

**THE PEDESTAL**

**LABOURING**

**UNDER**

**A MIS-**

**CONCEPTION**

**LEGALIZE ALL**

**ABORTION  
NOW!**



Abology Surpasses Law

Re: Abortion Strategy

Dear Sisters:

Vancouver Women's Caucus is trying to co-ordinate a national campaign, together with other Women's Liberation groups across Canada, against Trudeau's so-called "liberal" abortion laws. This letter is an attempt to lay out how we see the campaign building, the political objectives of that campaign and the kind of organizing we hope to do. We see the demand for the right to control our own bodies as a necessary part of the fight for the control of our own lives. Women will not be liberated until they have this, among other, basic rights.

Women who have a consciousness of their oppression must lead this struggle. Through this campaign women can begin to understand the power they have when they act collectively. Abortion is a human right for women. When in Ottawa we must demand that all mention of Abortion be taken out of the Criminal Code. Each woman's right to decide whether or not to continue a pregnancy must not be limited in any way by law.

We cannot tolerate compulsory sterilization or birth control any more than we can tolerate compulsory pregnancy. Compulsory sterilization has been seen as a solution to the problem of poor, black and native women in this country. The government has raised the spectre of overpopulation in relation to our poor women and people of the third world. It is necessary to accumulate facts and arguments on this to make clear our position is to give women control of our own bodies, not to enable a minority to control women through compulsory abortion or birth control.

Abortion links into many aspects of the oppression of women. These links must be made throughout the campaign if we really hope to change the situation of women.

Abortion is inseparable from birth control. The campaign should include attacks on the priorities of a social system which makes it so difficult for women to obtain safe birth control and abortion; the lack of birth control information in the school system; the lack of serious scientific research to develop birth control devices which are both safe and effective; how the profit motivation of the drug industry distorts research priorities (the pill as a million dollar industry, etc.); the racism involved in research - i.e. only poor women or members of racial minorities are used as guinea pigs. We hope to have a demonstration against a local drug company to protest the lack of research readily available to women. Women have died from birth control pills because doctors have not taken adequate precautions. This information must be made public.

Birth control is the right of any and all women after puberty. Contraceptives and information on birth control should be made available to all girls in high school. We must challenge the counselling system in the schools which do not provide this information. To be effective, the campaign must be prepared to deal with questions of sexual morality. For instance, even if birth control information is available, women in high schools feel guilty using it because of the false morality, the double standard surrounding dating. In order to begin to change this, we must do some organizing with high school women around the Abortion campaign. Guerilla theatre, leafletting high schools, and speaking in classes can be used as ways of organizing high school students.

Just as research on birth control is biased against poor and non-white women, the present law makes it impossible for poor or working class women to obtain safe abortions. These are available for those who can pay (legal abortions in Britain or Japan and safe illegal abortions in Vancouver cost about the same.) Research should be done into problems relating to welfare mothers and medicine. The class biases in medicine reflect the class interests of doctors and the profit motivation in medicine. The medical profession seems to be controlled by a small group

of doctors at the top who determine policy for the medical profession relating to entrance into medical school, training of doctors, standards of practise, and hospital policy. The majority of doctors know little more than we do about how decisions are made within their profession.

It is important to do research on the structure of the medical profession (the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Medical Association, etc.) and alternative methods of medical organization other than the free enterprise, fee-for-service method. We hope to raise the demand for community-controlled clinics (e.g. the experience in Saskatchewan with community controlled clinics) which provide birth control information and contraceptives to women, abortions, pre-natal and maternity care. These clinics should be publicly funded with community control over the hiring and firing of doctors. Abortions in the first twelve weeks do not require hospitalization. It is a very simple operation that can be performed in a clinic or out-patient ward of a hospital. We must raise this demand to the Medical Association and to the provincial government. We hope to either get an open hearing in Victoria and/or go to a meeting of the Medical Association in Vancouver to challenge the priorities of the system and raise our demands. We see this as a part of the building action for our national campaign but this work must continue after May 10th.

We also hope to bring to the attention of the government and public the role of hospital boards and the hospital abortion committees. The present law makes the whole process of abortion far more costly and complicated than is necessary. The money spent on women who enter hospitals with infections and complications from illegal abortions (20,000 women in Canada per year) could be much better spent on a more rational abortion system. Hospital boards in B.C. are not elected, but are made up of businessmen appointed by the government. The public has little direct control over hospital policy.

When in Ottawa we hope to maintain the links built into the local campaign. We suggested to Ottawa and Toronto that we demand open hearings with the Dept. of Justice and the Dept. of Health and Welfare while in Ottawa. The advantage of hearings is that you have a chance to publicize your position. It would also be good if each women's liberation group could put pressure on the federal representatives from the Dept. of Justice and the Dept. of Health and Welfare located in their area. Perhaps we could have mock hearings, or a public meeting to challenge the federal representatives, along with local support demonstrations.

It is our hope that we can utilize the abortion campaign not only to build toward better communication and more solidarity with the women in B.C. but across the country as well. This could only be accomplished with the help and participation of ALL women's liberation groups.

We are considering sending a representative, well in advance of the caravan, to talk with W.L. people across the prairies and, so far as time and money allows, to help women begin to organize in areas where they have been unable to do so up to now. In this way, we could anticipate the possibility of completing the Ottawa action with the beginnings, at least, of a truly national movement.

A caravan of well decorated cars - the first with a roof rack carrying the coffin - will be leaving Vancouver around May 1 in order to reach Ottawa by May 9 for the action. We are hoping to make brief stops in all major cities to do guerilla theatre, soap box on street corners, at parks and/or campuses (where local groups have made arrangements), camping each night at previously publicized (again, by local W.L.s) locations where people can gather for rap sessions, songs, etc. If we have done our work well, cars will be joining the caravan from each city.

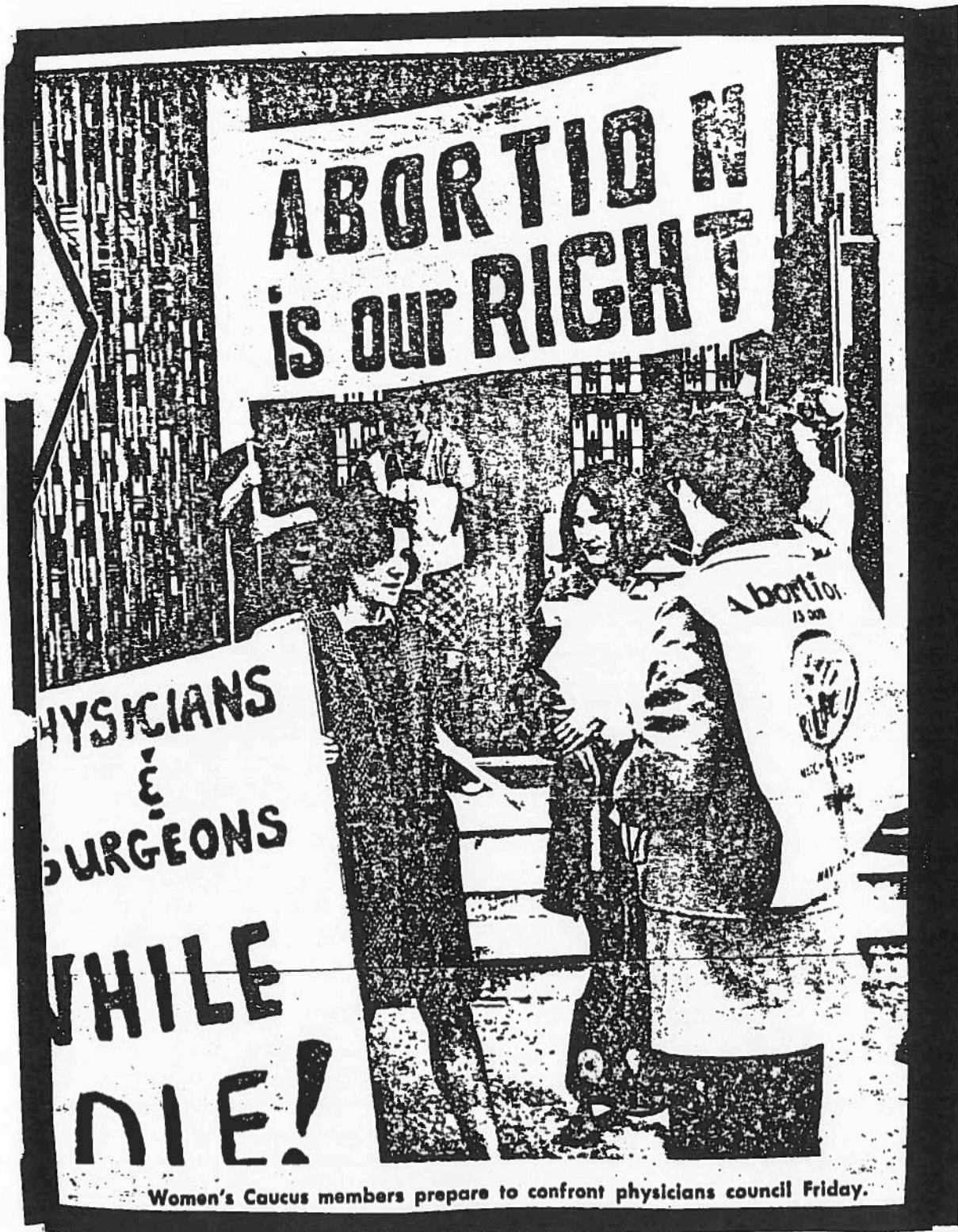
We don't have much time and in order for our plans to become a reality, we'll all have to start working right away. By sharing our research, ideas, addresses etc. we can hopefully avoid a lot of duplication. We'll send you our information as it becomes available and hope you can do the same. We are really excited about building, with you and all our sisters, our first national action. Let's make it a good one!

