



Canadian Association for
Repeal of the Abortion Law



**L'Association Canadienne pour
l'Abrogation de la Loi sur l'Avortement**

Box 935, Station Q, Toronto M4T 2P1.
Phone: (416) 961-1507

July, 1979.

Hello, members and friends!

THE ANNUAL MEETING

. . . was fun! And informative. And morale-boosting. The fun came from being together again; the information was contributed by our guest speakers; and the morale-boosting was the result of a combination of the March Gallup poll, a stronger financial situation, new and active chapters, and, just possibly, the wine at lunch.

In the morning we were addressed by Professor Bernard Dickens of the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto, Dr. Esther Greenglass of the Department of Psychology of York University, Dr. Wendell Watters of the Department of Psychiatry of McMaster University, and Dr. Henry Morgentaler - people who have done highly-respected work for freedom of choice in this country.

It's impossible to do justice here to the wealth of material presented to us by our speakers. Professor Dickens' topic of "Legal Misconceptions in Canadian Abortion Law" dealt with four subjects: the recently-amended Canadian Medical Association Code of Ethics, parental consent on abortion, the commonly-held view that the 1969 Criminal Code amendments represent a liberalization of the abortion law, and the questionable legality of making sterilization a condition of abortion.

On the first subject, he made the following points: although the CMA may change its code of ethics, doctors' legal responsibilities to their patients remain the same, and one of those responsibilities is that physicians have a duty to care for someone with whom they are in a doctor-patient relationship. They have a duty to supply continuous care to patients; if intending to withdraw service, they must give due warning and continue to give care until the patient can reasonably find an alternative source of health care; physicians risk civil liability for abandoning patients.

On the subject of parents and children, Professor Dickens pointed out that parents are not free to deny their children necessary health care. If abortion is part of that care, parents cannot deny their child an abortion.

On the common view of the 1969 Criminal Code amendment, which gave us our current law, he demonstrated that the 1969 change represented, in fact, only a codification of what was already the English legal situation and, therefore, our own.

And finally, he informed us that making sterilization a condition of abortion vitiates a woman's consent to the sterilization and leaves a doctor open to a charge of assault and battery

Dr. Greenglass spoke on the consequences of abortion. Studies, including her own, indicate that how one is treated at the time of the abortion is one factor determining how one feels about the abortion. But mentally healthy women come out of an abortion mentally healthy. Women who seek abortion but are denied one, on the other hand, do suffer demonstrable damage to their mental health. Finally, she pointed out that unwanted children have a higher incidence of criminal behavior, psychiatric problems, and educational setbacks.

Dr. Watters strongly criticized the anti-choice groups for being, in fact, the people who encourage abortion because they are also the people who oppose contraception education. And, of course, ignorance of birth control methods is a major cause of unwanted pregnancy. He cited a survey of sexually-active students at two Ottawa universities: 63% did not know that the birth control pill prevents ovulation and 53% did not know the fertile time of a woman's menstrual cycle.

Dr. Morgentaler brought us up to date on his activities since last we saw him, and gave us an overview of the situation in Quebec. His clinic is still active - women are travelling hundreds of miles to reach it. And he is training doctors in his procedures.

Lunch followed, with a chance to socialize. The afternoon began with Honorary Director Laura Sabia's introducing Karen Mulhauser, Executive-Director of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) of Washington, D.C. Ms. Mulhauser spoke of the massive onslaught by anti-choice groups in the United States - and, in particular, of the threat of a constitutional anti-abortion amendment. The fears she expressed closely parallel our own: pro-choice groups have become relaxed and are being over-taken by a well-financed and fanatic minority.

Ms. Mulhauser said also that because of the very real threat posed by this lobby, pro-choice activists have become more numerous and their organization has grown tremendously in the last two years. She reminded us of something we in Canada know only too well - that 99% of their 5% of the population is active in anti-abortion work, but only .05% of our 57% is active in pro-choice work.

