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From ëModerately Pro-Choice' to ëGravely Wicked'

Joe Feuerherd | Jun. 1, 2009 NCR Today

In 1994, *First Things* conducted **a symposium [1]**the topic of which was ?killing abortionists.? What follows below are the comments of Princeton University?s Robert P. George offered as part of that special section of the publication. Yesterday, May 31, **writing on *National Review Online*[2]**, George offered his views on the murder of Dr. George Tiller. These words are also quoted in their entirety.

?I am personally opposed to killing abortionists. However, inasmuch as my personal opposition to this practice is rooted in a sectarian (Catholic)religious belief in the sanctity of human life, I am unwilling to impose it on others who may, as a matter of conscience, take a different view. Of course, I am entirely in favor of policies aimed at removing the root causes of violence against abortionists. Indeed, I would go so far as to support mandatory one-week waiting periods, and even nonjudgmental counseling, for people who are contemplating the choice of killing an abortionist. I believe in policies that reduce the urgent need some people feel to kill abortionists while, at the same time, respecting the rights of conscience of my fellow citizens who believe that the killing of abortionists is sometimes a tragic necessity-not a good, but a lesser evil. In short, I am moderately pro-choice.?
From a First Things symposium on ?Killing Abortionists,? Dec. 1994

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"Whoever murdered George Tiller has done a gravely wicked thing. The evil of this action is in no way diminished by the blood George Tiller had on his own hands. No private individual had the right to execute judgment against him. We are a nation of laws. Lawless violence breeds only more lawless violence. Rightly or wrongly, George Tilller was acquitted by a jury of his peers. "Vengeance is mine, says the Lord." For the sake of justice and right, the perpetrator of this evil deed must be prosecuted, convicted, and punished. By word and deed, let us teach that violence against abortionists is not the answer to the violence of abortion. Every human life is precious. George Tiller's life was precious. We do not teach the wrongness of taking human life by wrongfully taking a human life. Let our ?weapons? in the fight to defend the lives of abortion's tiny victims, be chaste weapons of the spirit."
From a commentary posted on National Review Online, May 31, 2009.

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Links:
[1] http://www.firstthings.com/article.php?year=2007&month=01&title_link=killing-abortionists-a-symposium-31#George
[2] http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=NDM5NGYyYWMxZDY3NWFmYjhjZmJiNTI2YmRjZmRlYWE=