

the nation

If doctors give approval

Priest may stop respirator

United Press International
MINEOLA, La.—A judge Thursday empowered a priest to disconnect Brother Joseph Charles Fox from a life-sustaining respirator if his doctors determine that Fox can never regain consciousness.

State Supreme Court Justice Robert Meade made the Rev. Philip K. Eichner guardian for Fox, 83, and said he could "direct the termination of the respirator that presently supports" Fox.

Out Meade said doctors must first examine Fox and decide whether he "continues in a chronic vegetative state with no reasonable medical possibility

that he will ever regn any sapient or cognitive function or capability."

The judge also said the Nassau County District Attorney's Office must be given at least 48 hours' notice of this examination so that prosecutor's representatives can be present.

The district attorney opposed removal of the respirator. Eichner has been seeking the court-appointed guardianship as a necessary step to having Fox's extraordinary life-sustaining devices disconnected.

Fox's heart stopped beating Oct. 2 during a hernia operation and he suffered irreversible brain

damage.

An appeal by the Nassau County District Attorney's Office was expected.

Eichner, president of the Roman Catholic Marianist community in Mineola where Fox was a teaching brother, was joined in his suit by Fox's 12 nieces and nephews.

Eichner backed his decision to seek removal of the respirator with Catholic doctrine expressed in 1957 by Pope Pius XII, in which the pope said the church considers a respirator "an extraordinary measure which need not be used to prolong life."

Iranian crisis spurs nationwide protests

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Americans are wearing armbands and organizing campaigns to send letters to Iran to demonstrate their support for the hostages being held in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, but there are also several incidents of anti-shah sentiment.

Vice President Walter Mondale and First Lady Rosalyn Carter were interrupted Wednesday at a campaign appearance in Harlem by hecklers shouting "Send back the shah."

In a raucous incident that lasted about 20 minutes, Mrs. Carter was interrupted so often by her audience that she could not be heard.

Before the shouting began, Mrs. Carter asked the congregation for full support of the president, who, she said, "has searched his soul for the right solutions" to the Iranian crisis.

In San Antonio, where Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi is recuperating from gallbladder surgery and cancer treatment, Iranian students said they have a "responsibility" to demonstrate against the deposed monarch.

The San Antonio group, the Iranian Muslim Organization, agreed not to demonstrate in violation of U.S. laws and a local ban enacted Tuesday night, but it said it could not guarantee the actions of individuals.

"We have to do something to show the American people we are with the Iranian people," said IMO spokesman Mohammed Kamiab, 27.

Concerned residents in Martinsburg, W. Va., wore white armbands emblazoned with the number "50" to protest the holding of the American hostages in Iran.

Stan Sagel, producer of the armbands in West

Virginia, said he hopes to start a national trend.

"I'm going to print as many armbands as the public is willing to wear," said Sagel, president of Perfection Garment Co. "I'm not charging for them — I'm giving them away."

So far, more than 3,000 of the armbands have been distributed.

In Lawrence, Kansas, a newspaper reported two University of Kansas faculty members flew to Tehran carrying a pro-Iran letter to the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in an attempt to seek freedom for embassy hostages.

A building contractor in Colorado Springs, Colo., invited the shah to stay at his house, and three legislators in the U.S. territory of Guam extended a similar invitation.

The Kentucky Education Association has begun a statewide letter-writing campaign to let the Iranian Government know that Americans support their government's activities to free the 50 hostages held at the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

About 10,000 New York City cab drivers plan to drive with their headlights on from noon to 1 p.m. Friday to show support for the American hostages in Iran.

"We intend this to be our own small, silent show of support for the 50 Americans being held hostage by the tyrannical Iranian Government," said Stanley Bakalar, president of the Associated Radio Metered Taxi Owners Council.

In Chappaqua, N.Y., a "quiet, studious" 15-year-old high school student of Iranian descent was beaten unconscious by another youth in a fight at school. The fight was sparked by students' taunts about the Iranian's heritage.

Man sentenced, fined for abusing daughter

United Press International
CAMDEN, N.J. — A New Jersey man was sentenced Thursday to a year on probation and fined \$1,000 for spanking his 15-year-old daughter with a paddle so severely she was barely able to walk.

Camden Superior Court Judge I.V. DiMartino sentenced Frank Brown, 51, of Barrington, for assault with a dangerous weapon and child abuse. He was convicted Oct. 11.

Brown said he spanked the girl because his former wife, the girl's mother, Edith Mack, had asked him for help in disciplining the child. It

Feminist excommunicated

United Press International
STERLING, Va. — Sonia Johnson fought back tears and vowed to keep campaigning for the Equal Rights Amendment, despite her excommunication from the Mormon Church.

Johnson, 43, a fifth-generation Mormon, was notified by letter Wednesday of her excommunication "for spreading false doctrine."

The leadership of the Mormon Church opposes ERA and says it threatens the American family.

"It is morally wrong (for the church) to do this thing, and I know that because I know my own heart and I know the things they are saying about me are wrong," Johnson told reporters at her suburban Washington home.

"It is not surprising they would want to punish me for working as I have to defeat their very top priority cause in this nation — the ERA."

Johnson founded a group called Mormons for ERA and has spoken out in support of the measure in states where the church has lobbied

to defeat it, including Utah, Arizona, Nevada and Florida.

Church leaders said such a stance constituted an attack on the church, its leaders and its doctrines. She was tried in a Mormon court with a three-man panel that included her local bishop, and CIA personnel officer Jeffrey Willis, who also presented the case against her.

The events of her church hearing Saturday and subsequent excommunication happened so fast, Johnson said, she had yet to react emotionally.

"I haven't had time to go anywhere and cry," she said. "I thought how nice it would be to get into the car to go out into the woods and cry."

In his excommunication letter, Willis told Johnson, "Your testimony and public speech are evidence in spirit that you are not in harmony with church doctrine concerning the nature of God and the manner in which he directs his church on earth."

But Willis denied the action was taken because of Johnson's speeches

on behalf of ERA. He said she was excommunicated for publicly stating "our society, including church leaders, has a 'savage misogyny' (hatred of women)," for teaching that missionaries should not be invited into people's homes and for teaching "the church is dedicated to imposing the prophet's moral directives on all Americans."

Mormon Church spokesman Don Lefevre said excommunication does

not prevent Johnson's being readmitted to the church if she is willing to repent.

Johnson said she feels no bitterness toward the church but is unsure if she will appeal her excommunication to higher church officials.

"I feel he (Willis) couldn't have done this if he didn't have the sanction of the men in Salt Lake," she said. "It was too big an issue for the time it got to this for him to do it alone."



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Brown said he spanked the girl because his former wife, the girl's mother, Edith Mack, had asked him for help in disciplining the child. It

was Mrs. Mack and her new husband who later filed the complaint against Brown.

Testimony at his trial revealed Brown spanked his daughter on two separate evenings, including one beating with a wooden paddle which consisted of 15 blows to the girl's upper thighs and buttocks.

Mrs. Mack testified the girl had a behavior problem and had once been kept indoors a month for lying. She said she had asked her former husband for help because "discipline from the natural father packs a wallop."

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