The business part of the meeting began with a report from President Merike Madisso, who reported that there was much to be optimistic about in this, the fifth year of CARAL's existence. Because our financial situation is considerably brighter than last year's, we are in a position to pay for part-time help from member Irene Hammond. We have several new honorary directors: Dr. May Cohen, Adrienne Clarkson, Grace Hartman, Judy LaMarsh, Marilyn Lightstone, Elsie Gregory MacGill, Clayton Ruby, Monica Townson, Dr. Wendell Watters. And we have new and active chapters, these being Halifax, St. John's, Newfoundland, and Victoria.

Nevertheless, we are weak in a crucial area - namely, in people who are willing to do work. A request goes out to all members to get in touch with their local chapter or with the National Office if you live in Toronto or if you have no local chapter. Any contribution of time would be welcome.

Reports from chapters in Halifax, London, Waterloo, Ottawa, Edmonton, Victoria, Winnipeg, and St. John's followed.

Activities have been varied: organizing against the take-over of hospital boards; distributing Compulsory Parenthood to high schools; organizing a Reproductive Health Centre and lobbying for its approval; helping produce a Status of Women Council newsletter on abortion; substantially increasing membership.

The ratification of the directors-at-large followed. To the slate presented by the nominating committee was added one nomination from the floor. The directors are as follows:

Gail Aller, Edmonton	Helen Kiperchuk, Chateauguay
Chris Baker, Toronto	Merike Madisso, Toronto
John Baglow, Ottawa	Ruth Miller, Toronto
Vivien Batke, Waterloo	Cathy Mountain, Victoria
Nicki Bergen, Vancouver	Tom Pimbley, St. Catharines
Judith Blackwell, London	Bill Ratcliffe, London
Betsy Carr, Toronto	Frank Rotering, Waterloo
Cathie Daw, Halifax	Bonita Savage, Winnipeg
	Norma Scarborough, Toronto
Karen Hammond, Toronto	Mary Zeldin, Toronto
Nancy Harper, Burlington	

The meeting adjourned to coffee and cake. A Board meeting was held concurrently, at which time the following people were elected to the national executive:

Mary Zeldin - President
Karen Hammond - Vice-President
Merike Madisso -Treasurer

We enjoyed ourselves and we learned things - plan to join us next year!

FEDERAL ELECTION '79

We have a new government. Some of our old friends are back in the House. Some of our old foes are there as well.

Every candidate received "Reproductive Rights - A Statement of Principle", jointly prepared by NAC, the YWCA, Planned Parenthood and CARAL. CARAL will be sending a second informational mailing to all newly-elected members within the next few weeks.

As for the many incarnations of the anti-choice movement and their attempts to bully candidates into taking a hard-line position, our preliminary analysis of the election results indicates that, although there have been more hard-liners elected than we would have liked, it is unlikely that anti-choice pressure or support had much to do with their election.

We know for a fact that some of the people who answered "yes" to the two questions of the anti-abortion lobby were simply playing politics and do not support the return to illegal abortion.

We in CARAL have a big job to do to educate our MP's. You as members can begin that job by writing your member of Parliament no matter what his or her stated position on abortion is, to inform him or her of your position. Write to Joe Clark too. His position is well-known: he supports the present legislation, but believes that the law should be more equitably applied (see the attached statement). Ask him how he intends to see this done. Ask

him what he thinks of the therapeutic abortion committees. Ask him if he doesn't think Canadians should have the right to make decisions of such importance without the interference of restrictive legislation and committees. CARAL is you and your pen and your voice and your concern for the rights of women.

Following is a list which we have compiled of those candidates endorsed either by Campaign Life or Coalition for Life. There are far too many of them. If one of them is your M.P., write to him or her expressing your displeasure and tell him of her your position.

We're sorry that our list does not include MP's from Quebec, but we were unable to obtain that information. If you have it for us, send it along. Send us copies of the responses from your MP's also.

