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To My Critics on Evictionism

Abstract: I have replied individually to five scholars who criticize my evictionist theory: Dominiak and Wysocki on Redundancy, Wąsiak on Negative Homesteading, Wiśniewski on Praxeology, and Wójtowicz on Peril. In the present paper, I respond to all of them together. They have each raked me over the coals, in different ways, to be sure, but they are all united in rejecting my thesis on the libertarian view on abortion. I am grateful for their attention to this theory of mine; it cannot but help to better publicize it.

Keywords: praxeology, negative homesteading, libertarianism

It is an honor to have an entire issue of a prestigious scholarly journal devoted to one of my contributions to libertarian theory. It is even more so to have attracted the attention of five brilliant scholars to my views on abortion. I am grateful to the editor of this journal for putting together this compilation.

What do they all have in common on the positive side? They are each scintillatingly dazzling in their critiques of evictionism. In my own view, I escape from their criticism, but only by the skin of my teeth. They all had me going. Each of them forced me to dig deeper, far deeper than I ever had be-

fore, in defense of my proposal. Thanks to them, I maintain that the case for evictionism is hereby strengthened.

What do they all have in common on the negative side? They all refer to the fetus as “it”.¹ No. the fertilized egg, the earliest form of the fetus, is as fully human as you or I. He is just a youngster. He deserves the same type of respect as do all human beings. The idea that human life starts birth is nothing less than preposterous. It is merely a slight change of address from inside of the mother’s body, where he² has resided for nine months, to outside but contiguous with her body, as she hugs her baby for the first time.

A more serious problem I have with all four critiques is no acknowledgement of the fact that even if evictionism has problems, which I stipulate *arguendo*, it still stands head and shoulders over the other two theories of abortion.

Pro-choice is nothing less than despicable. In that view, a pre-born baby scheduled for delivery in but a day or two hence may be obliterated, hacked to pieces, and neither the mother nor the co-operating doctor is considered a criminal. Words fail me to depict the evil involved in this viewpoint.

Pro-life is not quite as bad, but almost.³ Consider the twelve year old girl who is innocently walking down the street, grabbed, kidnapped, raped, impregnated. The pro-life forces will in effect rape her once again by giving her what amounts to, what is maybe worse than, a twelve-month jail sentence. They will compel her to bear that child, unwillingly. If that is not, also, a form of rape, I do not know what rape is.

The pro-life theoreticians do not seem to realize that the woman is the sole owner of her body, and that no one may “visit” her for nine months or any lesser time, or occupy her premises – no one, no one at all, innocent or guilty, without her permission. The pro-choicers have not come to grips with the undeniable fact that the pre-born baby one hour from birth is as human

¹ I cannot be too harsh on them for this error, as I have often made it myself. Even in the four responses of mine that appear in this volume, I committed this mistake, in the first drafts thereof. Hopefully, copy editing will eliminate any further faults of mine in this regard that I have managed to slip in, after continually inveighing against this word usage.

² Not “it”.

³ If I had to choose, I would support pro-life, vis-à-vis pro-choice.

as he will soon be when removed from the womb. Birth is merely a change of geographical location

The perfect is the enemy of the good. No theory of anything is perfect. And I include in this the Pythagorean Theorem, $E=MC^2$, along with evictionism. Perfection will have to wait for heaven. What I miss in all of these authors is any appreciation of the premise that given that evictionism is imperfect, it is vastly superior to the two alternatives. It takes what is best in each of them and combines it into a separate theory which avoids both their flaws. It coincides with the pro-life position in the last trimester. At present levels of medical technology, if implemented, evictionism will immediately safeguard one third of all very young human beings. And medical technology is progressing.⁴ Eventually, God willing, the two celled stage human being will be able to survive and prosper in some sort of machine that seems magical to us right now. Then, pro-life and evictionism will be congruent.

Evictionism also adopts for itself the best part of the pro-choice position: the woman is the sole owner of her body. She has private property rights in that entity, herself. The unwanted fetus is a trespasser, a squatter, an intruder.⁵ An innocent one, to be sure, but, still, this description is accurate. Voluntary sexual intercourse is no more a nine-month invitation to anyone to reside in one's "house" than an ordinary dinner invitation is.

Perhaps, I am being unfair to all five authors of these four in many ways excellent essays. Not every publication has to be dedicated to a fair-minded balancing of the pros and cons of controversial issues. Specialization and the division of labor⁶ applies, even, to getting that proverbial one millionth of an inch closer to the Truth with a capital T. Nevertheless, I would have welcomed at least a glancing thought that evictionism, while subject to all sorts of flaws, was at least an improvement⁷ upon the two analyses of abortion that were extant before the creation of evictionism.

⁴ Provided affirmative action and rampant wokeism can be ended. See on this Block, 1992, 1998; Block and Walker, 1982; Block and Williams, 1981; Epstein, 1992.

⁵ This applies to both rape and the voluntary engagement in pregnancy.

⁶ A praxeological concern!

⁷ I note with great satisfaction that (Wójtcowicz) supports this theory at least as regards the case of rape.

I confess, I am disappointed with the reaction not only of these five outstanding libertarian theoreticians to evictionism, but with the reaction of the general libertarian movement to this perspective. It is the only one solely predicated upon the libertarian foundational notation of the importance of private property rights. The pregnant woman owns her body, entirely, and should have the sole right to determine just who may reside within it and who may not. The rejection of this viewpoint thus is incompatible with the basic principle of libertarianism that she is a self-owner. Most libertarians have never even heard of this type of analysis. No libertarian party anywhere on the planet has made this its plank on abortion. Instead, our libertarian community is as divided over this issue as is the general public. Some adhere to the mistaken the pro-life position of one libertarian leader, Ron Paul. Others to the equally fallacious pro-choice perspective of another, Murray Rothbard. I first introduced this idea in the late 1970s,⁸ and have been steadily plugging away at it, thus, for almost 50 years.

Sad.

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