

CANADIAN ABORTION RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE (CARAL)

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LE DROIT A L'AVORTEMENT (ACDA)

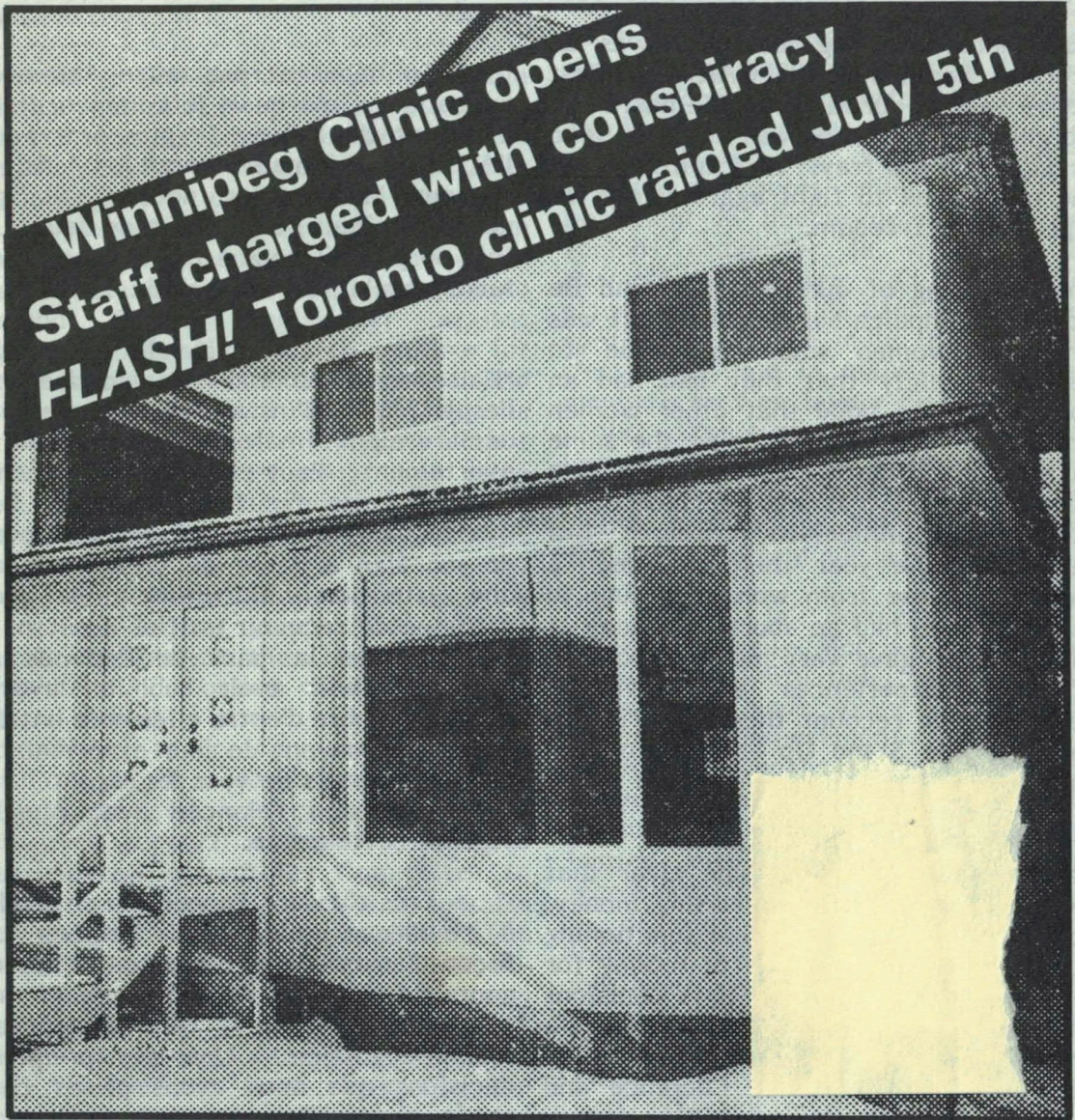
# NEWSLETTER



SUMMER

1983

Box 935 · Station Q · Toronto, Ontario · M4T 2P1 · (416) 961-1507



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## RAPPORT DE LA PRÉSIDENTE 1

When I began writing this report it seemed like an insurmountable task. How can words on paper give any real understanding of the care, concern, work, exhaustion and hope that have gone into the past year in the pro-choice movement?

Our annual meeting last year was an exciting beginning for CARAL's most active year in our history. We heard Dr. Morgentaler tell us he was about to lead us back into the fray. He inspired us yet one more time to fight aggressively for reproductive freedom.

The beginning of our Stand Up and Be Counted campaign suggested that it was time for women who were able to declare publicly that they had had an abortion in the hope that other women would feel comfortable doing the same thing. The impetus for this campaign waned somewhat as we were forced to face other immediate crises. But throughout the year there has been a steady response from women willing to say they have had an abortion. Many of these women gave very moving accounts of their experiences and gave us permission to recount these experiences to you. The Stand Up and Be Counted Campaign will be renewed with more vigour in the coming year.

Early in the year it became clear that we had to find a way of raising money, not only to keep our office functioning but to give us a reserve of money for legal costs. One of our first decisions this year was to engage the services of a professional fundraiser. The generosity of women like Margaret Laurence and Doris Anderson, who were willing to risk

Au départ, la rédaction de ce rapport m'apparaissait une tâche insurmontable. Comment des mots écrits noir sur blanc pouvaient-ils vraiment faire comprendre au lecteur l'attention, l'inquiétude, le travail, l'épuisement et l'espoir que le mouvement "pro-choix" a investi et vécu au cours de la dernière année?

En débutant par notre Assemblée annuelle qui marquait le commencement palpitant de l'année la plus active que l'ACDA ait jamais connue. Ainsi, le docteur Morgentaler nous disait qu'il nous entraînait sur la ligne de feu. Une fois de plus, il nous a inspiré dans notre lutte pour la liberté de choix.

Puis, s'amorçait la campagne "Faites-vous connaître", fondée sur l'espoir qu'à l'instar de femmes qui déclareraient finalement avoir subi un avortement, d'autres femmes se sentiraient à l'aise d'imiter leur geste. Bien que la campagne ait quelque peu perdu de son élan à cause de crises exigeant une attention immédiate, nous avons continué de recevoir un flot constant de réponses de la part de femmes qui reconnaissaient avoir subi un avortement. Nombre d'entre elles nous ont fait le récit émouvant de leur expérience et nous ont permis de vous les raconter. La campagne sera relancée avec plus de vigueur cette année.

Très tôt dans l'année, on se rendait à l'évidence qu'il fallait trouver une façon d'amasser des fonds non seulement pour le fonctionnement du bureau, mais aussi comme réserve relativement aux frais de justice. Une des premières décisions que nous avons prises cette année a été d'engager les services de

the wrath of our opponents, allowed us to launch two very large mailings to the general public. As well, the generosity of our own members has not only allowed to function as a viable organization but has given us a reserve with which to continue the fight. The legal battles are just beginning and we will need the continued financial support of all those who support free choice if we are to win these battles.

The Gallup Poll conducted in the middle of the year reinforced what we already knew - that our first legal tactic would be to seek intervention in the case. Following the denial for intervenor status we sought to get reassurance from the Minister of Justice that he would take whatever steps were necessary to defend federal legislation against Borowski - legislation which we have for years considered to be outdated and unworkable - but all we have at the present time. Unfortunately, we do not feel that the reassurance has been forthcoming and further action is necessary.

