



Protecting Human Life and Caring for Creation

Why Protecting Unborn Children
in their First Environment Matters



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United States Conference of Catholic Bishops • Washington, DC • April 30, 2007

8:30 am **Breakfast**

9:00 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

9:15 - 9:55 am **The Theological Perspective and Scientific Reasoning for Focus on the Unborn**

Moderator: Thomas Grenchik, *Executive Director, Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB*

Kevin FitzGerald, PhD, SJ, *Professor of Catholic health care ethics at Georgetown University and Fellow of the Institute on Biotechnology and the Human Future at Chicago-Kent College of Law/Illinois Institute of Technology*

Dr. Stuart A. Newman, Ph.D., *Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy, New York Medical College*

Question and Answer Session

9:55 am **Coffee Break**

10:10 - 11:00 am **Most Harmful Toxins Panel and Discussion with Health Experts, Part I**

Moderator: Nancy Wisdo, *Associate General Secretary, USCCB*

Dr. Philip Landrigan, *Executive Director, Center for Children's Health and the Environment, Department of Community and Preventive Medicine, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine*

Dr. David O. Carpenter, MD, *Professor, Environmental Health and Toxicology, Institute for Health & the Environment, University at Albany, SUNY*

Question and Answer Session

11:00 - 11:50 am **Most Harmful Toxins Panel and Discussion with Health Experts, Part II**

Moderator: Julie Trocchio, *Catholic Health Association*

Dr. Bruce Lanphear, *The Sloan Professor of Children's Environmental Health and the Director of the Cincinnati Children's Environmental Health Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati*

Frederick vom Saal, PhD, *Professor, Division of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Missouri-Columbia*

Question and Answer Session

11:50 am **Break and Noon Mass**

12:30 - 1:30 pm **Lunch, Reflection and Call to Action**

Introduction: Sheila McCarron, *National Council of Catholic Women*

Keynote speaker: Helen Alvare, Esq., *The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law*

1:30 - 2:10 pm **Policy Panel I: Protecting Children In Utero from Environmental Toxins**

Moderator: Kathy Curran, *Interim Director, Office of Domestic Social Development, USCCB*

Peter C. Scheidt, MD, MPH, *Director, National Children's Study, National Institute of Child and Health Development, National Institutes of Health*

Elizabeth Blackburn, *Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Devon Payne-Sturges, DrPH, *Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Question and Answer Session

2:10 - **Policy Panel II: Legislative Opportunities to Protect Unborn Children from Harmful**
2:50 pm **Exposure to Environmental Toxins**

Moderator: Jayd Henricks, *Associate Director, Office of Government Liaison, USCCB*

Michelle C. Kirtley, PhD, *Professional Staff to Representative Dave Weldon*

Erik Olson, *Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel, Senate Environment & Public Works Committee*

Question and Answer Session

2:50 pm **Break**

3:00 - **Wrap Up and Future Directions**
4:00 pm

John L. Carr, *Secretary, Social Development and World Peace, USCCB (also moderator)*

Richard Doerflinger, *Deputy Director, Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB*

Sr. Margaret John Kelly, DC, *St. John's University*

Larry B. Stammer, *Journalist on Religion and Environment*

Paul Gorman, *National Religious Partnership for the Environment*

Question and Answer Session

4:00 pm **Reception**



Acknowledgements

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to all those who made this gathering possible:

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Richard Doerflinger

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Kathy Curran

Walter Grazer

To the participants, who have taken the time out of their busy schedules to offer insights and experience.

To the Catholic Coalition for Children and a Safe Environment (CASE), particularly Sheila McCarron from the National Council of Catholic Women; Julie Trocchio from the Catholic Health Association of the United States; and Tim Kautza from the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

A special debt of gratitude to Nancy Wisdo and Dr. Philip Landrigan for their invaluable support as the idea of such a gathering was first envisioned.

To the National Religious Partnership for the Environment for their financial support of this conference.

Biographies

Helen M. Alvaré is Associate Professor of Law at The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law since 2000. She received her juris doctorate from Cornell University in 1984 and a master's degree in theology from The Catholic University of America in 1989. From 1987-2000, she worked at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), first in the Office of General Counsel and later as the director of information and planning for the bishops' pro-life office. Ms. Alvaré also spoke for the American Catholic bishops in television, radio, print media and public lectures. She has testified on behalf of the bishops before federal congressional committees and lobbied members of Congress on federal legislation concerning abortion, health care and welfare reform. Ms. Alvaré previously worked as a staff attorney for USCCB and as an associate at Stradley, Ronon, Stevens and Young in Philadelphia.

