

Speaking of competition, with Kemoy (Ramon S. Guerrero)'s announcement that he, too, is planning on running for governor, looks like there will be plenty of it this year. Kemoy has a mixed reputation

Abortion is an issue, at least in part, because - or so it is argued - a life is at stake, the life of an unborn child. Those who support abortion don't argue in those terms. Rather, they seem to be saying that the issue has to do with whether or not a child is wanted.

The odd thing about it is that no one, in all the rhetoric and controversy, ever talks about how that unborn child came to exist in the first place. Abortion is an issue because conception has occurred. Abortion would not be an issue if conception had not occurred. So isn't the real problem the occurrence of conception?

In today's lifestyle of open sexuality, occasions for the occurrence of conception are a common component of relationships. Whether or not conception occurs is a function of the protective measures taken by one or both partners. And when those measures fail, demands for abortion are, also, all too common, since, in many cases, the couple are not married, are not free to marry, or do not wish to marry.

In the CNMI, being married is not considered essential to becoming a parent. There is no stigma, no shame or embarrassment, attached to being pregnant. There is no problem with providing for children born out of wedlock. If the parents cannot do so, someone in the extended family can, and will. There is very little discernible shame attached to being an "adopted" child.

For whom, then, is abortion an issue in the CNMI?

And shouldn't the emphasis be on ensuring that protective measures are available, affordable, and are used, so that conception does not occur, rather than freely permitting conception to occur, and focussing only on what happens after conception?

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