In solidarity,

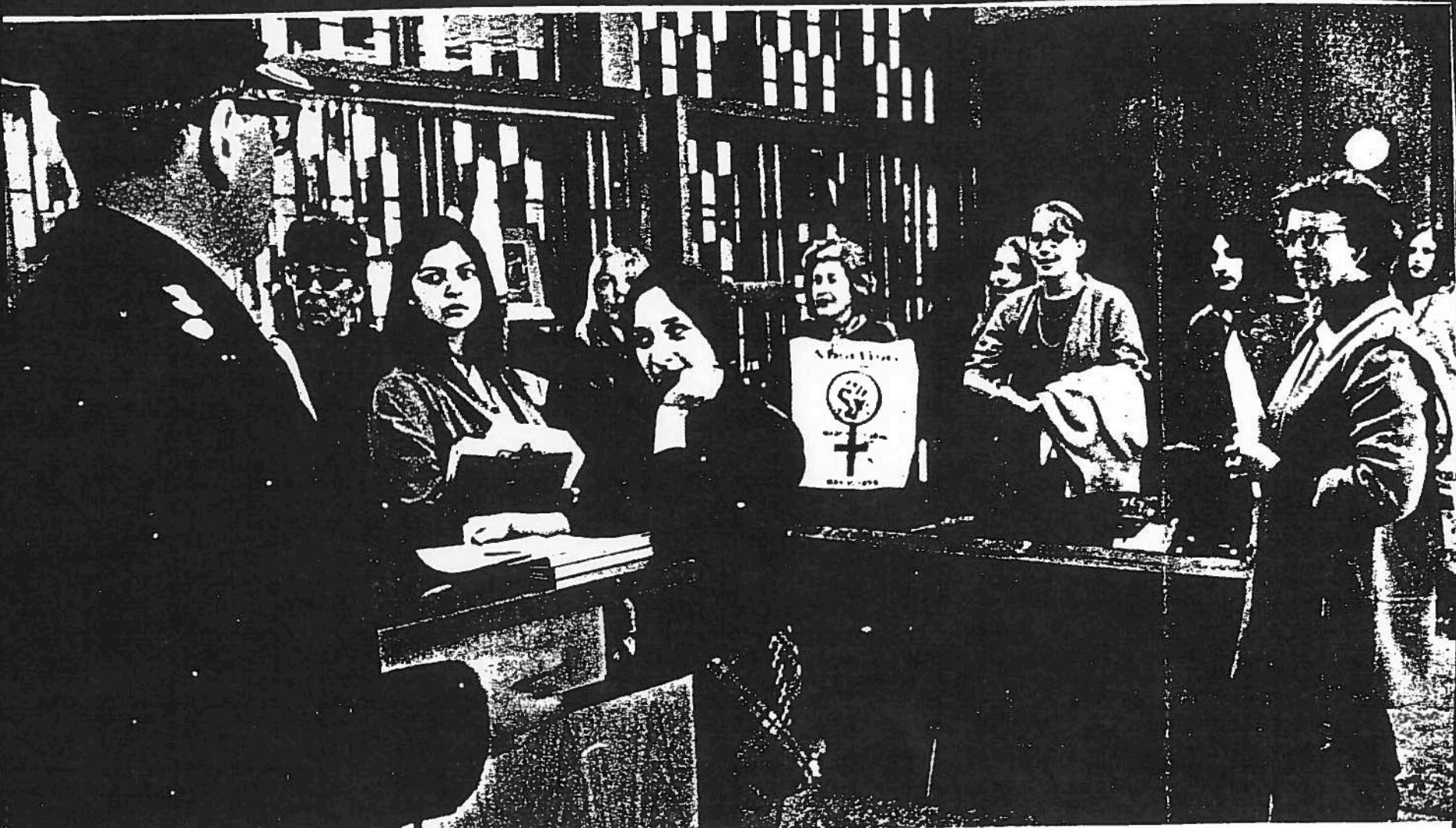
Vicky Brown .. Marge Hollibaugh  
Dawn Carrell .. Betsy Headley

Vancouver Women's Caucus  
Campaign Co-ordinating Comm.

The recent demonstration in the House of Commons was reminiscent of the early suffragette movement in England. On one notable occasion, a half century ago, women marchers were arrested for obstructing traffic outside Westminster. A young suffragette, in her first clash with the law, burst into tears when she looked around the tiny cell where she was thrust with an older woman, a survivor of many protests. "There, there my dear," said the veteran putting her arm around the neophyte in sympathy. "Don't weep. Place your trust in God. She will protect you."



Women's Caucus members prepare to confront physicians council Friday.



INSPECTOR KEN EVANS of the city police warns members of Vancouver Woman's Caucus that they must not invade private premises and disturb the peace. The women entered the Academy of Medicine building Friday in an effort to take their case for legal abortions to the council of the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons. They left after Evans warned he would have to arrest them if they stayed.

## ABORTION: A HUMAN RIGHT FOR WOMEN

### THE CHOICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Every year in Canada 2,000 women die from hack abortions. Twenty thousand more are hospitalized. Less than one percent of those women requesting abortions in B. C. are able to go through the therapeutic abortion system.

The Vancouver Women's Caucus set up a clinic to help women obtain safe abortions and confront the cruel out-rageously inadequate abortion system with their very real needs for abortion. Of the 200 women who have gone through the clinic only eight have obtained therapeutic abortions. Well over a hundred women were told by at least one doctor that they had no hope of getting a therapeutic abortion. The situation remains serious: obviously Mr. Trudeau's Just Society laws have done little to alleviate it.

Under the British North American Act the Provincial Government is responsible for the health and welfare of people within the province. Due to the fact that the Criminal Code of Canada, Section 237 is not conducive to the health of women and, in fact, causes a number of women in B. C. to die each year the medical rights of women continue to be denied.