Cabinet

The Hon. Walter Baker (Nepeal Carleton) - President, Privy Council;
Minister of National Revenue

The Hon. James McGrath (St. John's East) - Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

The Hon. John Crosbie (St. John's West) - Minister of Finance

The Hon. Dan Mazankowski (Vegreville) - Minister of Transport; Minister
responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board

The Hon. Elmer McKay (Central Nova) - Minister of Regional Economic
Expansion; Minister responsible for CMHC

The Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher) - Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern
Development

The Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York Peel) - President, Treasury Board

The Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale) - Minister of National Health and
Welfare

The Hon. Robert de Cotret - Minister of Economic Development and Trade

The Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe) - Minister of State

The Hon. Steve Paproski (Edmonton North) - Minister of State for Fitness
and Amateur Sport

Others

Newfoundland

George Baker, L.
Bill Rompkey, L
Fonse Faour, NDP

Nova Scotia

Andy Hogan, NDP
Michael Forrestall, PC
Lloyd Crouse, PC

P.E.I.

Wilbur MacDonald PC
Thomas McMillan PC

New Brunswick

Robert Corbett, PC
Gary McAuley, L
Maurice Dionne, L
Eric Ferguson, PC

Ontario

Derek Blackburn, NDP
Bill Kempling, PC
Chris Speyer, PC
Robert Daudlin, L
Eugene Whelan, L
Gus Mitges, PC
Albert Fish, PC
John Munro, L
Duncan M. Beattie, PC
John Reid L.
Bob Holmes, L
John Relmer, PC
Bill Dom, PC
Paul McRae, L
Bill Scott, PC
Mark McGuigan, L
Bob Kaplan, L
Ursula Appolloni, L
Diane Stratas, PC
Gordon Gilchrist, PC
Bill Wightman, PC
Ken Robinson, L
Sam Wakim, PC
Robin Richardson, PC
Paul McCrossan, PC

Manitoba

Walter Dinsdale, PC
Jack Murta, PC
Robert Bockstael L

Saskatchewan

Bob Ogle, NDP

Alberta

Paul Yewchuk, PC
Gordon Taylor, PC
Harvie Andre, PC
Eldon Woolliams, PC
Arnold Malone, PC
Doug Roche, PC
David Kilgour, PC
Marcel Lambert, PC
Peter Elzinga, PC
Gordon Towers, PC

British Columbia

Lorne Greenaway, PC
Don Munro, PC
Alex Patterson, PC
Robert Wenman, PC
Bob Brisco, PC
George Whittaker, PC
Fred King, PC
Lorne McCuish, PC
Frank Oberle, PC
Benno Friesen, PC
Bill Clarke, PC

Quebec (from our old list)

Gaston Isabelle L

STATEMENT BY JOE CLARK ON ABORTION

The subject of abortion is very much a matter of personal conscience and conviction. The Progressive Conservative Party has not sought to impose a position on its members, but has left each of them free to take a stand based on his or her own personal convictions.

I am not prepared to support uncontrolled abortion on demand. As a general principle, I believe that all of us must be prepared to accept responsibility for the consequences of our personal actions. I also believe that abortion, if justified in some circumstances, raises issues in the resolution of which society as a whole has a right to have its concerns represented.

On that basis, I support the general thrust of the existing law. My concern is with the way that law has been applied across the country with the result that, in some situations, we effectively have abortion "on demand", while in others it is virtually impossible to obtain an abortion. The latter situations, where they exist, impose a particular hardship on lower-income Canadians who are unable to turn to remedies outside the hospital system or, indeed, the country.

I would like to see society's legitimate interest served by implementing a more even interpretation and application of the existing legislation.

SEEN IN THE NARAL NEWSLETTER - "They're not Right-to-Lifers they're Meddle-in-your-Lifers."

A MESS IN MANITOBA

Consider these facts: only 9 Manitoba hospitals have therapeutic abortion committees, of which only two approve any significant number of abortions; because of these inadequate facilities, 27% of all abortions done in Manitoba are done in the second trimester; therefore, Manitoba has a 10 to 11% complication rate, as opposed to 3% nationally; 50% of Manitoba women needing abortions have to go to the United States; nevertheless, there is no coverage under the health care scheme for abortions performed in the U.S.

