

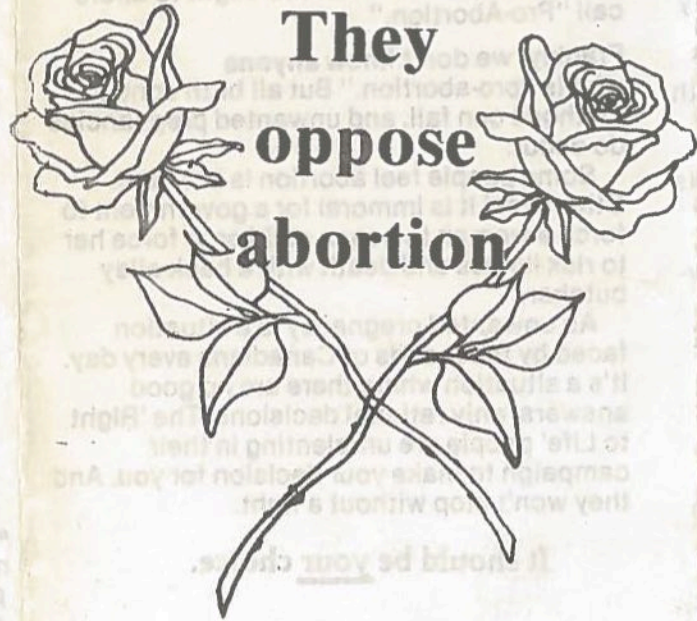
WE DEMAND:

- Access to safe legal abortion
- Safe effective birth control methods
- No forced sterilization
- Access to information on sexuality, birth control and reproduction
- Support services to enable women to have the children they want
- Freedom to express our sexuality
- Control of our reproductive lives

Endorsements:

- Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres
- International Women's Day Committee
- National Action Committee on the Status of Women
- International Socialists
- Canadian Association for Repeal of Abortion Laws
- International Campaign for Abortion Rights
- Women in Protest
- Women on Watch
- The Women's Press

You know them
as the
"Right to Life" People.



But did you know

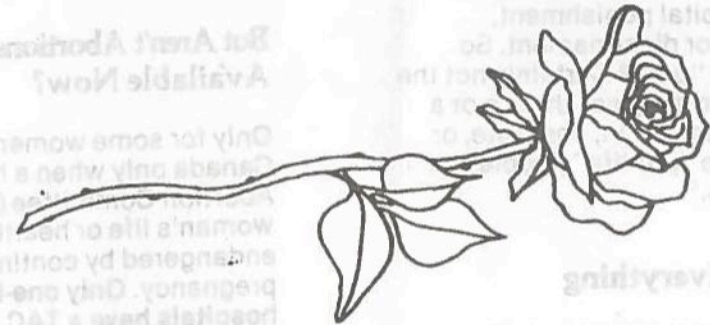
...that they are against contraception?

...that they actively oppose sex education in the schools?

...that they are working to stop research in amniocentesis, the science of detecting prenatal birth defects?

The 'Right to Lifers' are sincere and dedicated in what they're trying to do. But what they're trying to do is turn their personal beliefs into law. They must not be allowed to succeed.

If you believe they should make your moral, ethical, and religious decisions for you, and for all Canadians, you needn't read any further.



They Mean Business

Ask any MP or MPP who has received a flood of anti-abortion mail before a vote on a bill. Ask the family planning agencies whose federal funding is threatened due to 'Right to Life' lobbying efforts. Ask the hospital board under siege because of a 'Right to Life' takeover attempt. They'll all tell you that the 'Right to Life' people are a strong, well-organized, and well-financed lobbying force that will stop at nothing until it has reached its goal . . . **an amendment to the law, which will ban abortions under any circumstances.**

The amount of attention paid to 'Right to Lifers' by the government and the press is disproportionate to their numbers. A recent Gallup poll (March, 1979) indicated that hard-line 'Right to Life' proponents constitute only 5% of the population.

The 'Right to Life' people call themselves "Pro-life." Yet they don't concern themselves with the issues of capital punishment, nuclear proliferation or disarmament. So whose "life" are they "pro"? Certainly not the life of the woman. Certainly not the life of a child born defective, fatally ill, destitute, or simply unwanted. The "pro-life" people are merely "anti-abortion."