Dr. Morgentaler followed up his statement to last year's AGM with a public declaration that he would open free-standing abortion clinics. CARAL has already made a financial contribution to Dr. Morgentaler to assist with the legal research required in his efforts, and we will continue to give whatever support we can. We have participated in both the Committee to Establish Abortion Clinics - a specific clinic in Toronto - and OCAC (The Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics) - a coalition of individuals and groups working towards the establishment of clinics throughout Ontario. Members of CARAL-Winnipeg have been in the forefront of the coalition working for

solliciteurs professionnels. Grâce à la générosité de femmes comme Margaret Laurence et Doris Anderson, qui n'ont pas craint de s'attirer les foudres de nos opposants, nous avons pu effectuer deux envois postaux très importants au grand public.

En outre, la générosité de nos membres nous a permis de fonctionner non seulement comme une organisation viable, mais aussi d'accumuler des réserves qui rendront possible la poursuite du combat. En effet, les batailles juridiques ne font que commencer. Nous aurons besoin de l'appui financier soutenu de toutes celles et ceux qui favorisent la liberté de choix si nous voulons remporter la victoire. Par exemple, le sondage Gallup. Il a été effectué au milieu de l'année et est venu confirmer ce que nous savions déjà, c'est-à-dire que la majorité des Canadien(ne)s sont en faveur de la liberté de choix. D'ailleurs, les résultats obtenus lors du sondage sont tellement significatifs que "notre 72 %" est couramment utilisé par les médias au cours des discussions portant sur la question.

Durant la dernière Assemblée générale annuelle, Morris Manning nous a exposé la situation sur l'affaire Borowski. Nous avons décidé qu'on tenterait premièrement d'obtenir le statut d'intervenant. À la suite du refus essuyé, nous avons de nouveau cherché à obtenir l'assurance du ministre de la Justice qu'il prendrait les mesures nécessaires, quelles qu'elles soient, afin de défendre la loi fédérale contre Borowski; bien que pendant des années, nous ayons considérée cette loi dépassée et inflexible, c'est la seule dont nous disposons. Malheureusement, nous ne croyons pas détenir cette réassurance. C'est pourquoi nous devons poursuivre notre action dans ce secteur.

the opening of the Winnipeg Clinic. Across the country our chapters and affiliates have been organizing with other women's groups in preparation for the opening of future clinics.

With the very generous help of a CARAL member slide/tape presentation was remade this year. It is being used extensively across the country in schools and at public meetings to tell the public who we are and what we do.

A commitment was made last year to complete a manual for our chapters and the manual is now a reality and available for distribution. A great many people assisted with this project and a small group of the executive in Toronto managed to pull it together. We know that this will be of great value to both new and established CARAL chapters. A companion manual is being prepared for speakers and debaters.

Our booklet, *Abortion in Law and History*, was translated into French this year and we are continuing to increase the amount of literature available in French. We are presently giving financial assistance to francophone groups for the translation of materials.

A francophone woman joined the Board of Directors this year as a representative from the YWCA and it is our hope to have additional francophone representation on the new Board of Directors. Just recently we were contacted by a woman affiliated with francophone women's groups. These groups want to work with CARAL for freedom of choice for all Canadian women.

Le docteur Morgentaler a élaboré sur la déclaration qu'il avait faite l'an dernier lorsqu'il annonçait publiquement qu'il ouvrirait des cliniques d'avortement libre. L'ACDA lui a déjà apporté une contribution pécunière en vue de la recherche juridique nécessaire à la poursuite de ses efforts. Nous continuerons de l'appuyer dans la mesure de notre possible. Nous avons déjà participé au "Committee to Establish Abortion Clinics" pour l'ouverture d'une clinique à Toronto et à "The Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics", une coalition de particuliers et de groupes qui œuvrent en vue de l'établissement de cliniques en Ontario. Au surplus, les membres de l'ACDA de Winnipeg font partie des instigateurs de l'ouverture de la clinique du même endroit. Dans tout le pays, les chapitres et les affiliés se sont organisés, en collaboration avec d'autres groupes de femmes, visant la création éventuelle de cliniques.

Nous avons produit un nouveau montage audio-visuel grâce à la précieuse collaboration d'une de nos membres. Il est très employé dans les écoles et dans les assemblées publiques partout au pays afin d'expliquer à la population qui nous sommes et ce que nous faisons.

L'an dernier, nous nous étions promis de terminer le manuel destiné aux chapitres. C'est maintenant chose faite! Un grand nombre de personnes a participé à son élaboration tandis qu'un petit groupe du Comité de direction de Toronto s'est chargé d'y mettre la dernière main. Le manuel représente un outil d'une valeur inestimable pour nos chapitres existants ou nouvellement créés. En outre, un deuxième manuel est en préparation et s'adresse aux orateurs et aux participants aux divers débats.

Throughout the year as we dealt with the larger events - establishment of clinics, and the Borowski case - we faced and dealt with many crises in various places across the country - the situation at the Moncton City Hospital, Moose Jaw Union Hospital, the 15 year old in Cornwall, the many hospital Boards and the Campaign Life commercials in Hamilton.

CARAL has been able to increase coverage in our office considerably. We now have the office covered at least part of every day Monday to Friday. Irene Hammond continues her dedicated work in the office two days a week. A long-time committed supporter, Irene keeps our membership lists in order as well as taking care of many other tasks. Shira Bernholtz has managed to bring order out of chaos with her office management skills and Louise Daw has worked tirelessly in assisting with the work in the office while continuing her education. Along with these three people, a group of volunteers have worked endless hours to keep the office functioning.

Finally, this year we received our charitable status and our Childbirth by Choice Trust is now a reality. Our very first attempts at fundraising through the Trust indicate that it will be an important tool for us.

Members of the Board of Directors who live in, or close to, Toronto meet every three weeks for a Board of Directors meeting on a Sunday. The meetings begin with bagels and coffee in the office to get us off to an early start. These meetings now take up the better part of the day. Toronto based Board members also meet every Monday night after work for a working session. The

Cette année, notre brochure intitulée ("*Abortion in Law and History*") a été traduite en français, "*L'Avortement - perspective historique et juridique*". Nous continuerons d'accroître le nombre de documents disponibles dans cette langue. À l'heure actuelle, nous appuyons financièrement des groupes de francophones en vue de la traduction de documents.

Dans le même ordre d'idée, une femme francophone, représentant le "Y des femmes" s'est jointe à notre Conseil d'administration. Nous espérons que la représentation francophone siégeant au nouveau Conseil augmentera. Récemment, une femme d'expression française, qui est affiliée à des groupes de femmes francophones, a communiqué avec nous. Ces groupes désirent travailler en collaboration avec l'ACDA vers la liberté de choix pour toutes les Canadiennes.

Tout au long de l'année, nous avons dû faire face à de nombreuses crises en divers endroits, sans parler des plus grands événements comme l'établissement de cliniques et l'affaire Borowski, entre autres: la situation au "Moncton City Hospital" et au "Moose Jaw Union Hospital", l'adolescente de 15 ans de Cornwall, les nombreux conseils d'hôpitaux et les annonces publicitaires de "Campaign Life" à Hamilton.

Par ailleurs, l'ACDA a pu allonger considérablement ses heures de bureau. Nos portes sont maintenant ouvertes durant certaines périodes du lundi au vendredi. Irene Hammond continue de se dévouer deux jours par semaine. Appui de longue date, Irene tient les listes de membres à jour en plus d'assumer de nombreuses autres tâches. Shira Bernholtz a réussi à nous sortir du fouilli

time commitment made by our Board members across the country has been superb.