### WHY THE PRESENT SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK

OVERCROWDING: Abortions have been defined as a non-priority operation because of the serious problem of overcrowding in the hospitals. Yet Dr. Folkes, Medical Director of the Royal Columbian, estimates that it would take a 500 bed hospital working 365 days a year to look after the 20,000 Canadian women who enter hospitals with complications from hack abortions. The minor surgery required for legal abortions could be done safely in a doctors office or a clinic at a fraction of the present cost, and without putting further pressure on the overcrowded hospitals.

RED TAPE: Only one of the four major hospitals in Vancouver will do any therapeutic abortions. Of the hospitals who will do them, each hospital has different proceedings. At Vancouver General Hospital it is impossible for patients and even difficult for doctors to find who is on the abortion committee, when it meets and how to present a case to them. The closed committee system at Lions Gate Hospital make it appear that the procedure was designed specifically to prevent any abortions from being done.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION: The present system reinforces the doctors control over patients. The Medical Act and Code of Ethics protect the rights of the doctors so that the patient has no recourse when a doctor imposes the moral, political and religious values of the medical profession. Women get little help when they go to the doctors seeking legal abortions. and yet in a survey done by Women's Caucus it appears that the majority of doctors favor more liberal abortion laws. Doctors tend to act conservatively not only for personal reasons, but because of the enormous power of the college of physicians and surgeons. The code of ethic adopted by College of Physicians and Surgeons specifically prohibits the dissent of individual doctors. They are only allowed to present to the public opinions which represent "what is the generally accepted opinion of the medical profession." The Code of Ethics states regarding abortion: "The only justification is that the continuance of the pregnancy would imperil the life of the mother." A position which is more conservative than even the present federal law. The College is a semi-judicial body and has the power to punish by fines, reprimands and suspensions doctors who do not follow its dictates.

### WHAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CAN DO - DEMANDS

APPEAL TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Because the Provincial Government under the British North American Act is responsible for the health and welfare of women within the province, and due to the fact that the Criminal Code of Canada causes a number of B.C. women to die each year, we ask that the Government of B.C. Appeal to Ottawa to remove abortion from the Criminal Code.

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES: Under 237 of the Criminal Code, the Provincial Health Minister has the power to approve additional facilities for doing therapeutic abortions. We would like to see the Government take initiative in setting up community controlled clinics all over the Province by providing grants for the establishment of such facilities. This is a part of our program of demands for community controlled and publicly funded clinics which provide birth control information, pregnancy testing, therapeutic abortions, maternity care, sterilization and vasectomy. Besides easing the overcrowding of hospitals, these clinics would eliminate the overwhelming amount of red tape now involved in obtaining therapeutic abortions.

MEDICAL PROFESSION: The medical profession is under Provincial jurisdiction (ref: the B.C. Medical Act). The provincial government has the power to amend the Medical Act and make the medical profession more responsible to the public. We recommend that these amendments be in the direction of decentralized power and community involvement by making the College of Physicians and Surgeons hold open meetings with more doctors and lay people involved in decision making.

Women of B.C. will no longer tolerate this situation. The Government must begin to take up its responsibility in order that women can obtain the medical care that is their right.

We wrote a letter to Health Minister Loffmark, dated March 10, asking for an open meeting within the next three weeks. He did not reply. We sent him a night letter March 19, and again he did not reply. Now we have come to Victoria to make our demands in person.

We want the government to take steps to implement our demands immediately!

WE WANT THE GOVERNMENT OF B.C. TO BEGIN TO SERVE THE WOMEN OF B.C.

ABORTION LAWS ARE KILLING PEOPLE

(2)

There are two questions that should be asked:

- (1) Should Catholic hospitals, now almost completely supported by public funds, be allowed to deny any service that the public requires?
- (2) Why is accreditation necessary in the case of an abortion only, when far more dangerous operations are not placed under this restriction?

-- Defects in the committee system are quite serious. They may not meet often. Members may be biased in either direction. Deliberate attempts may be made to keep down the number of abortions not only to protect bed spaces but the "reputation" of the hospital. And enthusiasm for the job is apparently not too great, as board members are often criticized, it's crummy work and they Don't Get Paid.

So not only are many deserving applicants turned down, but there is also so much delay that a lot of women who applied very early in pregnancy aren't given a decision until the fetus has reached the stage (past 10 weeks) where more serious surgical procedures are necessary - such as hysterectomy or miniature caesarean section. These operations carry a much higher risk of death or injury than normal delivery, and a longer stay in hospital, as well as increased danger of mental and physical strain for the patient (already in poor condition).

Figures illustrate the problems of committee delays. The death rate of hospital abortion is the same in the U.S. and Sweden - 1 in 1,000. This is due to delay in both countries. In Sweden, from an involved committee system, and in the States, from inadequate legislation. But in places where the majority of abortions are done before ten weeks with a minimum of hassle, i.e., Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, U.S.S.R., the mortality rate appears to be less than 5 per 100,000. This is less than one-third of the death rate in the U.S. for getting your tonsils out...

As in the case of hospital accreditation, abortion is the only medical operation that requires review by committee, with the occasional exception of sterilization in some hospitals. Red tape and formalities must be eliminated in the interest of the patients well being.

-- But there will still be another big hangup. That is the competition between abortion and such cases as cancer in the event of bed shortages. Abortion will have to be given emergency priority as well as such cases because of the ten week safety limit. But perhaps clinics set up just for abortions, would be the answer to this.

Early cases (up to ten) can be carried out under strict aseptic conditions, by qualified medical personnel with minimum risk.

Thus, clinics could handle abortions in the early stages and those past the ten week limit could be handled in hospitals.

The only way enlarged hospitals and special clinics will be available to handle the demand will be for the public to hassle the governments into parting with the money for them. (It's up to you - start screaming!)

-- Deaths in the U.S. from criminal abortions last year were 10,000. In Canada the figure was around 2,000. THIS MAKES CRIMINAL ABORTION A #1 PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM. If it was anything else, everyone would be all excited, but it's a taboo subject, so it just gets ignored.

-- Furthermore, about 20,000 women in Canada were admitted to hospitals last year, suffering from complications of butcher abortions. If social reasons are not enough to make the government change its stand, economics should. The rough cost of treating these women was \$6 - 7 million dollars.

No one knows how many criminal abortions are performed in Canada each year, and few "butchers" are caught. But the demand for legal abortions is increasing all the time and must be answered.

ABORTION LAWS ARE KILLING PEOPLE

Jeannine Mitchell

On Saturday evening, after the march, the Women's Caucus held a panel discussion at the Georgia Hotel. About 100 people showed up, which was near capacity. A fair number of those in attendance had not been in the march.

Mrs. Mary Stolk, a nurse and mother of six who works in the Caucus' Abortion Information Center in the Labour Temple, was the first to speak. The featured speaker was Dr. Richard Foulkes, an administrator ("but not speaking as a representative") from the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster.

Dr. Foulkes is well acquainted with the defects of the present abortion laws (he has spoken on Jack Webster's radio show about abortion) and would like to see the present laws repealed. Abortion, he feels, should not be governed by the Criminal Code or appeal boards. It should be treated like any other operation of equivalent risk to the patient - being a matter between a woman and her family doctor.

Here are a few facts and ideas from his speech: Abortions date back to the earliest recorded times, from primitive cultures to ancient Greece and Rome. They were performed before "quickening" (10 weeks) and were permitted by law and religious dictums "even in England" until around the time good ol' Pope Pius 9 came out against it. He decreed that the soul entered the fetus at the moment of conception so that destroying the fetus at any time would be murder.

It was about this time that all Christian countries adopted a similar view, which led to legal restrictions against abortions.

The new Canadian law has modified the Catholic position by marking a theoretical point in gestation where the fetus becomes "a birth". This point in the new law is now 27 weeks (compared to the former 20 weeks).

-- According to Section 209 of the Criminal Code, anyone causing a miscarriage or death of the fetus after the 27 week limit is liable to a charge of murder. (This apparently goes for the pregnant woman who aborts herself, but conviction is rather unlikely, as she would have to testify against herself.)