One Answer For Everything

To the 'Right to Lifers' the answer is the same, no matter what the circumstances: **"You must have that baby, whether you like it or not!"**

"But I'm only 12 years old."

"We have seven children already."

"I was raped."

"We'll have to go on welfare."

"The doctor says it will die before it's two."

"I'm 50. I thought I couldn't get pregnant any more."

Their answer is the same: **"You must have that baby!"**

The End Justifies The Means

Neither truth nor logic has ever hindered the 'Right to Life' people. They'll say or do just about anything to further their cause. Their literature portrays abortion as "cosmetic surgery" used by careless, wanton women as casually as birth control. They indoctrinate children in the schools with propaganda disguised as "textbooks", and often use these children in their marches and publicity stunts. They claim the availability of birth control is responsible for the rising teenage birth rate, and that, if we simply do away with birth control education, the problem will miraculously disappear. They quote the lowering birth rate, and claim that abortion is never necessary, that unwanted babies are quickly adopted . . . while we know that hundreds of children other than perfect newborns await adoption every year.

But Aren't Abortions Easily Available Now?

Only for some women. Abortion is legal in Canada only when a hospital Therapeutic Abortion Committee (TAC) certifies that a woman's life or health is likely to be endangered by continuation of the pregnancy. **Only one-fifth of Canadian hospitals have a TAC.**

And attempts are being made to further reduce access to abortion:

- Anti-choice groups have attempted to gain control of publicly-supported hospitals across Canada: Vancouver General, Scarborough Centenary and the St. Thomas. Elgin General are prominent examples.

- John Swaney, MPP (Kitchener-Wilmott, Ontario) tried to increase bureaucratic red tape for termination of pregnancies in Ontario hospitals. His bill failed to pass in the fall of 1978.

• The anti-choice minority believes that a fertilized egg is a "child". They want any bill of rights for children to define "child" in this extreme way. The ramifications of this position are alarming.

They Like to Call Us Pro-Abortion

If you believe that you, not the government, should decide when you will or won't have a child, then you are what the 'Right to Lifers' call "Pro-Abortion."

Frankly, we don't know anyone who is "pro-abortion." But all birth control methods can fail, and unwanted pregnancies do occur.

Some people feel abortion is immoral. Others feel it is immoral for a government to force a woman to bear a child or to force her to risk illness and death with a back-alley butcher.

An unwanted pregnancy is a situation faced by thousands of Canadians every day. It's a situation where there are no good answers, only rational decisions. The 'Right to Life' people are unrelenting in their campaign to make your decision for you. And they won't stop without a fight.

It should be your choice.

In Toronto

- Toronto General Hospital provides first trimester abortions on an out-patient basis, however *no anesthetic* is used. (Women without OHIP are charged \$80)
- Wellesley Hospital for the same procedure keeps women in hospital for 3 days and 2 nights
- Women's College Hospital will provide abortions at 14 weeks by hysterotomy (a type of mini-caesarean section) if the woman agrees to be sterilized

In Ontario

- In Mississauga General Hospital, only 2 gynecologists perform abortions, one of whom demands that consent to sterilization be given
- In Barrie, *no* abortions are done
- In Thunder Bay women seeking abortions are sent to 2 psychiatrists. This time-consuming, emotionally draining process is compounded by the fact that there are only 4 psychiatrists in the city
- In North Bay women are forced to be sterilized to obtain a second abortion
- In Sudbury the abortion referral service refers 80% of its women to Toronto
- Windsor women recently lost access to the Grace Hospital's quota of 300 abortions per year when its obstetrical services were combined with those of a Roman Catholic hospital in response to citizens' protests Ontario Minister of Health, Dennis Timbrell replied: "The obvious answer is to avoid abortions."

- All hospitals have arbitrary quotas *eg.* Women's College Hospital does only 3 abortions per week in its clinic
- Few hospitals offer support counselling, and that is usually pro-pill
- Many gynecologists who do abortions don't participate in OHIP and charge whatever they want
- Abortion is the only procedure for which a patient pays in advance
- Ontario Minister of Health, Dennis Timbrell has refused two bonafide applications to establish Women's Health Clinics which would include abortion services
- The Badgley Report (1977) found that 47.3% of the women who had abortions did so as a result of a contraceptive failure