I have outlined in this report our major activities during the year. We have, as well, continued all the activities that must go on day by day and week by week - our newsletter, contacts with our chapters and affiliates, lobbying, speaking engagements, correspondence, especially with politicians and answering requests for information and literature.

It has been a busy year and it has been a good year. To all of the people across the country who have worked so hard for freedom of choice - thank you.

*Norma Scarborough*

Norma Scarborough

Excellent Booklet available from  
Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
in Winnipeg

ABORTION IN MANITOBA: A LEGAL AND  
MEDICAL PERSPECTIVE.

\$2.00 from - Coalition for Reproductive  
Choice,  
Box 51, Station L,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba.  
R3H 0Z4

5

grâce à ses techniques de gestion et Louise Daw a travaillé sans relâche tout en poursuivant ses études. Un groupe de bénévoles a également prêté son concours pendant un nombre incalculable d'heures afin d'assurer le fonctionnement du bureau.

Finalement, nous sommes devenus un oeuvre de bienfaisance, aux fins de l'impôt, et détenons la fiducie "Choisir de donner naissance". Les résultats de nos premières campagnes de souscription permettant des versements à la fiducie démontrent qu'elle constituera pour nous un outil important.

Quant aux membres du Conseil d'administration habitant Toronto ou les environs, ils se réunissent à toutes les trois semaines, le dimanche. On commence par les "bagels" et le café afin de partir tôt et du bon pied, car ces rencontres se prolongent généralement jusqu'en fin d'après-midi. Les membres du Conseil qui résident dans cette ville se rencontrent également tous les lundis soirs. D'ailleurs, le nombre d'heures consacré à notre cause par nos membres du Conseil à travers le pays a tout simplement été fantastique!

Dans ce rapport, j'ai tracé les grandes lignes de nos principales activités cette année. Mais, nous avons poursuivi nos occupations courantes comme le bulletin, les communications avec nos chapitres et affiliés, le "lobbying", les entrevues et conférences, la correspondance, surtout avec les politiciens, et les réponses aux demandes de renseignements et de documentation.

6

Un horaire chargé, une bonne année! À toutes les personnes qui ont travaillé si fort pour la liberté de choix au pays, merci!

*Norma Scarborough*

Norma Scarborough

Are you moving?

Don't forget to send us your new address. Just attach your newsletter label to one of the free post office cards and write your new address too. We don't want to lose you.

#### NOTE:

CARAL is increasingly aware that we have to communicate our message to our French speaking members. We are currently examining the possibility of publishing a bilingual newsletter. Considering the costs and the energies necessary and **available**, we will try to offer a format and especially a content that will satisfy the French speaking population's needs.

#### Remarque :

L'ACDA est de plus en plus consciente qu'il lui faut communiquer son message à ses membres francophones. C'est pourquoi elle étudie présentement la possibilité d'un format bilingue de son bulletin. Considérant les coûts et la "consommation d'énergies" nécessaires et **disponibles**, nous tenterons très prochainement d'offrir une présentation et surtout un contenu satisfaisant pour vous.

À très bientôt!

BOROWSKI TRIAL ENDS;  
CARAL SUIT BEGINS

The threat of Joe Borowski to the pro-choice movement culminated in Regina early in May.

To recap, in 1980 the Supreme Court of Canada granted Borowski the right to challenge the abortion law in his attempt to have all abortions made illegal in Canada.

As soon as the decision was made about which court would hear the case CARAL responded. Legal counsel was retained, a direct mail campaign for funds was organized and we prepared to make application for standing as intervenors in the trial.

Three groups sought standing as intervenors. Civil liberties and Campaign Life wanted to intervene with written briefs only; CARAL wanted to participate fully in the trial. In January 1983 all intervenors were denied standing by the Court.

Our next step was to seek assurance from the Minister of Justice that his defence of the law would be adequate. As inadequate as we feel the current legislation is, it is the best presently available and we wanted to know that even this limited access to abortion was not going to disappear.

CARAL corresponded with the Minister of Justice through our lawyer and members of the executive spoke directly to the Minister of Justice in Ottawa. We were less

than reassured about how the legislation would be defended.

It was the government's contention that expert medical witnesses would not be allowed to testify for Borowski and that if they were allowed their testimony would be struck out before the trial ended.

I was in the courtroom in Regina for the first day of the trial and before the day was over our worst fears were confirmed. The judge allowed Schumiatcher, counsel for Borowski, to bring 9 expert witnesses instead of the five normally allowed. Sojonky, the federal government lawyer, objected and was overruled.

Sojonky's argument throughout the trial was that evidence about when life begins had no place in the testimony since the government already recognizes pre-natal life and already protects pre-natal life by limiting access to abortion.

After two weeks of a barrage of so-called 'experts' giving evidence to prove that life begins at the moment of conception Schumiatcher rested his case and it was Mr. Sojonky's turn. His evidence lasted for twenty minutes.

Sojonky placed in evidence a copy of the Badgley report and two sets of stats from Statistics Canada. He attempted to have placed in evidence the information from the U.S. 1980 Senate hearings, which had heard many of the same so-called experts that Schumiatcher brought to the case. Mr. Schumiatcher objected to this evidence and the

7

judge upheld the objection. When Mr. Sojonky asked if the paper could be left as information, the judge agreed but said that he did not have to read it. Mr. Sojonky sat down and 'our' case rested!

The final arguments were heard a few days later with the same perfunctory statements by Mr. Sojonky. Schumiatcher's final words in the court were that all they wanted was fetuses be allowed to develop into responsible men and citizens!!

The case for pro-choice Canadians was not presented. The judge is expected to hand down his decision sometime in the fall. A serious concern is that even if Borowski loses he has promised to appeal. No further evidence can be brought before the appeal court - that court will hear only what was placed in evidence at the first trial. If Borowski wins we have no guarantee from the federal government that they will appeal - abortion could be illegal once again in this country.

But the Borowski threat will not go unanswered by us. I, as an individual and as president of CARAL, filed suit on April 29th to challenge section 251 in its entirety.

We are seeking to have the abortion law declared inconsistent with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in that it contravenes the rights of women.

8

We anticipate that our case and Borowski's will eventually be linked in the appeals process. At the present we are awaiting a reply from the federal government to our statement of claim.

*Norma Scarborough*

Catholics for a Free Choice, an American pro-choice group, has publications of interest. For catalogue of publications write: Catholics for Free Choice, 2008 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009

Perhaps a small donation would help defray mail costs.

FOR TORONTO AREA MEMBERS:

Anne-Margaret Hines, a theatre director, is preparing a theatrical presentation about abortion. She would like to talk to women who have made personal decisions on the question of whether or not to have an abortion.

Contact her before Nov. 1, 1983.

Anne-Margaret Hines,  
655 Broadview Ave., #2111,  
Toronto, Ontario.  
M4K 2P3  
(416) 469-0669

Pour le bénéfice de nos lectrices (lecteurs) francophones, nous avons résumé la situation sur l'affaire Borowski :

Comme nous le savons, Joe Borowski a défié le Code criminel sur la question de l'avortement. Lors du procès, la défense a présenté neuf experts médicaux cités comme témoins alors que l'avocat de la Couronne s'est contenté de les "contre-interroger". En effet, Maître Sojonky s'est montré réticent à porter son argumentation sur l'aspect médical de la question, arguant plutôt que cette optique n'était pas en cause dans cette affaire. Selon l'avis de l'avocat du fédéral, ces témoins n'auraient tout simplement pas dû être entendus. (Mentionnons en passant que la défense a mis deux semaines à rendre ses témoignages, tandis que la Couronne a procédé en vingt minutes.)