And the situation is worsening: the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, which does almost all of the province's abortions, is, as of July 1, cutting off almost all second trimester abortions; the same Centre is also significantly reducing its number of first trimester abortions. All this - and Bud Sherman, Minister of Health and Community Affairs, has just refused to approve the establishment of a Reproductive Health Centre to attend to women's health care needs, including abortion! The proposal for a clinic was presented by two doctors from the Health Sciences Centre so that improved accessibility would reduce a high complication rate which might one day end in a woman's dying from an abortion. CARAL Winnipeg helped form a coalition of 17 organizations in support of the proposal. Sherman, however, having already been lobbied by the anti-choice groups, vetoed the proposal without offering any worthwhile alternative.

Manitoba members are asked to write to Bud Sherman, Minister of Health and Community Affairs, and to Gordon Pollock, chairman of the board of the Manitoba Health Services Commission, protesting the rejection of the clinic proposal and the cutbacks in abortion services.

Something else you should know about: the Pregnancy Distress Centre, a pseudonym for Birthright, a counselling service that refuses to counsel on birth control or to refer women to anyone counselling on birth control, is lobbying to be included in United Way funding. Any money it gets, of course, regardless of what the grant is said to be for (they are asking for money for their postpartum program) frees up their funds in other areas for anti-contraception, anti-choice work. Write a letter of protest to the United Way of Winnipeg, 315-267 Edmonton St., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

IN ONTARIO A HOSPITAL GETS HELP

The health of hospitals across the country is in danger. A typical case is that of the St. Thomas-Elgin General, which has been traumatized for a full year by the presence of four anti-choice members on its board of governors. Since their election last year, these four members have so interfered in the functioning of the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee that the medical staff threatened to resign en masse. Fearing the election of another four anti-choice members, which would result in a dead-locked board, the board passed a procedural bylaw establishing a nominating committee to screen candidates. At the annual meeting, the bylaw was adopted and the anti-choice candidates to the board were resoundly defeated by an organized citizen opposition. The president of the medical staff was quoted as saying, "I think we can get things back to normal . . . (Right to Life) was trying to interfere with our right to practice medicine and the people didn't fall for it."

Similar situations are arising across the country. Be on the alert for them.

GO FREE TO THE CNE

Again this year, CARAL will be staffing a booth at the Canadian National Exhibition and, more than ever, we need help from our Toronto members. In exchange for 4 hours of your time, you will get a free pass to the CNE! Please give National a call at 961-1507. The CNE runs from Aug. 15 to Sept. 3.

ANOTHER ELECTION RESULT: TROUBLE FOR THE YWCA

As a result of the election pamphlet "Reproductive Rights - A Statement of Principle", which was mailed to all CARAL members and all federal election candidates prior to the May election, and which represented the co-operative effort of CARAL, the National YWCA, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) and Planned Parenthood, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is "studying" the YWCA's stand on abortion.

This "study" has already begun: local YWCA's are being pressured to take an anti-choice stand under threat of losing Catholic members and the use of Catholic facilities. (Will Catholic women stand for this kind of dictatorship by the Catholic hierarchy?) On the national level, lobbying is going on to revoke the charitable status of the YWCA.

Once again, this special interest group is holding a decent organization up for ransom - remember the withdrawal from the United Way because of the presence of Planned Parenthood! If you are an active member of a local "Y", take every opportunity to point out that "Christian" covers considerably more ground than "Roman Catholic". Work to keep your local "Y" pro-choice!

CHURCH VERSUS CHARITY IN OTTAWA

Metres for Millions (formerly Miles for Millions), an umbrella group of numerous charities, sponsors a walk for charity each spring in Ottawa. This year the inclusion of Planned Parenthood was made into an issue by the Roman Catholic Archbishop: all Roman Catholics, including Separate School children, were instructed to boycott the walk.

A public outcry followed; Mayor Marion Dewar, herself a Roman Catholic, said she would walk "because we can't go around imposing our views on people". Finally, a compromise was struck: donations could be specifically earmarked for the Roman Catholic Archbishop, and Catholics lifted their boycott. Of course, the same privilege isn't given to pro-choicers, who cannot designate their donations for Planned Parenthood. Ottawa members are asked to keep themselves informed and members across the country are asked to be on the alert for similar attempts to sabotage this organization.