-- Section 237, The Abortion Law, provides heavy penalties (life) for such a woman and/or her abortionist, with one exception:

The abortion may be performed by a qualified medical practitioner, other than a member of an abortion committee, in an accredited hospital, AFTER the committee has reviewed the case and the majority (2 out of three) have decided that "... in its opinion the continuation of the pregnancy... would or would be likely to endanger her life or health ..."

-- Deficiencies in Section 237 are many. There are no grounds to terminate for rape or incest unless it can be shown to affect the woman's health! Neither does it allow for cases where the fetus is endangered by genetic defects or infectious diseases like German measles, or even known teratogenic agents such as Thalidomide. The only way these cases can be covered by Sec. 237 is when the fear of bearing a defective child is shown to be harming the mother's mental health.

Also ignored by the law are cases where a poor family cannot afford another child. This can be an even more serious problem when the family's income depends in part or totally on the ability of the mother to work. "There is no suggestion that it may be the democratic right of a woman in today's world to have a free choice in whether or not she will procreate," said Dr. Foulkes. "Perhaps the most important defect in the present law is in the procedure laid down in the legislation, particularly the need for a review by a committee. Equally as defective are the rules and procedures laid down by the hospitals."

-- Catholic hospitals (of which there are quite a few) don't allow abortions - or sterilization. Thus, a disproportionately heavy burden falls on public hospitals. This is aggravated by the law's insistence that the hospital must be accredited. Less than 1/2 of B.C.'s hospitals are accredited - and THESE are mostly less than 100 bed institutions! With the shortage of hospital beds so bad that in the General some patients requiring critical surgery must wait months, no wonder so few abortions are passed by the boards!

# "Strangers in the House"

## Women Confront Loffmark

At 3:15 Wednesday, March 25, three separate groups of angry women discreetly entered three separate galleries in the B.C. Legislative Assembly.

Health Minister Loffmark looked smugly at the women up in the galleries — then spoke in laughing tones to Attorney General Peterson and other Sacred cronies.

The women waited for the appropriate moment to respond. Those seated in the gallery above Loffmark moved first. Red tape came flying down over the gallery on the Sacred side. Seconds later two banners reading "Abortion is Our Right" and "Just Society, Good Life — Kills 12,000 Women in North America each year" were lowered from the other two balconies. Bumper stickers reading "Abortion Now" fluttered down.

The women quickly left the galleries. On the floor of the Legislature Health Minister Loffmark rose angrily shouting "There Are Strangers in the House". Another voice yelled out, "it is clear that someone here does not understand the democratic process."

As the women were leaving an attendant grabbed one of the women and with an iron grip pulled her after him down the stairs through the "Golden Gates" and into the Speaker's office.

The Speaker was called out of the House and the woman was sternly lectured. "This is the Highest Court — higher even than the Supreme Court — do you realize the seriousness of your actions?"

The woman remained cool, maintained her dignity, and refused to give any information other than her name and address and the name of her organization.

Another woman forgot her camera in the gallery and when she returned for it was detained but later released.

### Why Did We Do It?

Because we were angry, we were angry with Health Minister

Loffmark when we realized our meeting with him served only one useful purpose and that was to let us know he had no intention of changing the medical arrangements in B.C. regarding the inadequacies of doctors and Abortion Committees in dealing with therapeutic abortions.

Yes, for once we were not going to cover up our anger, we were going to show as many people as we could that we were not satisfied, that we would not be put off any longer, with polite words and token sympathy from a man who refused to act in helping us obtain our medical rights.

The meeting between members of the Women's Caucus and Health Minister Loffmark was held in a plush and imposing conference room. Mr. Loffmark also did his best to be imposing and attempted initially to intimidate us and to take absolute control of the meeting. One of his tactics was to demand that we identify ourselves and to ensure that we were all British Columbians. He did his best to make clear to us that it was going to be his show and we could be the docile listeners. As soon as we began to speak however, we indicated our collective strength and from

then on Loffmark definitely was not in control.

### No Power

We asked him if he would 'approve' and provide funds for hospitals for the specific purpose of doing abortions. He replied: "It is not within my power to do so. There are only two kinds of hospitals: 'accredited hospitals' and those 'designated' by the provincial Health Minister. I have OKed all the facilities I am empowered to 'designate.'" We indicated to him that he was quoting incorrectly from the Criminal Code, and that he could approve hospitals for the purpose of that section of the Code (Section 237 b). After debating this, he sent for the Code, discovered that he was wrong, and quickly tried to cover up his mistake.

### Reactionary Doctors

We then proceeded to the subject of the medical profession. We stated that the reasons that most doctors would not try to instigate abortion reform were because the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the government were conservative and would enact sanctions against such doctors. The doctors are forced to accept a reactionary position on abortion, and the women who are affected by it have absolutely no control over its formulation. They are also unable to utilize any channels to fit their very real needs.

We emphasized that in many ways the structure of the College was the cause of its irresponsibility to the people of B.C. Loffmark said that he had no power over the doctors, and would not tell them what to do. He repeated this throughout the meeting, and this was his reply when we asked him if he would



### WOMEN DIE

- \*every 4 hours a Canadian woman dies from illegal abortion
- \*every 2nd day a B.C. woman dies from illegal abortion
- \*2000 Canadian women die each year
- \*20,000 women enter Canadian hospitals each year from complications from illegal abortions — 200,000 hospital bed days per year
- \*women with complications from illegal abortions cost tax payers up to \$10 million per year
- \*It would take a 500 bed hospital operating 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to care for women with complications from illegal abortions in Canada today

make a recommendation to the Abortion Committees to define "health" as does the World Health Organization, as "the complete physical, economic, social and mental well being of the person." He responded by saying only that this could be one definition of health, but, he would not recommend it for use by the Abortion Committees.

### Definition of Health

Concerning the term health he waffled: "It's up to my Medical Health Officers to determine a person's health. I don't have anything to do with it." We asked him if he was able to define health in general terms at all. He replied that he was not. Our response clearly indicated the ridiculousness of his position. We asked him what he was doing as Health Minister if he wouldn't even define health. By admitting this he was it seemed, denying his existence.

Loffmark's standard defense was the morality of the issue. He attempted to divert us by philosophizing on the status (medically and legally) of the unborn fetus. "I have a responsibility to protect the unborn children of B.C."

### Saving the lives of Women

We replied that we had come to deal with a medical problem, that we were concerned with saving the lives of women, and that he had a responsibility to the women of B.C. It was obvious that the Health Minister did not take his responsibility seriously. It is ironic that he was prepared to defend the unborn

fetus when his government has never assumed a social responsibility for the welfare of the children of B.C.

After it was all over we returned to our lodging, exhausted but with a feeling of happiness and strength in knowing we had finally acted together against one of the most ruthless types of oppression that faces women. We spent the rest of the evening together going over the action, criticizing our mistakes, and planning future strategy.

### Health Minister Loffmark Denies B.C. Women Medical Aid

Fifteen delegates from Vancouver Women's Caucus, several persons from University of Victoria, and the press met with Health Minister Loffmark at 1:30 pm, March 25th, in the Health Minister's board room.

The meeting had been given the women only after several days of pressurizing and repeated requests. On March 10th a letter was sent, on March 19th a telegram, and this was followed by three days of personal contacts with his office and sending additional requests into the Legislative Assembly. On Tuesday when two Vancouver Women's Caucus members did meet with Loffmark regarding setting up the Wednesday meeting he said he did not think it would be possible to meet with the women on Wednesday as requested.

One of the women then told him that under the British North America Act the province

is responsible for the health and welfare of the people within a province. And as Health Minister he should find out why women were not receiving therapeutic abortions or being processed by hospital abortion committees, or why women were not receiving health services which are legally their right under Section 237 of the Criminal Code of Canada' to which he replied angrily 'That is a political issue and I'll meet you on a political platform about that.'