Elizabeth Blackburn serves as Coordinator for Community Affairs and Outreach for the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Child and Aging Health Protection Division (CAHPD), Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education. She is liaison with EPA program offices on children's environmental health including co-chair of EPA work group CHAMPs (Children's Health Advocacy Management Partners). Ms. Blackburn is responsible for the oversight and management of CAHPD health care provider education initiative; the development and management of CAHPD strategy to work with state, local and tribal governments; and the oversight of Agency's participation in Prenatal Partnership on Environmental Health; as well as the CAHPD strategy to support non-governmental efforts to protect children from environmental health risks. She is chair of the Interagency Coordinating Committee of the National Children's Study. She currently serves as the EPA liaison to the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Committee on Environmental Health. Prior to coming to the federal government eight years ago, she served as a nurse at a Washington DC area hospital.

John L. Carr has served as Secretary of the Department of Social Development and World Peace at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the past decade. Mr. Carr oversees the Conference's policy development and advocacy efforts on poverty, health and housing, human rights, religious freedom and development, environment, arms control, and peacemaking. For 25 years, Mr. Carr has been involved in Catholic social ministry, serving in the 1980's as Cardinal Hickey's Secretary of Social Concerns in Washington, D.C., as Education Director of the Campaign for Human Development, as Coordinator for Urban Issues at the USCC, and as Legislative Coordinator for the Archdiocese of St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Carr serves on the board of Bread for the World, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, and the Catholic Health Association. He is a regular participant in Preaching the Just Word retreats offered to priests around the country. Mr. Carr is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota, and has

received honors and awards from Barry University, University of St. Thomas, Crosier Seminary, the Roundtable of Social Action Directors and the Archdiocese of Washington.

David O. Carpenter is a public health physician who served as the Director of the Wadsworth Laboratories of the New York State Department of Health, and later as the Dean of the School of Public Health at the University at Albany. He is currently the Director of the Institute for Health and the Environment at the University at Albany. His research has focused on study of the nervous system, especially of mechanisms of effect of chemical contaminants that cause neurobehavioral deficits in humans as well as study of other human diseases caused by exposure to environmental contaminants.

Kathy Curran is the Interim Director of the Office of Domestic Social Development at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, providing direction and coordination of USCCB policy on domestic social issues with Congress and the Administration, representing the Conference on domestic issues and coordinating the Department's relationship with domestic policy organizations both within the Church and in the advocacy community. As policy advisor on health and welfare issues to the US Bishops since 2001, she monitors issues such as welfare reauthorization, health care, domestic food programs and faith-based initiatives and advises the Bishops' Conference on policy development in these areas. Ms. Curran has served in various capacities at the U.S. Department of Labor, including as Counselor to the Wage and Hour Administrator and Special Assistant to Secretary Robert B. Reich, and as Senior Minority Labor Counsel to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Prior to coming to Washington, DC, Ms. Curran practiced law in Boston, MA with the firm of Choate, Hall and Stewart, following a year serving in Baltimore with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Ms. Curran received her law degree from the University of Virginia and her undergraduate degree from Yale University.

Richard M. Doerflinger is Deputy Director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, where he has worked for 27 years. He is also Adjunct Fellow in Bioethics and Public Policy at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, and serves on the Advisory Board to the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity in Bannockburn, Illinois. Mr. Doerflinger has testified before Congress, the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, the National Institutes of Health, the President's Council on Bioethics, and several state legislatures on ethical issues involving human embryo research and cloning. He has also spoken and published widely on these and other medical-moral issues, including contributions to *Hastings Center Report*, *Duquesne Law Review*, the *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, the *Encyclopedia of Catholic Doctrine* (Our Sunday Visitor Press 1997), the *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*, and the *American*

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Journal of Bioethics. He has contributed a chapter to two new books: *Stem Cell Research: New Frontiers in Science and Ethics*, edited by Nancy Snow (University of Notre Dame Press 2003), and *Human Dignity in the Biotech Century*, edited by Charles Colson and Nigel Cameron (InterVarsity Press 2004). He holds a B.A. degree and an M.A. in Divinity from the University of Chicago, and conducted doctoral studies in Theology at that institution and the Catholic University of America.

Kevin T. FitzGerald, SJ, PhD is the Dr. David Lauler Chair in Catholic Health Care Ethics. Dr. FitzGerald, Research Associate Professor in the Department of Oncology at Georgetown University Medical Center, came to Georgetown from a position at Loyola University Medical Center in Illinois. He received a PhD in molecular genetics and a PhD in bioethics from Georgetown University. During his five years at Loyola, his research efforts focused on the investigation of abnormal gene regulation in cancer and research on ethical issues in human genetics. He has published both scientific and ethical articles in peer-reviewed journals, books, and in the popular press. Fr. FitzGerald has given presentations nationally and internationally and has often been interviewed by the news media on topics such as human genetic engineering, cloning, stem cell research, and the Human Genome Project. For the past ten years he has served as an ethics consultant for the National Society of Genetic Counselors. He is a consultant to the March of Dimes Ethics Committee, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Program of Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion. In July 2004 Fr. FitzGerald was named to the external Biotechnology Advisory Panel of the DuPont Corporation.

Paul Gorman is founder and Executive Director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE). Mr. Gorman is a graduate of Yale University and Oxford University. He worked in the U.S. Congress, has taught at several universities, and co-authored the book *How Can I Help?* From 1985-1991, he served as the Cathedral of St. John the Divine as Vice President for Programs, overseeing community-based initiatives and helping organize international conferences on religion and the environment in Assisi, Oxford and Moscow.

Thomas Grenchik is Executive Director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities at USCCB. He is the founding director of the Pro-Life Office for the Archdiocese of Washington, where he served for sixteen years. Mr. Grenchik was trained as an architect and builder. He is a 1982 graduate of the University of Maryland where he majored in Architecture. He has also studied at the National Catholic Bioethics Center and is currently pursuing a Certification program in Health Care Ethics.

Jayd Henricks is Associate Director, Office of Government Liaison at USCCB. He first started working on Capitol Hill

in 1994 for a California congressman, and before joining the USCCB last year served as the Associate Director of Government Affairs for Family Research Council. Mr. Henricks is responsible for coordinating many of the efforts within the USCCB to advocate public policy on Capitol Hill. He works closely with the Office of Pro-Life Activities and the Office of Domestic Social Development as they work with congressional offices and the Administration to advance policies that protect the most vulnerable, particularly the unborn. Mr. Henricks has a master's in catechetics, a STL in Systematic Theology, and a bachelor's in Political Science.

Sister Margaret John Kelly, DC, has held teaching and administrative positions at St. John's University in New York, Mount Saint Mary's College and St. Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland and Laboure College in Boston, where from 1973 to 1980 she served as President. Sister Margaret John pioneered the work of Mission Services at the Catholic Health Association of the United States from 1980-1984 as she coordinated national activities in Catholic identity, pastoral care, ethics, and religious sponsorship of health care facilities. From 1984-87, Sister served on the Provincial Council of the Daughters of Charity, Northeast Province, with responsibility for Social Ministry within the province and, from 1987-93, as Provincial Superior of the Northeast Province of the Daughters of Charity. Since 1994 she has been at St. John's University and has served as a Special Assistant to the President and as Dean of St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Currently Sister Margaret John is Executive Director of the Vincentian Center for Church and Society which was initiated in 1994 to support the Vincentian character and Catholic identity of the University, with special emphasis on social justice and university collaboration with the Church. Sister Margaret John holds membership in and has held office in various professional and learned societies and has been honored by a variety of organizations. Currently, she serves as a trustee of Women Affirming Life, Catholic Health Services of Long Island, and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

Michelle C. Kirtley, PhD is congressional aide to Representative Dave Weldon (R-FL). Dr. Kirtley has worked for Dr. Weldon since the summer of 2004, where she is responsible for issues related to bioethics. She has spent considerable time involved in his work on questions about the safety of mercury in vaccines and the potential relationship to the growing autism epidemic. Dr. Kirtley holds a PhD in Cell Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Bruce P. Lanphear, MD, MPH, is the Sloan Professor of Children's Environmental Health in the Departments of Pediatrics and of Environmental Health at The University of Cincinnati. He has extensive experience as the principal investigator or co-investigator of numerous community-based studies on the epidemiology of lead toxicity and

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asthma. Dr. Lanphear is the principal investigator of a 400-person birth cohort to describe the adverse cognitive and behavioral consequences of prenatal and postnatal exposures to prevalent environmental neurotoxicants in children, such as the effects of prenatal exposure to tobacco, lead, mercury and pesticides on ADHD and intellectual function.

