

stand to take Communion, she quietly keeps her seat. In the midst of Killea's state Senate race--the election is today--Bishop Leo Maher, "M-a-h-e-r," barred the Democrat from receiving the sacraments because of her outspoken support for legal abortion. What otherwise would be an obscure local election to fill a midterm vacancy suddenly became an unofficial referendum on how much political influence the church should wield. Abortion is also an issue in Montana, Rhode Island and elsewhere as bishops confront Catholic politicians whose position on abortion stray from church teachings. Maher, San Diego's bishop says, 'I have every right to speak out since this is in reference to a moral issue.' Killea responds, 'It's not a question of morality. Using my office to enforce religious views is where I draw the line.' Maher's form of discipline may be extreme, but his dissatisfaction is not. The U.S. Catholic Conference has no national policy on sanctions, but several bishops are confronting Catholic officeholders who support abortion rights." I'm going to deviate for a second. You notice that the first public official to be sanctioned was a female. We've got powerful male Governor Cuomo in New York who was not threatened with sanctions by any bishop and you know what a wide swath through politics Catholic Ted Kennedy and his family cut and yet no bishop dares to threaten Kennedy with a sanction. So even when it comes to the church implementing its policies, it is done in a discriminatory fashion where women who are always perceived as weak by every religion are the victims, doubly victimized, and I'll proceed. "Bishop Elden Curtiss, "C-u-r-t-i-s-s," of Helena Montana, is asking specific state officials to end public endorsements of abortion rights. 'They're giving the signal it's all right for Catholics to support abortion and it's not,' he says. Bishop Louis Gelineau, "G-e-l-i-n-e-a-u," of Providence, Rhode Island, chided Representative Claudine Schneider, Republican from Rhode Island, for her advocacy of abortion rights. The diocese newspaper Gelineau publishes now requires officeholders who want to advertise Christmas greetings to declare support for a constitutional ban on abortion." If you want to print Merry Christmas to my aged, sainted grandmother, you cannot print it in that Catholic paper unless you sign a statement that you favor a constitutional ban on abortion. To proceed, "Los Angeles Archbishop Roger Mahoney told 12 Catholic House members he expects them to work to ban abortions. 'It's a truth in labeling issue,' says David Shaneyfelt, "S-h-a-n-e-y-f-e-l-t," "an analyst sympathetic to the church's position. 'No one is telling politicians how to vote,' Shaneyfelt says, 'But if they