En bref, que les autorités fédérales gagnent ou perdent la cause, nous nous retrouverons au même point car, d'une part, en cas de victoire, Borowski en appellera de la décision et la Couronne ne pourra présenter de témoins, donc de preuves, et, d'autre part, en cas d'échec, rien ne nous garantit que le fédéral contestera le jugement. Quant à ce dernier, il a été reporté à l'automne. Affaire à suivre !

PRO-CHOICE SUPPORT  
DURING BOROWSKI TRIAL

When it became obvious that the federal government would not put forward the pro-choice position at the Borowski trial, CARAL asked groups to reiterate their pro-choice positions as the Canadian Labour Congress did at the beginning of the trial. We received copies of letters sent to the Minister of Justice by a number of groups and some excerpts are reproduced below. Let these groups know that you support the stands they have taken.

From the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women:

"...the Advisory Council has always stood for every woman's right to choose abortion if she wishes and also we have always taken the stand that abortion should be removed from the Criminal Code."

The New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women wrote:

"We are monitoring with concern the legal case of Borowski as the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance in Saskatchewan. We are particularly concerned that the

interests of women may not be adequately represented and defended... It could be a legal decision of great importance and Canadian women will not accept any regressive limits after having waited decades for some control of their bodies."

Planned Parenthood Association of Edmonton:

"To risk a judgment that would render therapeutic abortions illegal is a very serious and dangerous action. The government has a responsibility to uphold the right of Canadian women to make choices about reproductive issues. This must be done in the strongest, most just way."

A United Church representative sent copies of their booklet Contraception and Abortion to the Leaders of the three political parties, other politics, NAC and United Church offices. The report passed by the church in 1980 stated that:

"The United Church DOES NOT SUPPORT "ABORTION ON DEMAND", but that so long as the abortion can still be performed by D & C and suction, ABORTION SHOULD BE A PERSONAL MATTER between a woman and her doctor. She should be allowed to bring her own moral and religious insights into human life to bear in reaching a decision about continuing the pregnancy or not. The report thus takes a pro-choice position in supporting a woman's right to decide through a free and responsive exercise of her conscience."

And from the Federation of Women Teachers of Ontario to Mark MacGuigan:

"Our organization, representing the 30,000 women teachers in Ontario's elementary public schools, has urged your government to remove abortion from the Criminal Code. You have not done that. We are angry also because the present law does not provide equal access to abortion for women throughout the country.

We call once more for your government to remove abortion from the Criminal Code. We urge that your government take the strongest stand possible before the courts and in the House of Commons in defence of freedom of choice."

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CARAL PRESIDENT CALLS FOR DAY OF ACTION FOR CHOICE ON ABORTION

The statement below was made by CARAL president Norma Scarborough at the press conference held June 7, 1983 to announce the opening of the Toronto abortion clinic.

I am here today on behalf of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League to support the opening of Dr. Morgentaler's clinic.

For more than a year now the women of this city and province have spent an incredible amount of time building support not only for this clinic but for clinics throughout

Page 24 - The Catholic Register - May 14 - 1983

# THANK YOU!

**WE HAVE REACHED THE TARGET OF \$350,000.  
FOR OUR COURT CASE TO DEFEND THE UNBORN**

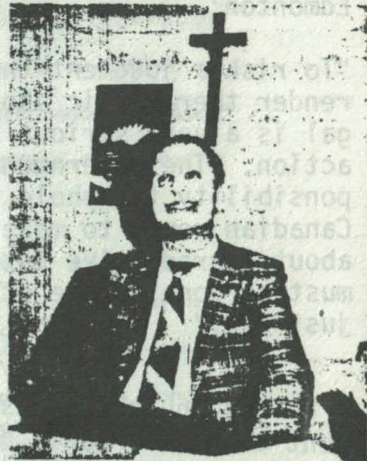
**Your generous response to our appeal**

**for funds has been outstanding**

*A very special thanks to The Catholic Register  
without whose assistance our objective  
would have been almost impossible.*

**"THANK YOU" TO: everyone who sent a donation**

- The Catholic Bishops
- The Catholic Clergy
- The Knights of Columbus
- The Catholic Women's League
- Campaign Life



JOE BOROWSKI

**"THANK YOU" TO: The people of Saskatchewan the province of my birth.**

**You make up only 4% of the Canadian population but you donated 25% of the funds**

**PLEASE REMEMBER ME DURING THE MONTH OF MAY**

**IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**For the battle is in God's hands**

JOE BOROWSKI



**THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY THE MANITOBA ALLIANCE AGAINST ABORTION POLITICAL FUND.  
(This is not paid by the contributions you have sent for the court case.)**

Need we say more?

Donations to CARAL's Pro-Choice Defence Fund will:

- 1) Support CARAL's suit to eliminate the abortion law.
- 2) Defend free-standing clinic doctors and staff.

the province where safe, legal, medically-insured abortions will be available to women.

There is now a clinic operating in Winnipeg, the Toronto clinic will open in the near future and, of course, the Quebec clinics have been in operation for some years.

The government of Ontario can prove that it recognizes that women are competent, capable human beings well able to make decision for themselves about when and how many children they will bear - the government can do this by NOT laying charges against any clinic personnel.

It is possible for the Toronto clinic to open quietly and with dignity, offering a much needed service to women. The circus which took place outside the Winnipeg clinic and inside the courtroom in Regina happened because anti-choice groups believe that they have the right to control the lives of other human beings. The circus does not have to happen here.

If the anti-choice groups who pretend to be in favour of life would use their energy and money to support women who have chosen motherhood and are having a difficult time or to help care for the millions of starving children around the world we would have some proof that they really are in favour of life.

Pro-choice people do not advocate abortion. They believe only that women have the right to choose how

they will deal with an unplanned, unwanted pregnancy. The opening of Dr. Morgentaler's clinic in Toronto is just one more step in guaranteeing that right.

As a means of mobilizing support for the pro-choice majority CARAL is calling a Day of Action for Choice on Abortion on October 1, 1983. Activities will take place in cities, towns and villages across the country. It will be supported and organized by all coalitions and pro-choice groups.

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### MACGUIGAN RECEIVES PRO-CHOICE MAIL

According to a spokesperson from Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan's office, the Minister received almost 2,000 pro-choice letters in 1982.

This is due in no small measure to efforts by CARAL members, who wrote and who got their friends to write.

Although CARAL has always maintained that public policy on abortion must be made rationally based on the principles of individual choice in matters of reproduction and fertility and on the health benefits of safe abortion, we know that where sexual issues are concerned, elected officials do not always act rationally.

It appears that despite successive polls indicating support for the

right of women to make the abortion decision, and despite growing evidence supporting the health benefits of legal abortion, legislators and policy makers act in response to letter campaigns and pressure tactics from the anti-choice lobby.

That is why we continue to urge you to speak out in favour of choice whenever you have an opportunity - and not just to your friends, but to people in a position to make policy regarding access to abortion facilities. Continue to write your elected representatives at every level of government. Continue to write letters to the editor.

We will try to provide you with sample letters but don't wait for us to urge you.

Remember the voice of the majority must be heard. We are the majority.

#### LETTER TO MARK MACGUIGAN

Yes we are writing the federal Minister of Justice again! In the latest issue of *Chatelaine*, the Minister is quoted as saying that public opinion does not support any change in the abortion law. Let public opinion be heard!

Please use the enclosed letter or use it as a sample for composing your own. Get your friends to do the same.

## Across Canada <sup>13</sup>

### ALBERTA

#### Catholics Polled on Abortion

The Western Catholic Reporter, a 37,000-circulation weekly published in Edmonton, polled its readers last year on their attitudes to abortion. Asked how they felt about the statement "decisions about abortion should be left completely to the woman and her doctor", 41% of the 350 respondents to the poll agreed, 52% disagreed and 7% didn't know.

