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FLOOR DEBATE

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Alaska Priest. As protective as the Vatican has been of these misbehaving priests, and so show how protective they are, Bernard Cardinal Law from Boston, the worst of all of them, was brought to Rome and placed over the second most important basilica in Rome, and he delivered one of the nine prayers for the deceased Pope John Paul II. That's to show how accepting the Catholic hierarchy in the Vatican is of the abuse of children. So when the Vatican agrees to dismiss a priest, you know he's got to be bad. But it was not an American bishop--Anchorage, Alaska. A priest now living in Omaha who was accused of sexually abusing boys in Alaska more than two decades ago has been dismissed from the priesthood, the Catholic diocese of Juneau said Sunday. Michael Patrick Nash, who now attends Creighton University, was a priest in Juneau when allegations of abuse surfaced. He dismissed...his dismissal stems from an investigation that began in late 2002, when a former Juneau resident claimed that he had been abused by Nash in the early 1980s. Quote from Bishop Michael Warfel, W-a-r-f-e-l: I am relieved. We are coming to a sense of resolution and some conclusion to what all around has been a tragic affair, Bishop Michael Warfel said Sunday. The diocese decided that Joel Post, who now lives in Duluth, Minnesota, had, quote, suffered grave harm at the hands of Mr. Nash, unquote, and agreed to pay him \$175,740 to settle his claims. Now this Bishop Warfel is a man that I think I could talk to. Back to the article: After the allegations became public, a number of other men came forward and made similar claims, according to the diocese. Nash, the defrocked priest, denied any wrongdoing and continues to do so. But he agreed in May to the process that resulted in his dismissal from the priesthood. He's going to agree to be dismissed, when he claims not to have done anything wrong, from a vocation he gave his life to? Bosh! Pshaw! Humbug! Oh, and bah, in case I didn't put that in there. This man knows he's as guilty as sin. But continuing: Post, the victim, said Nash, the defrocked priest, abused him numerous times between 1979 and 1982. He filed a formal complaint with the diocese November 22, 2002, in which he said he was abused from age 11 to 15, when Nash was involved in youth ministries, a youngster placed in a position and a set of circumstances where the parents thought the man in charge could be trusted. That trust was betrayed, and the young man was violated. Continuing: