

A. POLITICAL FUNCTION

Recent history of abortion movement in Toronto

Deteriorating situation with respect to access to abortion

Summer 1982 — free-standing abortion clinic becomes a possibility

Sept. 1983 — OCAC formed as political body to build broad public support for legalizing FS clinics

OCAC role in:

- 1) Mobilizing women's movement around abortion issue
- 2) Reaching out beyond our movement
- 3) Working to change law

B. STRUCTURE

Formation of group — distinction from CEAC

Membership — IWDC, CARAL, LAR, ^{Medical reform group} MRG, Law Union, Men Against Sexism, individuals from health agencies, members at large

nebulous — problems with membership = security,

*OFL & Ctee, NDP & Ctee
25 regular members*

Committees — Trade Union, Media, Ontario Outreach, Toronto Outreach, Clinic Defense, Lobby

— Co-ordinating Committee - role

*Peggy, Carolyn, Judy, Connie, Diana
Janice Tripp, Diana Major*

How Group Functions - different politics/political emphasis i.e. lobby vs. mass action

building a campaign: →

concept of establishing, establishment of

C. STRATEGY

Early Debates - evolution of "legalizing free-standing abortion clinics"

Phase I - Globe & Mail Ad and Public Meeting ^{mass action} \$10,000 for ad

- mobilized people, showed broad base public support, laid basis of organization i.e. money, mailing list, phone tree

Phase II - November '82 - clinic crushed

- emphasis on long-term support building — Outreach, Lobbying, Petition, Clinic Defense

how to build a campaign

Outreach

Provincial: Mailing done
Speaking engagements, contacts
Other coalitions forming

Toronto : Mixed success — problems
New developments - Unitarian Church

CEAC's in Quebec

*Wpg.
"Abortion is a matter of choice"*

i) Outreach

Trade Union: OFL endorsement
Problems with locals
ONDP Women's Committee

ii) Petition

Public education

10,000 names

Petition Day - mobilized people not normally involved

February
- discovered 72% support
- media coverage - good press
got energy going again

iii) Lobbying

Differences in group
Purpose

*put pressure on politicians, MPPs,
no consensus*

iv) Clinic Defense

New Committee

Mobilize specifically to politically support clinics i.e. Winnipeg support rally

Summary of Strategy

D. IWDC'S Role

IWDC politic brought to OCAC i.e. mass organizing, working with particular groups i.e. Trade Union Movement, Immigrant Women, ONDP women

Phase III - just beginning

CEAC lost control, Morgentaler now controls

- suggestions re: building national movement
Bi-National Coalition
Mobilizing for clinic - changes in nature of clinic
Continued Outreach

Wps: Penner won't prosecute, waiting for police (for someone to lay complaint)

SUGGESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

I) Strategy of OCAC - questions, comments, criticisms
- input on new phase III

II) IWDC'S Role - should we formally join?
- accountability of IWDC/OCAC joint members to IWDC

*Nat'l Day of Action for
Choice
in October*

[focus on abortion or woman's right to choose]