Possibly only persistence and the good coverage of press, radio and TV made Mr. Loffmark find time to meet the delegation of Vancouver Women's Caucus.

### Law not humane

Loffmark conceded, after pressing questions, that the present law was not humane enough, but at the same time he refused to send a written communique to the federal government urging changes. He revealed that he had had several discussions in the past few years about this situation, but he seemed to think that a conversation with John Munro and a few words in public were all that he needed to do.

He told us that we should approach the medical profession rather than the government, and that we needed some leadership to do this effectively. He refused when we asked him to give us this leadership.

### Loffmark's negligence

Towards the end of the meeting we decided to try another approach and draw an analogy between death from illegal abortion and death from cancer. We asked him, "If a person was dying from cancer and was refused proper medical attention, would you, as Health Minister, intervene on the patient's behalf?" His reply was that he had only done so once and that he would be unlikely to do so again. Loffmark's refusal indicates his neglect of the medical rights of the women in this province.

The meeting deteriorated from this point on, and Loffmark was obviously trying to neutralize us by seeming sympathetic (but passive) to some of our demands. He expressed the hope that we would all remain friends after the encounter. We stated that his inaction told us he was our enemy and that he would continue to be so as long as he allowed the women of this province to be brutalized by irrational abortion laws. At that point, we terminated the meeting by leaving the room.

WOMEN'S CAUCUS,  
Room 6,  
307 West Broadway,  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

March 10th 1970.

Hon. Leslie Peterson,  
Attorney General,  
and  
Hon. Ralph Loffmark,  
Minister of Health Services & Hospital Insurance,  
Parliament Bldgs.,  
VICTORIA, B. C.

RE: WOMEN'S RIGHTS - A B O R T I O N  
Facilities for Birth Control Information,  
Pregnancy Testing, Maternity Care,  
Therapeutic Abortion, Sterilization and  
Vasectomy in BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dear Sirs:

We are writing regarding the lack of the above-noted facilities and to request an open meeting with you, during the next three weeks, regarding same. We are asking for a "meeting" rather than a hearing as when we approached Deputy Labor Minister Sands regarding Human Rights for Women at the Hearing, held Dec. 3rd 1969, at Hotel Georgia, Vancouver, B. C., we were told that we could ask questions but that would not necessarily mean that we would receive answers - and we have not heard from him since (we also asked for evening meetings in order that working women could attend) therefore, as we are interested in communicating our ideas regarding facilities and hearing yours - we request a meeting.

The Women's Caucus have asked that the Provincial Government become more involved in being active where the Rights of Women are concerned, and that the women of British Columbia have the medical rights which they are entitled to under Federal law and under the British North America Act which states that the health and welfare of people within a province are under the jurisdiction of that province, therefore, we request for the women of British Columbia the following:

TIME LIMIT

1. That in cases where therapeutic abortion has been requested by a woman and when pregnancy has been proved positive, usually by the 42nd day after conception, that therapeutic abortion - as allowed by Section 237 of the Criminal Code of Canada - be carried out within 7 days, thus relieving the woman of additional and unnecessary mental and physical stress.

FACILITIES

2. That additional facilities for birth control information, pregnancy testing, therapeutic abortion, maternity care, sterilization and vasectomy be set up in the same physical structure as extensions of hospitals and/or clinics and that these facilities be publicly funded and community controlled.

CATHOLIC HOSPITALS

3. That Catholic Hospitals receiving public funds no longer be allowed to refuse medical doctors the right to carry out therapeutic abortions, sterilizations and vasectomies.

RED TAPE - ABORTION COMMITTEES

4. That the Provincial Government investigate, immediately, why the red tape surrounding the medical profession and hospital abortion committees is a cause of death by illegal abortion. It is well known that many doctors send patients to other countries rather than hassle with the red tape involved in therapeutic abortion. Women's Caucus plans to have ABORTION REMOVED FROM THE CRIMINAL CODE DURING 1970, however, we realize that removing abortion from the Code is only one step and obtaining facilities for medical abortions in order that women can obtain the medical care that is their right is a provincial matter.

REPRESENT WOMEN TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

5. That because the Provincial Government under the British North America Act is responsible for the health and welfare of women within the province and due to the fact that the Criminal Code of Canada Section 237 is not conducive to the health of women and in fact this law causes a number of British Columbia women to die each year, we ask that the Government of British Columbia appeal to Ottawa to remove abortion from the Criminal Code.

MEDICAL PROFESSION

6. That the Provincial Government advise the B. C. Medical Profession that they are neglecting the women of British Columbia when they refuse - because of the time factor involved and red tape - to present women's cases for therapeutic abortions to the hospital Abortion Committees, causing such cases to seek illegal or self-induced abortions - which bring silent death to approximately 2,000 Canadian women each year and cause women to spend burdening sums of money to seek abortions in countries with more humane abortion laws and cause women undue mental and physical stress.

Abortion we realize is a problem in many countries, in Italy it is estimated that over 40,000 women die from illegal abortions each year, in the United States over 10,000 women die each year - more than the troops in Vietnam, and 100,000 are mutilated, in Canada approximately 2,000 women die each year. These are ugly figures, not ones that many countries would be proud of.

The Vancouver Women's Caucus ask to meet with you during the next three weeks in order that British Columbia eliminate such ugly statistics on death from abortion.

Trusting to meet with you, we remain,

Sincerely,

*Betsy Mearns*  
WOMEN'S CAUCUS  
ABORTION CAMPAIGN

/EM



# 'Tremendous pressure' for abortion reform—organizer

By Sheila McCook  
Citizen staff writer

A funeral procession started off from Vancouver, Monday night.

The destination of the 25 mourners, towing a coffin, is Ottawa, where they plan to arrive on Friday, May 8.

An irony of which the marchers are fully aware is that the weekend they'll be here includes Sunday, May 10, Mothers' Day.

The long trek is to bring Parliamentary and public attention to the numbers of deaths—estimates range as high as 2,000 per year, according to some sources—resulting from the illegal abortions that flourish while legal methods remain bound up by legislative restrictions and reluctant doctors.

The travellers — whose numbers are expected to grow during the eastbound cavalcade—will spend their time in the capital pleading with Parliament to remove abortion laws from the Criminal Code.

In Ottawa recently to make arrangements for the cross-country caravan and for the weekend activities of the group when it arrives, was Dawn Carrell, 20-year-old founding member of the Vancouver caucus of

the Women's Liberation Movement.

The plan to bring a national spotlight on the problem came out of a western regional meeting of liberation groups from Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the western United States last October, she says.

Abortion had been a prime topic of the conference "because one of the pre-requisites of liberation is control over your own body."

"We decided that a national campaign around abortion reform was important, that it would be a good action to bring us all together." Quick to jump in on the caravan plan was the Toronto liberation group, followed shortly by others.

Removal of the abortion laws from the Code has become the objective of other groups, too. One, the Association for the Modernization of Canadian Abortion Laws, stated recently that outright repeal of the law, beyond modernization, has become its goal. AMCAL president Lore Perron, a pharmacist, remarked last weekend that her organization's change of goals came about because last year's changes had done "absolutely nothing" to ease access to legal abortion.

The Vancouver liberation

group agrees, but has been more vociferous about the problem.

"We had a large abortion demonstration on Valentine's Day, with guerrilla theatre and speakers," says Miss Carrell. It was the first march I've seen where people were joining from the streets. There were from 300 to 400 of us as we marched to Victory Square."

According to Miss Carrell, a "tremendous pressure" for abortion reform is building up.

## Wide campaign

Abetting this pressure, the western group has plied shopping centres with anti-abortion law leaflets, performed guerrilla theatre in the streets and in high schools and sent speakers into schools. Last November, the caucus set up a successful once-a-week clinic in which advice and direction on abortions are given.

Miss Carrell estimates that the majority of people are in favor of further liberalizing of abortion laws, but such liberalizing, while it still remains within the Code, does not go far enough, she thinks.