PORTUGUESE JOURNALIST MARIA ANTONIA PALLA ACQUITTED OF CHARGES OF 'OFFENDING PUBLIC MORALS AND INCITING TO THE CRIME OF ABORTION'

In a trial which attracted international attention, Maria Antonia Palla was acquitted of charges brought against her because of her part in a television program called "Abortion is not a Crime".

In a final statement to the court, Ms. Palla said she had tried to highlight the suffering created by illegal abortions in Portugal. It is estimated that 180,000 such abortions are performed each year and about 2,000 women die yearly from them.

CARAL sent a telegram of support to Ms. Palla and one of protest to the Portuguese Embassy in Ottawa. As well, we issued a press release.

Abortions denounced by Catholic MDs

By Tom Harpur Star religion editor

One of the strongest condemnations of abortion ever made by a group of practising physicians has been made public by the leader of Toronto's one million Roman Catholics.

The statement, prepared by the 200 members of the Catholic Doctors' Guild of Toronto, was released last night by Archbishop Gerald Emmett Carter at the annual convention of the Toronto council of the Catholic Women's League. His press officer, Rev. Brad Massman, said the archbishop stands behind the document "100 per cent."

Calling Canada's current spate of abortions — 57,564 were performed in 1977 or about one for every five live births — "mass killing" and a "crime against humanity," the doctors insist that a fetus is a human being from the moment of conception. "At that point a human soul is created by God."

The developing child is not an organ, a part of the mother or "just a piece of tissue," the statement says, but a unique, human being whom no one may deliberately abort at any stage.

Further, they argue, birth control pills and intrauterine devices prevent implantation of an already fertilized ovum, they are also abortants and to be roundly condemned.

The so-called "morning after" pills act in a similar manner and so are "morally wrong."

The doctors deny the validity of any arguments based on the "quality of life" of the mother — her social well-being, financial state or emotional health:

"Life itself is more important than quality of life," they say.

While roughly 75 per cent of all Cana-

dians are in favor of abortion where the mother's life is at risk, according to a 1978 Gallup poll, the statement says a doctor's responsibility is to take care of both human beings to the best of his or her ability:

"To do less, to take the road of sacrificing the child, is an act of unjustifiable killing."

Similarly, they flatly reject the argument that the presence of an abnormality in the fetus is justification for an abortion. Amniocentesis, the medical technique for detecting fetal abnormalities, is "morally unjustifiable," they say.

The reason for such a strong reaffirmation of the traditional Roman Catholic position is that hospitals report that abortions among Roman Catholic women are now just as frequent as among the general population, according to the document.

Apparently, Roman Catholic doctors have become lax as well.

Noting that the Canadian Medical Association has recently declared itself to be in favor of abortion on demand, the doctors warn all Roman Catholic politicians, medical and lay people to recall their duty as church members and take a firm stand against "the baleful effects of the present widespread and abhorrent practice."

While Carter was delivering the contents of the Guild's anti-abortion statement at the Royal York Hotel, angry pro-life pickets outside were protesting the choice of Margaret Birch, provincial secretary for social development, as main speaker for the banquet on the grounds that she is on the board of Scarborough General Hospital.

The hospital has an abortion committee and performs abortions regularly.

C4/TORONTO STAR, MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1979

Stars in Quebec back free abortion

MONTREAL (CP) — A movement favoring free abortion on demand says it has the support of 118 well-known Quebec women, including Consumer Affairs Minister Lise Payette.

Others supporters include novelist Marie-Claire Blais, criminologist Marie

Andree Bertrand and singer Pauline Julien.

A co-ordinating committee from 20 women's groups, decided to seek the support of prominent Quebecers because the committee was being dismissed by opponents of abortion as "hysterical unknowns."