A second question was asked as follows: "there are some serious situations when an abortion should be allowed". Eighty percent agreed with this statement, 13% disagreed and 7% didn't know.

The responses are virtually identical to a similar poll conducted in 1972.

### CALGARY

#### MacGuire loses appeal

Another decision has been made regarding the MacGuire lawsuit against the City of Calgary for the funding of the Calgary Birth Control Association. Chief Justice McGillivray, along with Justices Lieberman and Laycraft, have decided against MacGuire's appeal.

## Bible treats fetus as less than a person



**TOM HARPUR**  
Religion Editor

Unfortunately for those who like a Bible proof-text to back their black-or-white stand on every moral issue, Holy Scripture says nothing about abortion.

The commandment (Exodus 20:13), "Thou shalt not kill," is of no direct help since it obviously refers to murder which in turn refers to the taking of the life of a person or human being. Since the very matter at stake in the abortion debate is the point at which a fertilized ovum becomes a person, or whether a fetus can be considered a person before the moment of viability, it is simply arguing in a circle to reason that abortion equals murder. It may make a fine slogan, but it only muddies the controversy.

Fundamentalists, who are committed to a literalist interpretation of the Bible, must really do battle with the fact that the absence of a clear prohibition against abortion in the Bible is in itself quite remarkable - especially in the light of the harsh edicts against it in the surrounding Middle Eastern cultures of those times.

Part of the reason for this, as Baptist professor Paul D. Simmons suggests, is that the Jewish religion gave a status to women that was unheard of in the Assyrian, Sumerian, Hittite, or Persian codes.

#### Family circle

In his essay, *A Theological Response to Fundamentalism on the Abortion Issue*, (Abortion, the Moral Issues, ed. Edward Batchelor, Pilgrim Press, New York, 1982) Simmons concludes:

"It is reasonable to believe that the practice of pregnancy termination was not punishable by law, because it was left to the woman and her family to decide. The burden of this decision was best left to the family circle."

Simmons backs his position by citing an Old Testament passage which he argues is highly important for those with fundamentalist perspectives. It is the only place in the Bible where the specific rights of a fetus are touched upon and it is found in Exodus 21:22-25.

This is an account of what is to be done if a pregnant woman tries to break up a fight or becomes somehow involved in a brawl between two men and is so injured that she has a miscarriage.

A sharp distinction is made between the seriousness of the penalty where the fetus alone dies and

fertilized egg becomes a blastocyst, then an embryo, then, after two months, a fetus, then a baby at viability or at birth.

Experts have demonstrated that one fertilized ovum out of 10 dies in the first four days of its development. (Dr. A. T. Hertig, a top American pathologist and Dr. John Rock, one of the inventors of the Pill).

About 4 out of 10 ova fail to survive beyond the point of being implanted in the lining of the mother's womb, and in the overall picture, according to Hertig and Rock, six fertilized eggs out of 10 are rejected spontaneously in the first 12 days after fertilization.

Since other spontaneous abortions occur after this - generally in the first three months of pregnancy - some doctors say that as high as 80 per cent of all fertilized ova never come to full term as babies.

It is, therefore, theologically dangerous to insist that every fertilized ovum is a person since this results in the near-blasphemous conclusion that God is the greatest abortionist of all. One can't escape the problem by saying simply: "This is God's will."

Nature, or God, it seems, does not treat the conceptus in its earliest stage with anything like the kind of respect we accord to persons.

#### Equal rights

Certainly, this is human life; certainly it is the potential for a full human being or person; but, that is a long way from saying it has equal rights with the mother or an actualized human being.

Thus, like it or not, Dr. Henry Morgentaler seems right when he states that thinking of a fertilized ovum or an embryo as a baby is "contrary to all our knowledge, as if someone affirmed that . . . a blueprint was already a house."

Morgentaler points out in his book, *Abortion and Contraception*, (General Publishing, 1982) that miscarried embryos are not baptized, given names, or buried with church rituals. "No birth or death certificates are made out for them, and they are not entered into vital statistics dealing with human beings."

The logic of Borowski's position demands that all this be changed. More than that, it demands that this process be extended not just to embryos but to tiny blastocysts, too. It is too ludicrous to contemplate.

that when the woman, too, is permanently injured or dies.

In the case of the death of the fetus, the husband and the judges are to determine what fine shall be paid.

If the woman is seriously hurt or perishes, then the full law of "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot," (King James Version) comes into play.

#### Relative standing

In other words, the woman is given total standing as a person under the law or covenant; the fetus has a relative, inferior standing.

Simmons, who is a Southern Baptist, rightly sums up: "This passage from Exodus gives no support to the parity argument that gives equal religious and moral worth to woman and fetus."

This is not an argument which is likely to get a hearing at the current abortion trial involving Joe Borowski in Regina. But, given his fundamentalist-style approach, it obviously should.

Borowski's (in my view, wrong-headed) attempt to prove that a fetus is a human being with the full rights of personhood from the very instant of conception clashes harshly with another religious and theological difficulty as well.

This one is rooted in ethical reflection upon some unavoidable biological data, but you are not likely to hear it at the Regina trial either.

Anyone familiar with the very rudiments of the birth process knows how many millions of sperm are sacrificed to ensure that only the strongest and healthiest unites with the ovum. There is a prodigality here which exactly parallels that at work throughout the whole of the natural order.

What has not been fully documented until comparatively recently is the incredibly high loss-rate of ova which have already been fertilized.

In fact, nature has its way of trying to ensure only the healthiest survive here as well.

In normal development, the

Harpur followed up this excellent article with one on the Hembrees, a pro-choice evangelical minister and his wife, (Toronto Star, June 4, 1983)

Thanks to Tom Harpur and the Toronto Star for permission to reprint.



Derek P. MacGuire, on behalf of himself and all the taxpayers of Calgary, brought the suit against the City of Calgary in February of 1978. He contended that abortion was unlawful because it constituted battery of the fetus and therefore, the city was performing an illegal act by funding C.B.C.A., with its abortion referral services. The initial case was heard by Judge Mary Hetherington in May of 1980 who decided that it is not unlawful for the City of Calgary to give money to C.B.C.A. She stated that abortion is lawful under the Canadian and Alberta Bill of Rights.

MacGuire filed his appeal in early 1981, prompting the above decision by Chief Justice McGillivray et al. They stated that: "It certainly cannot be contended that the Association was doing anything wrong or illegal in advising members of the public of the procedures set out in the Criminal Code" and "On the evidence, the position of the Association is one of strict and explicit neutrality".

Although MacGuire has the option of appealing to the Supreme Court of Canada, the lawyers representing the city feel that he will not do so. C.B.C.A. certainly hopes that the case is finally at an end.

In following the situation at Moose Jaw Union Hospital where no abortions have been performed since November 1981 when a group calling itself the Hospital Concerns Committee told the hospital board it was in violation of Section 251 of the Criminal Code, CARAL has learned that Graham Taylor, Minister of Health has stated that it is up to local hospital boards to decide if they want to perform abortions in their facilities.

Although it seems that the Minister's statement is an assurance that no legal action will be taken if the hospital reinstates abortion procedures, the board has yet to lift its ban. Sam Haggerty, the board chairman, said the hospital can't take the risk of a challenge from anti-abortion organizations. He did allow, however, that pressure from pro-choice groups could force the board into action.

Citizens For Reproductive Rights, a CARAL affiliate in Moose Jaw has been actively lobbying the board and applying public pressure.