Although abortion laws were slightly relaxed last year, restrictions remain that can be interpreted in any way the doctor sees fit

"and this is primarily due to the medical profession."

What's needed, according to the organizer, is abortion on request.

The former sociology student at Simon Fraser University estimates that most abortions, if done within the first three months of pregnancy, would take from eight to 10 minutes. Hospitalization would not be required, since the operation could be done in the doctor's office. Miss Carrell predicts practical ramifications; thousands of beds, annually taken up by women suffering damage from quack abortion methods, would become freed for other sick persons.

Miss Carrell, who is currently employed in a B.C. hospital where she is trying to organize underpaid kitchen workers, said the caravan will stage rallies, perform guerrilla theatre and pick up Ottawa-bound demonstrators at stops in Kamloops, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Toronto, before arriving in Ottawa.

Letters have been mailed to members of Parliament urging review of the question, from liberation groups around the country.

But letters and speeches are not enough, in the opinion of Miss Carrell.

"The way we can get abortion removed from the Criminal Code is not by let-

ters to the government or pressures through channels. The only way is if large numbers of women come together and do something. Numbers and actions are more important than presenting briefs."

And if Parliament does nothing?

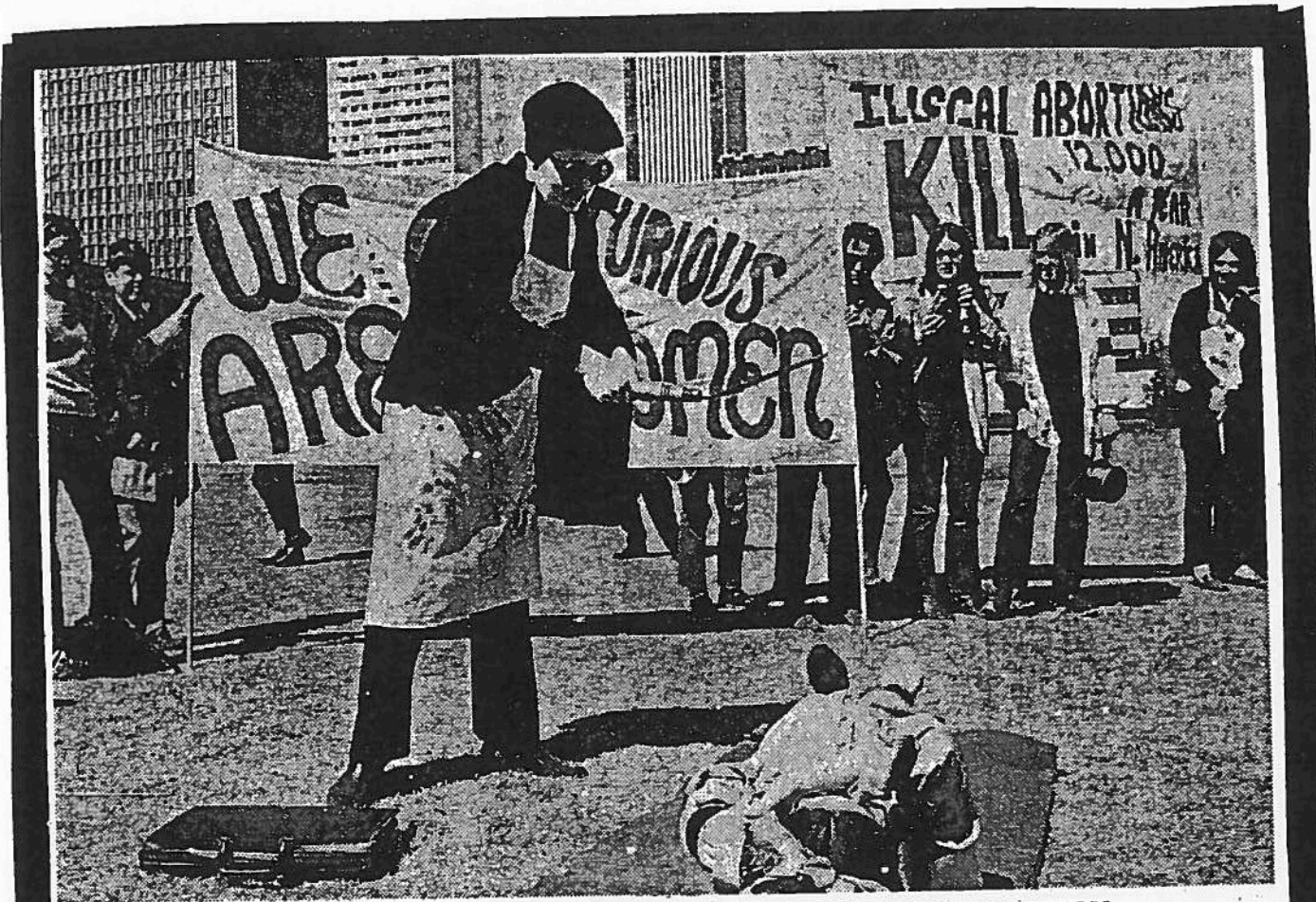
"Actions will follow," says Dawn Carrell.



—Citizen-UPI staff photo

8/ Letters not enough

April 30 - 1970



**WOMEN ACTORS MIME HORROR OF BACK-STREET ABORTION**  
*... part of a cross-Canada protest to abolish all abortion laws*

# Women's protest dramatizes horror of illegal abortions

A caravan of women seeking an end to all abortion laws came to Edmonton Wednesday. The caravan organized by Vancouver Women's Caucus is crossing Canada and plans to arrive in Ottawa May 9. They were joined by Edmonton campaigners.

The group assembled in Sir Winston Churchill Square and staged a grisly mime play showing the horror of a back-street abortion before 200 curious on-lookers.

Two women sang about a woman suffering through pregnancy because she does not want or cannot afford another child.

**COUNTER-PROTEST**

A man and woman staged a counter-protest. They carried signs saying "Legalized abortion is legalized infanticide" and "Would your mom have aborted you?"

The mime play told about a woman who was denied a legal abortion. She went to a back-street abortionist who put on a blood-stained gown and then showed the crowd his instru-

ments — a knitting needle, a bent coat hanger and an egg beater.

After a moment of deliberation, the abortionist covered the victim with a black cape. The crowd applauded.

**OTHER ISSUES**

Later at a meeting in Garneau United Church, other issues were raised.

Dawn Carroll, a member of the abortion caravan, said the legalization of abortion is not the end of the issue.

The women's group is asking that every woman should have the right to choose whether she wants the child. In effect, the right to govern her own body, she said.

"If a woman has sexual relations, that is up to her. If she gets pregnant — married or single — she should be able to have an abortion if the birth of the child will affect her general health and welfare. Sexual promiscuity is not the cause of all unwanted pregnancies because the majority of women who apply for an abortion are married."

Other methods of birth control have not been proven safe and a woman might forget to take her pill, she said.

"Why shouldn't an abortion be granted under these circumstances?"

"People don't need laws to govern their human relations," said another woman's liberation member. The crowd clapped loudly.

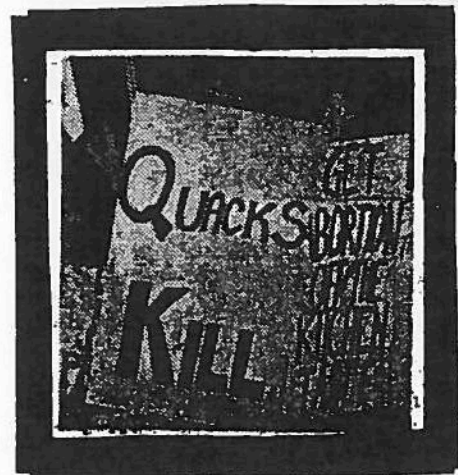
The unwanted birth rate has reached "epidemic proportions," said guest speaker Dr. Michael Ball, director of student health services at the U of A.

