

# The Boston Globe

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SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1971

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# Episcopalian convention today to feature arguments on abortion

By James Stack  
Globe Staff

A debate on the morality of abortion is expected to highlight the 186th annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts today.

The one-day meeting was to open at 8:45 this morning in St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston, and an estimated 500 clergymen and lay delegates were expected.

Rt. Rev. John M. Burgess, bishop, was to speak

shortly after 9 and officiate at a Communion service at 11.

Action on a variety of resolutions, including one urging repeal of the Massachusetts abortion law, will begin at 1:15.

Passage of the abortion repeal resolution, offered by Mrs. William J. Schneider of Cambridge, is recommended by the Committee on Resolutions.

The vote on the issue could go either way, however, according to a diocesan spokesman, who said

there is a split on the question.

"Because of this polarization of opinion, the vote should be very close," he said, "and there will be a lot of debate before any action is taken."

The convention will also consider resolutions dealing with the Vietnam war, full-time draft counseling as a diocesan function and the admission of women to ordination as priests and bishops.

The vote on the last will

be merely advisory and will be recorded at the next triennial session of the National Convention in 1973.

The Vietnam resolution calls on President Nixon and Congress to withdraw

support for the South Vietnamese government, stop all bombing of North Vietnam and pull out all US forces by December.

Similar resolution met defeat at the annual convention held last fall in

Houston. The House of Bishops approved it, but the House of Deputies failed to concur.

Convention delegates will include 285 laymen representing the 186 parishes of the diocese.

## Meeting to discuss morality of abortion

The Rev. Damian Blaher, OFM, a Franciscan canon lawyer and theologian, will discuss the moral aspects of abortion at St. Anthony Shrine Auditorium, Arch

st., Boston, tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting, open to the public and free, will also feature a talk by Joyce

Dwyer, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Boston College School of Nursing. She will discuss the medical aspects of abortion.