Teen births cost U.S. \$8 billion a year

WASHINGTON (Special) — Teenage pregnancies cost United States taxpayers about \$8.3 billion a year in welfare and related outlays, according to a new study.

Stanford Research Institute came up with the figure which includes all cash support payments, food

stamps, social services, free medical services and other spending by federal, state and local governments for the country's 600,000 annual births to teenaged girls.

John Robbins, director of the study said the total would be \$1.5 billion higher if abortions were to become illegal or if state fi-

nancing of abortions for teenagers were to cease.

The study also found a "disproportionate number of (teenaged) mothers come from poor families, unable to give them financial support." And more than one-third are unmarried at the time of the baby's birth.

WASHINGTON POST

The Lives of Children: A Right to be Wanted

The United Nations has designated 1979 as the International Year of the Child (IYC), and NARAL is a member of the National Organizations Advisory Council for the IYC. In joining the Council we have expressed our concern that every child should be a wanted child.

Whenever pro-choice individuals discuss why they support the legal option of abortion, the right of a child to be wanted, loved, and adequately cared for is a paramount concern.

Women throughout history, and the men in their lives, have recognized abortion as a basic human right. A woman considers many factors when choosing abortion. They all lead inevitably to the conclusion it would not be right or fair to a child to be born unwanted. If a woman thinks of her life, her dreams of education, career, marriage and decides to have an abortion, the insensitive and intolerant abortion foes tell her she's selfish and call it a "convenience abortion"—not really necessary. Yet, she knows that having a child at that time is wrong; that the child would not be adequately cared for or loved. It might even be abused. And, children can sense that they are not wanted. Studies show that children born to women who were denied abortion are more likely to: need psychiatric care, have records of delinquency, and be on welfare. They are less likely to: complete higher education and be free of social disadvantages.

A CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO BE WANTED—AND LOVED! Consider a teenager—a child herself—who decides to have an abortion. The opponents of abortion torment her and insist

she continue the pregnancy to term, give birth, and give away her baby to strangers. At one time, teenagers succumbed to this pressure from society and parents, and 80% of teenage girls who did not abort relinquished their children to adoptive parents. Now 94% keep their babies—for awhile. When the novelty wears off, when the child doesn't live up to its child-mother's uninformed, unrealistic expectations, when the frustration of being a child-mother can no longer be contained, the child's child can become a victim of child abuse or may be offered for adoption. But adopting parents want newborns—not 2-, 3-, or 8-year olds who may have had a rough start.

The magnitude of child abuse appears to increase year by year, as researchers are more able to collect the data. Recent studies demonstrate a higher incidence of family violence in younger and younger age groups. These children are beaten, neglected, starved. Many are tragically scarred—mentally and physically—for life.

The same abortion foes tell a woman who learns she is carrying a genetically deformed fetus that she must continue the pregnancy. She must give birth to a Tay Sachs child that she knows will die tragically within a few years, or a mentally retarded child who must live in an institution for the rest of its life—even if s/he lives 60 years. The cost in human suffering to the parents, to the child, and to society is not considered by the moralistic abortion foe who says "my way is the only right way."

In this Year of the Child we can protect the rights of children to be wanted, loved, and cared for by protecting a

woman's right to choose abortion. Consider the U.N. Declaration of the Rights of the Child:

- The right to affection, love and understanding.
- The right to adequate nutrition and medical care.
- The right to free education.
- The right to full opportunity for play and recreation.
- The right to a name and nationality.
- The right to special care, if handicapped.
- The right to be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster.
- The right to be a useful member of society and to develop individual abilities.
- The right to be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal brotherhood.
- The right to enjoy these rights, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national or social origin.

These rights are more likely to be denied when children are not wanted.

We must not allow the intolerant and absolutist fanatics who oppose abortion to succeed by imposing their moral/religious views into secular laws. Driven by a religious fervor not seen in this country since Prohibition, they can only be stopped when we, the majority, declare that abortion is a positive moral choice.

It is imperative in this year and every year that we continue our struggle for the right of every woman to bear a wanted child and for the right of every child to be wanted.

Karen Mulhauser