Illegitimate births have doubled in the past 10 years. There were 30,000 such cases in Canada last year.

As a stopgap, Dr. Ball suggested the setting up of volunteer agencies across Canada to advise women where they can go for a legal abortion, in Canada or another country.

If a woman went abroad, she could apply under medicare to reimburse the medical costs, he said. In the long run the cost to the government would be less

because of less unwanted births, fewer welfare payments and by keeping women alive.



**WOMEN**

**ARTS**

**COMING**

**ABORTION CARAVAN  
MAY 9 1:00 P.M.  
PARLIAMENT HILL**

WOMEN'S CAUCUS  
Room 6  
307 West Broadway  
Vancouver, B.C.

March 19, 1970

Prime Minister P. E. Trudeau  
and  
The Ministers of Health and Justice  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario

RE: WOMEN'S RIGHTS - ABORTION

Dear Sirs:

We are FURIOUS WOMEN in a nation that does not recognize or respect our basic rights as human beings and citizens of Canada.

We charge the Government of Canada with violation of its responsibility and trust to serve all of its citizens. We charge the Government of Canada with the following:

1. Of being responsible for the MURDER BY ABORTION OF 2,000 CANADIAN WOMEN who die each year from illegal abortions.
2. Of being responsible for the hospitalization and possible mutilation of 20,000 WOMEN, who enter hospitals for treatment of complications arising from illegal abortions.
3. Of being responsible for the psychological, physiological and economic oppression and degradation of thousands of women who are forced into unwanted motherhood and who depend on inadequate medication over which they have no control (the abuses of the pill and lack of adequate research into new methods of birth control and abortion). We understand that the medical profession and the hospitals share this responsibility. But also we recognize that the situation would be greatly alleviated if the Government met our demands.

We, therefore, demand the following:

- A. That Abortion (Section 237) be removed from the Criminal Code of Canada.
- B. That all persons who have been convicted under Section 237 or 150 of the Criminal Code of Canada be pardoned and that current prosecutions arising from this section be nullified.
- C. That methods of safe birth control for women and men be researched by the Federal Government.
- D. That new methods of abortion be researched by the Federal Government, and that both the birth control information and methods of abortion be made public and that this information be sent to all medical doctors and be taught in medical schools.

Trudeau Letter Page 2

If another country murdered 2,000 Canadian WOMEN the Canadian Government would take immediate steps to stop the murders, and should the murdering not be stopped, the Government of Canada would probably call an Emergency meeting and could quite conceivably declare war on that country.

Laws can be changed very quickly in wartime, in a state of national emergency. The deaths of thousands of women and the tragedy of unwanted pregnancies constitute such an emergency.

We, therefore, demand that an Emergency Meeting be called to end such carnage of Canadian women by illegal abortion.

The Vancouver Women's Caucus, along with other Women's Liberation groups have declared the week beginning May 9th as Abortion Week throughout Canada. We will be leaving Vancouver in a Cavalcade for Ottawa and will stop in cities and towns along the way where other Women's Liberation groups will join us.

We trust that we will be able to meet with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Health, and Members of Parliament.

The Federal Abortion laws kill 2000 women a year. We consider the government of Canada is in a state of war with the women of Canada. If steps are not taken to implement our demands by Monday, May 11, 1970 at 3:00 p.m., we will be forced to respond by declaring war on the Canadian government.

We are angry, furious women and we demand our right to human dignity.

Yours 'til Repeal,

---

---

Copies/  
Members of Parliament

# The Feminists go marching on

By MARGARET PENMAN  
Special to The Star

TORONTO — Thousands of women, a coffin at their head, will march on Parliament Hill in Ottawa tomorrow. Drawn from militant women's groups across the country, they are marching to make their demands for legalized abortion heard.

Unfortunately, no government officials will be there to hear them. They have been turned down by Prime Minister Trudeau, Health Minister John Munro and Justice Minister John Turner. The only MPs who might possibly attend the rally are NDP members.

In the vanguard are representatives of two Toronto groups — the New Feminists, and Women's Liberation Movement — who, since last autumn, have marched for equal pay for nurses, joined picket lines at a stocking factory, and held a sit-in at the all-male Hart House dining room in the University of Toronto.

Two weeks ago, they helped occupy Simcoe Hall, the University's administrative centre, in a successful demand for more money for their own day care centre.

But mostly, they have been articulate. They pop up on local television programs, and are invited to speak at more dinners and conferences than they can manage. As yet, the two groups have not joined forces on any project although they had tentative plans to hold an evening of feminist theatre at Toronto's Saint Lawrence Centre, in conjunction with the Women's group of the NDP. But ideological differences prevented their finding a common meeting ground.

They have no plans to storm magazine or newspaper editors' offices, as their New York sisters have done. They prefer to work on specific needs such as abortion and day-care centres and to raise the general level of awareness of both men and women.

In so doing, they have succeeded in annoying many men, but they have attracted a lot of women to their cause.

Listening to their language, you can understand why. They liken their fight to that of the Blacks and claim that Woman Power will leave as much of a mark on the 70s as Black Power did on the 60s.

"We stand today where Black emancipation was five years ago," said Mrs. Bonnie Kreps. "Our job now is to make women aware of themselves as a group. The Blacks came to believe they were inferior, and it's the same with women. We must use the media, marches and sit-ins to make women start thinking."

But for all her talk of using the media, Mrs. Kreps's New Feminists won't talk to the

press these days. "We feel there has been too much publicity," they said, when I asked for an interview this week. All information about the New Feminists comes from interviews last winter. But the Women's Liberation Movement, reticent last winter, were only too pleased to talk this spring.

Bonnie Kreps is a founding member of New Feminists, formed last spring, as a splinter of the Women's Liberation Movement, a left-wing group, established in November, 1968. There is a third group, the St. Joan's International Alliance, formed 50 years ago as the Catholic arm of the suffragette movement, but it operates at an international rather than local level.

Members of the Liberation groups don't hate men. But they all are opposed to the treatment of women as sex objects. From there, the feminists splinter into various factions.

The Women's Liberation Movement is Marxist and emphasizes changing the capitalistic basis of society. About one third of its members are university students, the remaining two thirds working girls and married women.

It started as a study group, with members preparing and reading papers on the sociological and psychological bases for the oppression of women. For example, Freudian psychology is seen as a prop for the traditional notions of male superiority.

"Freud", in the words of one Women's Lib. member, Mrs. Sylvia Haugo, "saw his wife as a fragile creature who had to stay at home and be protected. The traditional approach of psychology and the family structure have both buttressed capitalism in this way. If a woman saw herself on her own terms and didn't listen to her husband's complaints, there would be no soothing over and the man would complain to those in charge. This would lead towards the breakdown of the existing capitalist structure."

"Our approach is to change the capitalistic basis of society and to change the attitudes of men and women to each other."

The movement takes a positive activist line. "We are trying to build alternate systems that are much better," said Mrs. Haugo, 22, a small,

dark, pretty American married to a draft-dodger. She came to the feminist movement from the left-wing activities in the U.S.

She and her husband share a house, or commune, in the east-end, with five other young people. Each person is responsible for domestic duties.

The movement runs a day-care centre on Sussex Street for which they successfully campaigned two weeks ago and which they run on a co-operative basis with the parents. They also run a birth control centre. These days they are concerned with research into the safety of the pill. And, of course, there is their abortion campaign.

The Movement does not see the traditional family as necessary.

"Men and women should share a number of things, including the rearing of children," Mrs. Haugo said. "That's why we believe in communes."

"It's difficult to talk about sexual sharing. Theoretically, it could work out better, but it doesn't yet because we are too socialized in our attitudes."

"Many women in the group are trying to open up in terms of sexual sharing. That includes me. My husband is rather reticent. As far as he is concerned, he could not do this. And if we did it, we would have to reach some understanding."

