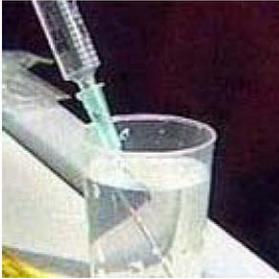




The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Dutch doctors want 'right to kill' laws extended!



After admitting to killing more than 20 newborns since 1997, Dutch doctors are asking the government of the Netherlands to expand legalized euthanasia in that country. The physicians claim the babies they killed, faced unbearable suffering had they been allowed to live.

Dr. David Stevens of the Christian Medical & Dental Associations, a US organisation, finds this news deeply disturbing. He warns, "Once you say that there's such a thing as a life not worthy to be lived, and once you admit that suffering — which is very difficult to define — justifies taking the life of an individual, then there's no logical place to draw the line."

If euthanasia is to be allowed, for instance, in the case of a patient who is expected to live only for six months and to suffer for six months, Stevens muses, "Then why can't you give it to someone who's going to suffer for six years, or 60 years? Don't they deserve it more?" The CMDA spokesman believes the doctors in the Netherlands are ultimately seeking that the government drop all regulation on euthanasia so that they may play the role of God with impunity. But he points out that, although people may expect doctors to be moral ideals, always making the right decisions, they are still imperfect human beings.

Also, the U.S. physician adds, although the Dutch doctors are standing behind the cloak of so-called compassion, alleviation of suffering may not be the only concern behind their arguments for more discretion to commit euthanasia. "It's very low cost," he points out, "and that's bearing on this issue as well. When you look at a child that has some disability, the lifelong cost can be in the hundreds of thousands if not a million dollars or more. So what's the cheap option? A lethal injection for \$25 or \$30."

David Stevens also said, "The tragic irony is that Dutch doctors once risked their lives to oppose the Nazi euthanasia programme. Dutch euthanasia doctors today indignantly contrast their motives with the Nazis', yet there is little difference in the final result between the involuntary euthanasia of Dutch infants and non-consenting adults and the Nazi euthanasia programme."

"In just a few generations since World War II, the Netherlands has slid from firm opposition to medical killing to tolerating it illegally to endorsing it in law and now to expanding it to children. On the face of it, Dutch euthanasia is all about pain and suffering and patient autonomy, but in reality, Dutch euthanasia is all about money, convenience and physician autonomy.

"Dutch elderly patients were the first to feel the dark force of the euthanasia culture, as they faced life-threatening illness while fearing the lethal needles of life-threatening doctors. Now euthanasia has found its ultimate victim in infants who are unable to speak for themselves and powerless to defend their own right to life."