Dr. Philip J. Landrigan is a pediatrician, epidemiologist, and internationally recognized leader in public health and preventive medicine. He has been a member of the faculty of Mount Sinai School of Medicine since 1985 and Chairman of the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine since 1990. Following his graduation from Harvard Medical School in 1967, he served for 15 years as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer and medical epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control (the CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. While with CDC, Dr. Landrigan served for one year as a field epidemiologist in El Salvador and for another year in northern Nigeria. He participated in the Global Campaign for the Eradication of Smallpox. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal of the US Public Health Service. In 1987, Dr. Landrigan was elected as a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He is Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* and previously was Editor of *Environmental Research*. He has chaired committees at the National Academy of Sciences on *Environmental Neurotoxicology* and on *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children*. In 1997-1998, Dr. Landrigan served as Senior Advisor on Children's Health to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and was instrumental in helping to establish a new Office of Children's Health Protection at EPA. Dr. Landrigan has been a leader in developing the National Children's Study, the largest study of children's health and he environment ever launched in the United States.

Sheila McCarron is Executive Director of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW), an organization of over 5,000 Catholic women's groups in the United States. NCCW works to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. After serving as the Program Director of NCCW for over 10 years, she assumed the position of Executive Director in 2004. Ms. McCarron had twenty years of diocesan ministry experience before joining NCCW. She was the Coordinator of Leadership Training and Development, Archdiocese of Washington Office of Youth Ministry and also served as the Deputy Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Arlington. Ms. McCarron is a graduate of St. Joseph College, Emmitsburg, Maryland and the Executive Development Program of the University of Maryland.

Stuart A. Newman is Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy at New York Medical College, where he directs a research program in developmental biology. He received a B.A. from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in chemistry from

the University of Chicago. Newman has contributed to several scientific fields, including cell differentiation, theory of biochemical networks and cell pattern formation, protein folding and assembly, and mechanisms of morphological evolution. He has been a visiting professor at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, the University of Tokyo, and was a Fogarty Senior International Fellow at Monash University, Australia. He is a Counseling Scientist of the Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research, Austria and an affiliated faculty member of the Biocomplexity Institute, Indiana University. He is co-editor (with Gerd B. Müller), of *Origination of Organismal Form: Beyond the Gene in Developmental and Evolutionary Biology* (MIT Press, 2003) and co-author (with Gabor Forgacs), of *Biological Physics of the Developing Embryo* (Cambridge University Press, 2005). Dr. Newman was a founding member of the Council for Responsible Genetics, Cambridge, MA, is currently a Fellow of the Institute on Biotechnology and the Human Future, Chicago, IL. He has also been a consultant to the National Institutes of Health on policy regarding the use of human fetal tissue for research. In response to the growth in patenting of life forms and the emergence of technologies that threaten to blur the boundary between human and nonhuman organisms, Newman applied for a patent on human-animal chimeras (mixed species organisms) as a challenge to existing patent policy, and a way to prevent inappropriate uses of the technology.

Erik D. Olson is Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel, Majority Staff, of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. He helps oversee environmental legislation in the Committee, and legal and committee rule and procedure issues. Mr. Olson has practiced environmental law for 23 years, as an advocate before Congress and administrative agencies, and as a litigator in major federal district and appellate court litigation. He played a leading role while in the non-profit sector in working with Congress to enact the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, a 2005 law banning testing of pesticides on pregnant women, infants, and children, and in encouraging passage of other significant legislation. He was also lead counsel in Superfund natural resource damage cases, oil spill litigation, drinking water litigation, and other cases. Olson graduated from Columbia University in 1981, majoring in environmental policy and management, and received his law degree in 1984 from the University of Virginia, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif legal honor society and served as an editor of the environmental law journal.