#### MANITOBA

##### Judges Blatantly Anti-Choice

The Chief Justice of Manitoba, Mr. Justice Alfred Monnin, and Provincial Court Judge, Mike Baryluk signed their names to a newspaper petition protesting the opening of Dr. Morgentaler's Winnipeg clinic. The petition was sponsored by the League for Life of Manitoba.

Manitoba's Attorney-General, Roland Penner, stated after Judge Monnin's name appeared that a judge should be permitted to speak out on issues but may be forced to disqualify himself from hearing certain cases.

The Coalition for Reproductive Choice, a CARAL affiliated organization in Winnipeg, wrote to the Canadian Judicial Council demanding an investigation into Judge Monnin's conduct. When Judge Baryluk's name was discovered on the petition and his comment to a Crown attorney that "...a woman who wants an abortion should be given a razor blade" was reported, Roland Penner began an investigation into both judges' conduct. The Canadian Judicial Council is also studying the situation.

STOP PRESS !! When the staff at the Winnipeg clinic appeared in Provincial Court on June 10th, they were remanded to June 17th by Judge Mike Baryluk!

#### UPDATE ON WINNIPEG CLINIC

By now most of you are probably aware that the newly opened clinic in Winnipeg was raided Friday morning, June 3, 1983.

Police cars came and all those present at the clinic were taken away to be questioned. So far (at this writing) no charges have been laid.

A huge rally in support of the clinic was held outside the legislative in Winnipeg that evening. Telegrams of support poured in from across the country.

Support for the clinic has been strong in Manitoba. A group of doctors from the Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson area voiced their support in a public statement. They deplored the fact that more than half of the women seeking abortions must leave Manitoba. No second trimester abortions are performed. Only 5 of Manitoba's 55 accredited hospitals have therapeutic abortion committees.

At a pro-clinic rally sponsored by the Coalition for Reproductive Rights, Jack London, Dean of the law school at the University of Winnipeg, made a moving and eloquent speech in support of free choice on abortion. His speech is excerpted in this newsletter.

The Coalition for Reproductive Rights deserves our utmost admiration for their work in support of the legalization of the clinic and of the women coming for abortions there.

In order to protect the women from harassment by the anti-choice pickets, several members of the coalition would accompany each client into the clinic. Thus no woman was singled out by the pickets. Dr. Morgentaler and Dr. Scott and the support staff of the clinic have been under tremendous public pressure. None of this had to happen. The N.D.P. government of Manitoba

could have legalized the clinic by granting it approved status as a hospital.

It is inconsistent, to say the least, that an anti-choice Minister of Health (Larry Desjardins) can express his views publicly and use his office to prevent the approval, but a pro-choice Attorney General is criticized and his resignation is demanded, because he refused to act precipitously and shut down the clinic. The extent to which anti-choice pressure influences policy is shocking. It is irresponsible to govern in response to pressure campaigns by anti-abortion lobby groups in concert with the Catholic Church.

#### AND IN TORONTO

A press conference announcing the location and opening of the Toronto clinic was held on Tuesday, June 7.

The clinic is located above the Women's Book Store on Harbord St., and staff has been hired.

Larry Grossman, Minister of Health, of Ontario has been asked to approve the clinic as a hospital and has refused. Attorney General, Roy McMurtry is under pressure from anti-choice groups - again in concert with the Catholic Church - to shut down the clinic.

This battle is reminiscent of Margaret Sanger's for legalized birth control in the early part of this century. Then too, the state and the church combined to crush her efforts on behalf of women.

But contraception is legal and acceptable today, and women will ultimately win the right to humane and compassionate abortion care in supportive surroundings. In 10 years we will all look back at these historic days and wonder why anyone would oppose free-standing clinics.

In the United States such clinics have been operating for years. And in Quebec too, abortions are being done outside a hospital setting, safely and with concern for the woman's dignity.

The extent of the support for safe, legal abortion and for free-standing clinics is heartening.

A recent poll by Dr. Ronald Rotenberg of Brock University found that 62.5% of those polled said Dr. Morgentaler should be free to establish a free-standing clinic. And what's more, 51.4% of Catholics polled responded positively.

The support is there. It must be expressed to the law-makers.

#### STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Charges of conspiracy have been laid against all 8 people who work in the Morgentaler clinic in Winnipeg.

CARAL has sent a telegram expressing outrage at the nature of the charges.

The Manitoba NDP government has obviously sought a way to avoid allowing the law to be tested and has succumbed to anti-choice pressure.

All CARAL members who belong to the New Democratic Party should express their outrage directly and immediately to Premier Pawley and to Ed Broadbent in Ottawa.

#### ANOTHER STOP PRESS!

On June 20th Dr. Henry Morgentaler and Dr. Leslie Smoling filed for an injunction to bar Toronto police from investigating the clinic on the grounds that Canada's abortion law violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

#### Hamilton

For two weeks in March, CHCH-TV in Hamilton ran anti-choice commercials sponsored by Campaign Life. The ads featured Bernard Nathanson, an American doctor who once performed abortions and now calls himself a "fetologist".

Typically, the commercials claimed that life begins at conception and continually referred to the fetus as "he" or "him".

The Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics and CARAL organized demonstrations against CHCH-TV in Toronto and Hamilton. The station

received hundreds of outraged calls and letters from offended viewers.

#### Peterborough

On March 8th, the Cobourg and Area Right-to-Life Association asked the local separate school board to be allowed to show anti-choice films and slides to Grade 7 and 8 students in Cobourg, Port Hope and Grafton separate schools.

The trustees were shown a 15-minute slide show as an example of the sort of material that would be presented to students. Several of the trustees were dismayed by the graphic content of the pictures and questioned their suitability for students of Grade 7 and 8. However in the end they merely voted to discuss the issue further behind closed doors.

In an editorial, the Peterborough Examiner questioned the exclusion of parents from the decision to show the film. The editorial wondered whether parents would be happy having their children "terrorized" by the presentation.

We wonder also, at a movement so determined to propagandize, that it would deliberately traumatize little children.

#### OTTAWA

The anti-choice group Birthright held a conference in Ottawa, June 4 and 5.

This organization, is against birth control of any kind.

CARAL has sent a letter to all Members of Parliament reminding them that anti-choice groups do not promote the use of contraception and therefore contribute to the need for abortion.

At a counter-conference organized by pro-choice supporters in Ottawa, Eleanor Wright Pelrine, one of our honorary directors and a founding member of CARAL, spoke on our behalf.

#### SUPPORTIVE ARTICLES BY MICHELE LANDSBERG, TORONTO STAR COLUMNIST

Despite harassment and threats for daring to write, Landsberg has helped to dispel some of the mystification abounding in the anti-choice testimony in Borowski's challenge to section 251.

For those who did not see her article Lunatic Spectacle in Regina, we would be happy to send you a copy if you send us a stamped self-addressed envelope.

#### ELSEWHERE

##### IRELAND

Catholic Ireland is on the verge of passing an amendment to the constitution which reads: "The state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right of the mother, guarantees in its laws, to vindicate and defend that right."

The Anglican primate denounced the amendment as an attempt to impose the moral precepts of one church on the entire population.

This is not a new situation, however, since Catholic influence in law-making is evident in harsh laws against divorce and contraception, as well as abortion.

#### UNITED STATES

An obstetric-gynecologist and a general practitioner are suing Alaska Right-to-Life Inc. for \$2.5 million charging defamation of character and libel. Both doctors were named on a "hit list" of 26 physicians who performed abortions. The obstetrician was called a "baby killer" by the anti-choice group and subsequently lost an appointment to the state medical board.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT REAFFIRMS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ABORTION

On June 15, the United States Supreme Court struck down legislation in several states aimed at restricting access to abortion. The court declared unconstitutional an Akron, Ohio ordinance which placed a number of obstacles in the path of women seeking abortions. Among these obstacles was a highly detailed "informed consent" provision which health care professionals and abortion rights groups had strongly criticized because of the one-sided nature of its information.

