

Why Do Some Things Not Get in the Newspapers? By Glenn Grothman

This column is not about abortion. It is about things that for whatever reason do not appear in the press.

Last year Congress passed a partial birth abortion ban. The bill was well publicized and was signed into law by President Bush. It has since been challenged in court and this law will not be enforced until our court system rules it constitutional.

The law prohibits a specific type of abortion done in the last months of pregnancy. All of the body except the head is removed from the mother, a hole is put in the back of the head and the brains are sucked out. It is known as an “intact dilation and extraction” abortion. While statistics are not available, a nurse I met who quit after one day at a clinic where these were performed told me all seven of the baby’s killed on her day were healthy with one having Down’s Syndrome. Hard to believe this happens in America.

But this is not the only way to perform a late term abortion. There are already abortions performed in America in which a saline solution is injected into the baby’s heart killing the baby. The baby is then stillborn. It is the opinion of some experts that even if the partial birth abortion ban is upheld, the abortionists will simply switch procedures to this other method of abortion. This bill may have no effect on the total number of abortions in the United States.

The bill does have an effect on people’s opinions about abortion. I believe articles about this procedure have caused more people to consider themselves pro-life, which is a very good thing. The vehemence with which Planned Parenthood fights to preserve their right to do the above tells us something about the type of people who run that organization. We can also learn something about the worldview of politicians, such as Russ Feingold, who fight to keep these killings going.

But, I have not seen or heard in the mainstream press, talk radio, or even intellectual conservative publications that the effect of the partial birth abortion ban will largely be just to switch from one type of abortion to another. Why is this?

The politicians who pushed the ban want to convince the voters they did something significant. The opponents are probably so embarrassed by their approval of ending life in the eighth month of pregnancy that they don’t talk about alternative procedures. Some people who know the truth will not go to the press for fear of embarrassing the politicians who brag about the bill. The press is too lazy to look beyond the most famous politicians when looking to write an article on this issue. The result is that despite thousands of newspaper and magazine articles, television broadcasts, and political ads, virtually no Americans know the above facts.

This is just one issue, but it illustrates that reading the newspaper everyday and watching the television at night may still leave you very uninformed.

Please let me know what you think on this issue. Contact me here in Madison---please call 1-888-534-0058, or in any of the following ways:

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