Devon Payne-Sturges is an environmental health scientist with U.S. EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education. She works on critical regulatory and science policy issues at EPA that have impact on children's health. She represents OCHPEE on EPA's Regulatory Steering Committee, a cross-agency committee that manages the overall rule making process at EPA. She is

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currently serving on Agency workgroups for developing air and drinking water quality standards, rules to protect farm-workers and their families from pesticide exposures, and identifying chemicals with emerging concerns for children's health. Her areas of research include use of exposure biomonitoring for policy analysis, risk assessment, environmental health indicator development, and environmental health of minority populations. Ms. Payne-Sturges was recently appointed to U.S. EPA's Risk Assessment Forum and is serving on the Cumulative Risk Assessment Tech Panel and as chapter lead for Agency's exposure assessment guidelines focusing on exposures of vulnerable and susceptible populations. She possesses Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health degrees in environmental health sciences from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Prior to joining U.S. EPA, Ms. Payne-Sturges served as Assistant Commissioner for Environmental Health with the Baltimore City Health Department.

Peter C. Scheidt, MD, MPH (Medical Officer and Director of the National Children's Study, NICHD, NIH, DHHS) received an MD from Duke University, an MPH from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Hygiene, and completed Pediatric Residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Professional experiences include: Medical Officer, Indian Health Service; Epidemiologist, Bureau of Radiological Health, FDA; Director of Pediatric Education, Uniformed Services University; Medical Officer and Coordinator for Childhood Injury and Behavioral Pediatric Research, Center for Research in Mothers and Children, NIH; Professor of Pediatrics and Chairman, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Children's National Medical Center and George Washington University; and various clinical pediatric experiences. His research has focused on the developmental effects of neonatal hyperbilirubinemia, environmental exposure to non-ionizing radiation in children, innovations in medical education, behavioral pediatrics, and the epidemiology and prevention of injuries and violence in children. He currently serves as Director of the National Children's Study and Chair of the Steering Committee for the National Children's Study.

Larry B. Stammer recently retired as religion writer at the *Los Angeles Times* and is currently writing a book on religion and the environment to be published by Island Press. During his 30 years with the *Los Angeles Times*, he covered a wide range of assignments, from politics and state government to the environment and religion. He was dispatched to Alaska to cover the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and to London to report on treaty negotiations on the Montreal Protocol, the ozone protection accord. As a religion writer, he reported extensively on the Roman Catholic Church and was part of his newspaper's team in Rome covering the funeral of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI. Mr. Stammer has won numerous journalism awards, including an award for excellence from the Sierra Club and John R. Templeton awards from the Religion Newswriters Association, a national organization of professional religion journalists.

Julie Trocchio is senior director of community benefit and continuing care for the Catholic Health Association of the United States. She coordinates CHA activities related to planning and reporting community benefits and leads CHA advocacy on the charitable purpose of not-for-profit health care. She also coordinates CHA programs and advocacy related to the well-being of aged and chronically ill persons in need of long term care and home and community-based services. She is co-author of CHA's *Social Accountability Budget and Guide for Planning and Reporting Community Benefit* and CHA/AAHSA's *Social Accountability Program: Continuing the Community Benefit Tradition of Not for Profit Homes and Services for the Aging*. Prior to joining CHA she was director of standards and quality for the American Health Care Association. She has held nursing positions in acute care, long term care, public health and school health programs. She earned a bachelors degree in nursing from Georgetown University and a master's degree in community health nursing from the University of Maryland.

Nancy E. Wisdo is Associate General Secretary of the USCCB. Ms. Wisdo has a long and distinguished career in the service of the Church. From 1991-2005, she directed the Office of Domestic Social Development. She held several positions for the Diocese of Harrisburg prior to joining the staff of the Bishops' Conference in 1985 as Outreach Coordinator in the Department of Social Development and World Peace. Ms. Wisdo was a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace from 1996 to 2001. Ms. Wisdo received her Licentiate in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America. She received a B.A. in Sociology from Bloomsburg State University in Pennsylvania, from which she graduated cum laude. She pursued graduate studies in Community Psychology at Pennsylvania State University.

Frederick S. vom Saal is a professor of reproductive biology in the division of biological sciences at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He has published over 140 articles concerning the effects of exposure during fetal life to natural hormones and both man-made and naturally occurring endocrine disrupting chemicals on development of the reproductive system and postnatal growth. The focus of current research is on abnormal development of the reproductive system and changes in postnatal growth in mice due to exposure during fetal life to the estrogenic chemical bisphenol A, which is used to make polycarbonate plastic and to line metal cans. In addition, the interaction between bisphenol A and intrauterine growth restriction (due to reduced placental transport) as factors involved in adult obesity is being examined. He has presented his research findings at hearings in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the California State Assembly, and in the EU, Germany and Japan. He also served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Hormonally Active Agents in the Environment. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His research is funded by the NIH.



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