#### NUMBER OF WOMEN GOING TO U.S. FOR ABORTION DOUBLES IN 1981 SAID STATISTICS CANADA

In a recently released report, Statistics Canada showed that the official number of women obtaining abortions in the U.S. rose from 1,664 in 1980 to 2,651 in 1981. The federal agency stated that this probably represents a low estimate of the numbers since reporting from the various states is voluntary. The report also attributed the reduction in abortion in Canadian hospitals in part to pressure from anti-choice lobby groups. CARAL believes 1982 figures for women leaving the country will probably be higher.

#### FUNDRAISING AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A while back, CARAL began a new approach to increasing our membership and to raising the funds we so desperately need to continue our work.

We decided to try direct mail, and many of you who have recently joined us have done so in response to our direct mail appeals.

We are tremendously gratified by the results of our appeals. Our first letter, signed by Margaret Laurence, was very successful, both in funds raised and in new members gained. We grossed over \$40,000 and increased our membership by several hundred.

Since then we have done a prospect mailing of 50,000 names. That letter was signed by another honorary director Doris Anderson, and over \$30,000.00 was contributed directly to CARAL and over \$3,000 more to our Childbirth by Choice Trust. We have almost doubled our membership in one year.

In addition, we have decided to appeal to our members and supporters in the same fashion. Thus, membership renewals will be sent to you in letter form, rather than included in newsletters as we have done in the past. Some of you will have recently received a second reminder of renewal for 1983.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated - both to the Trust and to CARAL for our political work. Please support us as generously and as often as you can. Our legal fees will be mounting this year because the battle for choice on abortion has now been extended to the courts and CARAL is in the forefront of that battle.

And if you receive more than one of the same appeal, pass it on to a friend. In this way we will grow and become a more powerful voice for the pro-choice majority.

You can count on us to continue to speak for choice and for a humane approach to delivery of abortion services.

Can we count on you to support us in every way you can? You'll be hearing from us soon!

## AGM A GREAT SUCCESS

A new format was used with great success at the CARAL annual general meeting this year (April 30).

The afternoon was devoted to workshops, with each participant having the opportunity to attend two of six seminars: working with the media; educating the public; strategies for hospital boards and therapeutic abortion committees; taking action-demonstrations and public meetings; strategies for free-standing clinics; and control of our bodies - the importance of choice (a guerilla theatre presentation).

Reviews of the workshops and their leaders were terrific. Members were enthusiastic about the practical information they had gained and about the opportunity to participate actively.

The morning session was given over, as usual, to reports. The President's Report is reproduced elsewhere in this newsletter.

Chapter or affiliate reports were received from St. John's, Toronto, Thunder Bay, London, Waterloo, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria. We were particularly excited to hear from both Ellen Kruger, coordinator of the Manitoba Coalition, and from Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who reported on the status of the Winnipeg free-standing clinic.

Morris Manning, CARAL's legal counsel, described the action that we are taking to have section 251 of the Criminal Code declared in contravention of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We expect to be in court within the year.

Our new slide show was shown during the lunch break. New members thought it was an excellent source of information and old members were enthusiastic about using the show for speaking engagements.

A rally in support of the Winnipeg clinic was quickly incorporated into our meeting when rain forced demonstrators inside. Members from the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics, Dr. Morgentaler and a doctor from a Quebec community clinic spoke to the packed audience.

We also elected a new board of directors on Saturday and this group met on Sunday. In addition to electing the executive, the board decided to call for a Day of Action which will involve communities across the country. It was also decided that if the money can be raised, CARAL will hire a national coordinator, to act as a liason person during the coming busy year. You'll be hearing more about both of these decisions soon.

Our new executive is:  
President - Norma Scarborough  
Vice-President - Catherine Daw  
Secretary - Nancy Harper/Karen  
Hammond

Treasurer - Leslie Pearl

## SAFETY OF LEGAL ABORTION - A DOCTOR REPLIES

The following letter, written by Dr. Mary Conley (a CARAL honorary director) appeared in The Medical Post, April 5, 1983.

To the Editor:

Dr. Brian Fraser, in his recent sermon (The Medical Post: Feb. 8, 1983) on the "foul and wicked deed of abortion," distorts and fabricates in order to impose his personal views of reproductive morality on the rest of us.

He states that "Statistics Canada reveal women still die from abortion at the merciless hands of the legal abortionists" when in fact the latest Statistics Canada figures that are available (1972-1979) showed that three women have died as a result of induced abortion (the last one in 1975). During the same period 241 women died from pregnancy and childbirth.

Statistics from the U.S. for the period of 1972-1974 record a mortality rate of 11 deaths per 100,000 live births as a result of pregnancy and childbirth (excluding induced abortion). Deaths from therapeutic abortion during the same time, in the same age group (under 34), were one per 100,000 induced abortions. Therefore the mortality rate for legally induced first trimester abortion is the same as the mortality rate found in users of IUDS and oral contraceptives.<sup>1</sup>

Another misconception that deserves refutation is that induced abortion jeopardizes future fertility. Numerous studies have shown that therapeutic abortion has no greater effect on the outcome of subsequent pregnancy than does previous pregnancy.

Dr. Janet Daling, of the University of Washington in Seattle, has done a number of studies in this area. In one study of 26,000 patients in Taiwan, she compared the pregnancy outcome of women having had a previous abortion with those with a previous pregnancy.

There was no relation between induced abortion and subsequent abnormal outcome of pregnancy (stillbirth, miscarriage, prematurity, low birth weight, interuterine growth retardation, early neonatal mortality of congenital malformation).<sup>2</sup>

A matched comparison of 4,869 women with previous abortions who were in their second pregnancy with primigravidas showed no difference in the outcome of pregnancy.<sup>3</sup> A third study of 105 patients with secondary infertility showed no association between secondary infertility and prior induced abortion.<sup>4</sup>

Other studies have confirmed there is no increased risk of spontaneous abortion in women with previously induced abortions. Three investigators from the University of Hawaii examined the medical histories of 16,966 women who obtained abortions in the state between 1970

and 1974 and followed their subsequent histories of pregnancy through 1976. They concluded the effects of induced abortion and repeated abortion on the rate of subsequent spontaneous abortion to be negligible.<sup>5</sup>

The immediate complication rate, that is infection, hemorrhage, etc. is clearly reported in Dr. Henry Morgentaler's paper on 5,641 out-patient abortions, which appeared in the Canadian Medical Association Journal in December, 1973.

May I suggest to Dr. Fraser that excellent medical research had been done on the complications of therapeutic abortion and that the results are in no way secret but may be found in medical journals. Dr. Mary Conley, Victoria, B.C. References: 1. Greenblatt, R.B.: A retrospective view of oral contraceptives, in Greenblatt R.B.(ed): The Development of a New Triphasic Oral Contraceptive. Lancaster, England, MTP Press Ltd., 1980, pp 9-22. 2. Daling, Janet: Induced abortion and subsequent outcome of pregnancy: A matched cohort study. Lancet 2:170-173, 1975. 3. Daling Janet: Induced abortion and subsequent outcome of pregnancy in a series of American women. The New England Journal of Medicine. Vol. 297, No. 23 pp 1,241-1,245, 1977. 4. Daling, Janet: Role of induced abortion in secondary infertility. Obstetrics and Gynecology. Vol. 57 No. 1 pp 59-61, January, 1981. 5. Smith R.; Steinhoff, P.; and Chung, C.S.: Induced Abortion Procedures, Complications and the Risk of

Subsequent Spontaneous Abortion; paper presented at the 1980 annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, Detroit, Oct. 21, 1980.

