if you obligate her to carry a fetus to term.

Brother Chairperson, I am for adoption of the resolution.

CHAIRPERSON CULVER: The resolution has been moved for adoption. Will there be debate? Jim Scheer.

BROTHER SCHEER (Ottawa): I don't know exactly how to say this because I would like to express on what happened on the earlier resolution, and I know that is out of order. I just want to express some of the things that I am afraid of when I think about abortion and the opposition to abortion. The important thing that I want to make clear is that I do not want to have to express the differences that I feel about abortion and abortion legislation on the floor of this convention, and I do not want to see running out of this convention some stance on abortion that I am not prepared to take and I presume that a lot of people at this convention are not prepared to take, nor are a lot of people in this country prepared to take. This is not the arena to discuss abortion.

Thank you. (Applause.)

SISTER HUTCHINS (San Antonio): I have a motion to disagree. I do have a moral responsibility against the idea of abortion, however, but you see, it is completely closed to the reality of some sort of accommodation with those who have a strong feeling about abortion. But the important thing that I want to make clear is that I do not want to have to express exactly what I feel about abortion and abortion legislation on the floor of this convention, and I do not want to see running out of this convention some stance on abortion that I am not prepared to take and I do not think that a lot of people in this country are prepared to take. This is not the arena to discuss abortion.

Thank you. (Applause.)
understand—I can understand debate on matter is not a matter for a trade union. That it should be removed from the crim
matter that does not involve union affairs of an individual woman to choose. I don’t admit women’s caucuses—the Ontario Federation of
fairs. (Applause.) And the Labour Council of Metropolitan Ontario): I strongly disagree that this fully the ramifications of this and not
olution. I would suggest we consider care­
be irate over the Guild adopting this res­
fits my own philosophy. However, it is
plause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BECK (Great Falls): No man or woman within the la­
ber movement is an island. What hap­
to the freedoms of any of our mem­
ers impacts on all of us. Our concerns
or the personal freedoms of all our mem­
ers should move us to oppose the human
life amendment. Let’s get government reg­
ations out of our personal lives. (Applause.)

BROTHER GOLDMAN (St. Louis): Personally, I agree with this resolution. It fits my own philosophy. However, strangely was one of the most explosive and emo­tional issues in the United States. In our local many of our members would be irate over the Guild adopting this res­
solution. I would suggest we consider care­
fully the ramifications of this and not
have the Guild take a position on this matter that does not involve union af­
airs. (Applause.)

SISTER LINDA TONEY (Southern Ontario): I strongly disagree that this matter is not a matter for a trade union. I know that in Canada many individuals have their concerns—the Ontario Federation of Labour, the Canadian Labour Congress, and the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto have all adopted a policy on the question of abortion, and that policy is that it should be removed from the crim­i­nal code and that it should be the right of an individual woman to choose. I don’t under­stand—I can understand debate on the issue—what I don’t understand is that

people can get up and say that it is not a union’s affair to try and change a re­
pressive law. (Applause.)

SISTER SCRIVANI (Buffalo): There have been several resolutions before this con­vention today that arguably have nothing to do with the trade union move­
ment per se, and I really think that that particular argument is not valid.

I also want to say that the members of the Women’s Caucus who worked on this resolution are not pro-abortion, but we are de­finitely pro-choice, and since I heard this brought up by some other dele­
gates here today, I just want to be on record here as saying that I am a prac­ticing Catholic, and I support this res­
olution. (Applause.)

BROTHER RACHEL (New York): I just want to express my disagreement with the viewpoint that this resolution is not properly a trade union matter. I feel that it is, that in addition to being a mat­
ter of general concern to society, it also directly affects women’s ability to main­
tain employment, and therefore definite­
ly falls in the province of a trade union.

As presidency chairman of the New York Times unit, I am frequently dealing with questions of matters relating to pregnancy
leave. It affects our contracts. It affects, as Joyce Hatchick pointed out, a woman’s ability in the labor force to maintain em­
ployment and build up seniority.

I urge the convention to pass this res­
olution. (Applause.)

SISTER PALMER (San Francisco-Oak­
land): The opinions expressed by some of our speakers should not hide the fact that some women in the labor movement went out and formed the Coalition of La­
bor Union Women.

In some circles we felt that we were not first class citizens in our unions, not as in my own union, incidentally—a Muslim— but I think that is the reason that CLIUW was born.

I think for our brothers here to wash
their hands of this is to turn their backs
on the question of women in the labor move­
ment, and I urge adoption of the amend­
ment. (Applause.)

SISTER POLLEY (Lexington): I, too, be­
lieve that this is an issue that trade unions need to take up. In fact, I am very

tired of the trade union movement in gen­
ral shifting this issue. I think it is a so­
liters’ issue as well as a human issue, and I don’t think that we are debating here the pros and cons of abortion, but we are debating the pros and cons of giving a human being a choice and control over their own body, and I would urge adoption of this resolution. (Applause.)

TOWNSEND (Brooklyn): Are we going to take a stand today on capital punishment? Are we going to con­
sider whether or not we are for or against it? Are we going to put a good or bad on Bobby Sands? I hope not.

COOK (New York): I am aware of the sensitivity of this issue, and I wish to speak strongly in favor of it, because we are talking about the right to work. Guild women have been denied em­
dployment because of pregnancy; Guild women have been denied advancement because of pregnancy; Guild women have lost their jobs because of pregnancy.

The need for good, solid information on contraception is crucial, particularly in these days of rapid growth of the single­
parent family, both male and female. Therefore, I urge you as Guild members to support the right of all women to work and the right to choice. (Applause.)

GOODMAN (Hudson County): I have to disagree with much of what my sisters have said here today, and I really mean my sisters because the dearest brothers and sisters I have are in the labor movement, but this happens to be an issue on which I have deep phil­
ocritical and moral convictions, and there­
fore, I urge the defeat of the resolution.

NELSON (Twin Cities): I was going to rise to move the previous question, but I see no other speakers.

CULVER: Are you ready for the question? The mikes are clear.

The vote will occur on "The Human Life Amendment."

All in favor say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it. (Applause.)

MOTION CARRIED

SISTER PETERSON (Ontario): I should like to recall Jim Scheer of Ot­
tawa as voting "no" on that resolution. (Applause.)

CULVER: Very well.

BROTHER WALLACE: God is here.

CULVER: Is it all right if Jack speaks?

BROTHER NELSON: Yes.

WALLACE: Yes, I suppose it.

I am a little disturbed by the young lady who mentioned she is a practical Catholic. I am a practical Catholic. So

let’s balance the issue.

(Cries of "Practicing.")

A practical Catholic, and I am a prac­t
ing Catholic. I am just very happy that the blessed mother didn’t have an abortion. I am glad everybody that is a woman has a choice, and I am very happy for my sisters that do have a choice, but that they didn’t get pregnant by themselves.

BROTHER HOWARD (Washington-Bal­
timore): I find it interesting that all the

sisters who have spoken in favor of this resolution have attempted to make the point that this resolution gives them cer­
tain rights, whereas all of my brothers who have come and opposed it have dis­
cussed moral ramifications.

My wife, who used to be a newspaper reporter until recently, told me repeated­
ly that one of the things that she found

very strange was that the subject of abor­tion was being discussed in Congress by a bunch of doddering old men, sitting at little desks—especially since they didn’t have anything to do with it.

So I suggest that my brothers here, whether they are for or against this is­sue, should follow my example and leave this hall and let our sisters decide it. (Applause.)

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