

Catholic Church has entered into politics in this manner,' said State Senator Diane E. Watson, Democrat, Los Angeles. 'What this action says to Catholics everywhere is that the church can dictate public policy by issuing orders to Catholic lawmakers.'" And I am going to digress, the church is attempting to dictate public policy through manipulation of Catholic lawmakers. When the church becomes so blatantly involved in political activity, there is no way it can continue to claim tax exempt status because it is participating in political activity. There is a suit based on that principle being processed through the courts now, and I think it ought to be supported and there ought to be Friend of the Court briefs filed since the church decides it is going to become a lobbying and a political body to treat it like every other lobbying political body. Let it be a pact openly and directly. Let there be some truth in advertising. I am going back to the article. "Julie Sly of the California Catholic Conference in Sacramento said the state's bishops decided at a meeting last month in San Diego that the best strategy for swaying Catholic lawmakers to the church's abortion view was for each bishop to meet individually with legislators in their own dioceses rather than impose sanctions. 'Some might have interpreted Bishop Maher's actions as being too strong,' she conceded Tuesday. The Bishops themselves are not unmindful that the resolution they unanimously adopted at their national conference in Baltimore on November 7th, which urged all public officials, especially Catholics, to work to end legal abortions, might backfire. Although that resolution declared that 'no Catholic can responsibly take a pro-choice stand when the choice in question involves abortion,' it did not mention sanctions. When Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis, outgoing conference president, was asked directly at a press conference in Baltimore whether he thought sanctions would be effective, he bluntly replied, 'No, I don't think it would help us one bit to change America's thinking' about abortion. 'It might even have an adverse effect.' Cardinal John O'Connor of New York, newly elected chairman of the bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, also downplayed the matter of sanctions, and Chicago's Cardinal Joseph Bernardin appeared reluctant to be drawn into a discussion of the issue. 'It seems to me that it is not so much a question of expelling a dissident person as it is motivating that person to change his or her mind and heart,' Bernardin said when pressed. He added, however, that the possibility of sanctions 'needs further study.' The Reverend Ken Doyle, a media spokesman for the U.S. Catholic Conference summed up the bishops' position by saying, 'A determination like this