### 'IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN TOLD'

Thank goodness somebody out there has finally conceived a solution to this disturbing problem of teenage pregnancies.

Here's looking at you, Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association. Honestly, I can't for the life of me understand why this proposal was so long in the gestation period.

As I understand it, you propose to eradicate the need for the use of birth control among teenagers through assembling a program for Saskatchewan schools aimed at, in the words of an association spokesman, "teaching the teenager chastity and how to say 'no'". In short, abstinence.

Honestly, what could be simpler, and more effective, than telling those horny little devils not to engage in sex? And, if all its going to cost the taxpayers of Saskatchewan is \$60,000, well, who would be foolish enough not to realize this is cheap at the price?

Looking back on my own teenage years, I know that if a representative of your organization or a similar one had only come to my high school and told me of the joys of chastity, I would have willingly forgone any and all sexual encounters.

Thinking back to my peer group of that time, and talking with co-workers here at the paper, both male and female, they all share my opinion. "If only we'd been told not to, of course, we wouldn't have," seems to be the unanimous reply.

Instead, simply because no one told us not to, we spent more time down at the dam lookout than we did in class - hating, I can assure you every sweaty moment.

To look back on it now, what would have been a half a dozen years or so of aching glands and dry mouths anticipating an encounter with a member of the opposite sex to the satisfaction gained from doing what you were told.

I'm sure you'll agree. I'm sure we'll all agree, that the satisfaction and excitement of sex pales in comparison to the knowledge of obsequiously following instructions.

Having devised this surefire method of solving the problem of teenage pregnancies, I wonder, in my own humble way, whether or not this approach could not be applied to other problems.

For example, what about crime? Perhaps in the next provincial budget, the government could allot, say, another \$60,000 to establish a similar program in prisons and jails.

Qualified resource people could go into these institutions and simply tell the prisoners that they were

wrong to rob, steal, murder, rape and what have you. Once done, I'll bet they'll see the error of their ways. After all, they've probably never been told not to do these things. Why else would they do them?

I mean, I think, this solution has a lot of potential. In fact, if you think about it, it can be applied to everything from A to Z.

Take sexual harassment. To eradicate the problem, all that will be required is for a few resource people to drop in and tell the men committing this reprehensible act to stop. And, voila it will cease; an end to the problem.

Or what about alcoholism? Drug abuse? The list is endless. And if we really think big, this approach can be applied to such major problems as nuclear weapons, disarmament, even war!

In fact, I think, in years to come, the association spokesman's comment of "teaching the teenage chastity and how to say 'no'," may come to share the same status as the suggestion of France's queen at the time of the French revolution. Marie Antoinette, who, upon being informed that the French peasants were rioting because they had no bread to eat, replied "let them eat cake."

This article reprinted by permission of the author, Derek Ferguson and was originally published in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix, April 18th/83.

ONE WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE

Excerpt from a letter from Montreal

March 2, 1983.

A week ago I had an abortion at the Morgentaler Clinic. This is not unusual in itself; about 15 women from all over Canada come to Montreal each day for this purpose. However, its still on my mind.

And not as a traumatic, emotional burden. Rather as an exuberant and revealing memory. The therapeutic abortion I had in the little house on Honore Beaugrand St. was the most humane and respectful medical appointment I've ever scheduled.

Before I went I knew I would be taken care of. I had read about Morgentaler's struggles and imprisonment in order to run his free-standing abortion clinic. However, I still was uncertain of what to expect. Would I have to undergo the horror and emotional deprivation my friends have endured at hospital abortion clinics?

To my surprise and delight, from the moment I walked into the waiting room, I was recognized as a human being and treated with the utmost care and professionalism throughout the entire operation and and subsequent recovery.

I was not patronized nor scorned. All the nurses and doctor honoured me by my first name and introduced me to theirs. The overall impression was that we were going to help

one another rather than be rude or harm.

Prior to surgery I read an information sheet written by Morgentaler and discussed it thoroughly with both a nurse and the doctor. These personal interviews were serious and assuring. I was being prepared for exactly the sequence of events the operation entailed and the accompanying physical and emotional side effects.

During the operation a nurse was by my side, chatting and making me feel comfortable and relaxed. If I had come with a friend or mate this is where they would have been able to step in and provide support.

Within 10 minutes, the entire procedure was finished. I was no longer pregnant, removed the laughing gas mask from my face and walked downstairs to the recovery room. Here, amongst women exercising away cramps and learning about contraceptives, I refreshed myself with fruit and cookies and reflected on what I had just gone through.

My pregnancy was not a sin nor do I feel that my abortion was morally wrong. However, I cannot deny that I was destroying something with tremendous potential. Whether its called a foetus, egg or baby, even by 5 weeks time this thing in my womb was capable of controlling my full waking and sleeping habits as well as my emotional balance.

Opting for an abortion was not as easy a decision as I thought it

would be. It took a lot of debate and in the end I realize I made a decision that destroyed a potential life but at least it was my decision and the life was part of my own.

It is absolutely necessary that women take control of their own lives and bodies in a responsible and intelligent manner and today they must demonstrate that they believe in this truth so vehemently that they will fight.



NEW AFFILIATES

- Mokami Status of Women Council
- Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics
- Vancouver Women's Health Collective
- Women's Directorate U. of Sask.
- National Association of Women and The Law

FREEDOM OF CHOICE - AN ABORTION LAW IN NEED OF REFORM

Dean Jack London, University of Manitoba delivered an excellent and exciting speech at the Winnipeg rally in support of the free-standing clinic there (April 20, 1983). Space does not permit us to excerpt the article. We will be glad to provide the whole speech upon request for \$2.00 to cover the costs of copying and mailing.

CARAL SLIDE-TAPE SHOW AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

Nine-minute show includes 99 slides in a 35 mm. carousel slide tray and a cassette tape of the sound track. The tape has both audible and inaudible signals for use either in automatic advance AV cassette recorders or manually with any cassette recorder. The show is to be used with a 35 mm. carousel-type projector and a cassette tape recorder.

COST: \$10.00 plus postage and insurance. TAPES MAY BE RENTED FOR TWO WEEK PERIODS OR BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT PLEASE USE THIS ORDER FORM OR CALL THE NATIONAL OFFICE AT 1-416-961-1507

NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME & ADDRESS WHERE TAPE TO BE SENT \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

DATE SLIDE SHOW NEEDED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE TO BE RETURNED \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ BILL ME FOR POSTAGE AND INSURANCE

# FREEDOM OF CHOICE



**CANADIAN ABORTION RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE (CARAL)**  
**ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LE DROIT A L'AVORTEMENT (ACDA)**

a quick reading summary on **THE PURPOSE OF CARAL** — from our Constitution  
 The purpose of **CARAL** is to ensure that no woman in Canada is denied access to safe, legal abortion. Our aim is the repeal of all sections of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion, and the establishment of comprehensive contraceptive and abortion services, including appropriate counselling, across the country.

**"We regard the right to safe, legal abortion as a fundamental human right."**

## National CARAL

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

## CHAPTERS

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 Victoria, B.C.  
 V8P 5L5

### CARAL/CALARY

Abortion By Choice  
 223 12th Ave. S.W.  
 Calgary  
 T2P 0S9

### CARAL/WINNIPEG

c/o 251 Garfield Street,  
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