The Toronto branch of the Liberation Movement has about 280 members. "We will consider our goal achieved when the existing capitalistic power structure falls and the

socialistic revolution comes about," says Mrs. Haugo. "With that will also come the feminist revolution."

The New Feminists broke away from the Women's Liberation Movement, finding them too Marxist, and are still in the process of organizing. They have set themselves up in a house on downtown Huntly Street, where members hold their own weekly business meetings and conduct orientation evenings — talks plus films — for women interested in becoming members. New Feminists have about 150 members now and aren't taking in any more until they finalize their constitution and manifesto. Eventually they hope the Huntly Street house will be a commune for some of the girls to live in. From their headquarters they publish a mimeographed newspaper, the New Feminist.

Characteristic topics in their newspaper for March: New Feminists led a demonstration last year at City Hall against inequalities of pay to male and female or-

derlies at Greenacres Home for the Aged in Newmarket. They are joining the abortion caravan for the march on Ottawa. Last month they demonstrated at a consumers conference held by the Department.

The membership of the New Feminists comes from

upper-middle class families or are career women. Mrs. Kreps, 33, is married to a University of Toronto physicist. She has a seven-year-old daughter and a full-time job as a television producer with

the CTV television network.

She explained that New Feminists see social roles developing out of sexual differences. "The role based on the capacity to have children is made into a function rather than a choice and other things follow," she said.

Mrs. Kreps does not describe herself as a "sexist," which in the sex war is the equivalent of a racist, but "if a man acts from a position of the male supremacist, I am against him. Most men's egos are built on our backs. Real love is when you value what the other person is. But most love is based on restriction."

"In marriage, because women are taught to relate through husband or children, and are measured through them, they become less capable of living on their own. They become prone to managing others' lives and often become nagging bitches. Frustrated housewives are the worst."

The St. Joan's International Alliance is small, but has many distinguished members in chapters around the world, including leading women parliamentarians in Germany and Scandinavia. It works with several international organizations.

The Alliance has observers at the UN taking a keen interest in slavery and child marriage and had auditors at the last Vatican Council. They also submitted a brief to the Commission on the Status of Women in this country.

"We have become identified with church reform," Cecilia Wallace, the Canadian

president, explained. "We have pushed for women clergy and for changes in canon law. But we act in

many more areas. We cooperate with the British anti-slavery movement. Slavery is on the increase throughout the world. At the moment we are trying to bring to the attention of the Canadian public the fact that slavery does exist in at least 18 countries. What happens is that girls are sold into domestic service and end up in prostitution or concubinage."

**They want simple  
change in law: Get  
rid of damned thing**

On April 27 a cavalcade of militant females will storm out of Vancouver on the journey to Ottawa and a hoped-for confrontation with Prime Minister Trudeau over Canada's abortion laws.

The militant females call themselves the Women's Caucus, and they have sister branches in most major centres across the land — some of them under the label Women's Liberation Front.

After picking up reinforcements at Kamloops, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Sault St. Marie, Sudbury and Toronto, they figure to have enough weight and momentum to force a special meeting with Trudeau, Health Minister Munro, Justice Minister Turner and assorted MPs.

The ladies seek a simple change in the abortion law: Get rid of the damned thing.

Women's Caucus spokesmen — they have no list of officers — claim that between 1,000 and 2,000 Canadian women die each year because of illegal abortions which they feel forced to undergo because of ignorance, red tape, reluctant doctors or plain desperation.

Humane aspects aside, it costs taxpayers some \$10 million a year in hospital bills for women maimed by illegal abortionists and millions more to care for the unwanted children of women who have continued their pregnancies against their will, according to Caucus member Betsy Meadley.

"We believe a woman should have jurisdiction over her own body," she told the Express. "A doctor should end her pregnancy at her request, but not even a doctor should have the final say over what is to be done."

"Now, if you want an abortion, you go to your doctor, and if he's convinced, he refers you to a gynecologist or other specialist. The next step is a report to go before the 'therapeutic abortion committee' of a hospital, and the committee makes the decision."

"It's true that most women who get that far get the operation, but few get that far. Most women don't know the regulations, and often doctors won't volunteer much information because they're afraid of being tagged as an abortionist."

"I know of one doctor who recently has sent 30 local women to England where the abortion law is very lenient."

He decided that if they could afford the trip it would be much simpler than trying to get results here.

"After all, if a pregnancy is to be ended, it must be done before the third month. What of the woman who is already two months pregnant? She can't afford to wait for weeks for the red tape to be sorted out."

Not all the Women's Caucus ammunition is being fired in Ottawa's direction. Several salvos have been aimed in B.C. Health Minister Loffmark's corner, but the ladies say they don't know if they've scored any direct hits.

They claim that although the abortion law is a federal one, its administration is a provincial matter, and the B.C. government could do a lot to slash away the red tape.

The ladies say that Loffmark appears to agree with the principle of liberalizing the law's application — but that he seems to be doing nothing concrete about it.

The group asked Loffmark to send out an informative pamphlet about birth control and abortion regulations (along the lines of Attorney-General Peterson's pamphlet on the new point system for driving offences), but Loffmark refused, saying such a pamphlet might be offensive to some.

## On to Ottawa

The Caucus asked Loffmark to set up a special hospital extension combining the problems of birth control and unwanted pregnancies; again he refused.

The ladies demanded that Roman Catholic hospitals receiving grants or assistance from public funds be required to perform therapeutic abortions as general hospitals do. Loffmark hasn't acted on that, either.

One shot was fired at the B.C. Medical Association—Women's Caucus asked to be allowed to attend a BCMA meeting to express views, but were turned down.

This is the response of the BCMA to the abortion law controversy:

"The association takes the stand that our doctors carry out laws and as no laws have been required, and some changes have been made."

The controversy, of course, is also in the political realm, and in the recently ended session of the B.C. legislature, such Opposition members as Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East) and

Liberal Leader Pat McGeer joined in the demands that Loffmark ease up on local application procedures.

"The NDP position in the House is that the matter of an unwanted pregnancy should be between a woman and her doctor, and on one else," said Macdonald, who is also a lawyer.

"We feel the idea of a woman's application for an abortion going before some committee, presumably an all male committee, for final decision, is rather degrading for the woman involved."

"It's more a personal, medical matter than anything else."

Other Opposition members have criticized the abortion law application, especially as practiced by the Vancouver General Hospital committee, as "skimpy," when checked out against the number of women wanting to terminate pregnancies.

Meanwhile, an estimated 10,000 women died in the U.S. last year because of illegal abortionists at work. It is rumored that 40,000 women died of the same causes in Italy last year.

Canada's federal parliament has the final say in whether this nation continues to enforce an abortion law. But it seems up to Ralph Loffmark as to whether any existing law is applied strictly—or humanely.

# Pregnant Woman's Dilemma Depicted

There was a clanging of pots then four girls made up to look like white-faced, non-descript doctors entered the room and mounted the stage.

Following them was a pregnant, barefoot girl and two other girls dressed like men.

Using these characters, members of the Vancouver Women's Caucus opened their public meeting here Tuesday night at the Unitarian Church with a pantomime depicting the dilemma a girl

faces when her pregnancy is unwanted.

Her plea for an abortion to the first doctor resulted in rejection on moral grounds. The doctor stood by, his hands raised in prayer.

The second doctor admonished her for asking, while pointing to a mocked-up version of the Criminal Code. The third doctor, a gleam in his eye, held up a bill for \$500 and the fourth, with a large red heart pinned to his shirt,

agreed to the abortion, only to be collared by two sheriffs who marched the doctor and the girl off to jail.

Known as "Guerrilla Theatre," this crude but pointed way of getting a group warmed up to the subject will be used by members of the Abortion Caravan as it journeys across the country.

But Tuesday night, it took the surprise presence of a local gynaecologist to really spark discussion.

Simply, the women want the right to have control over their own bodies — whether it be through use of birth control methods, abortion or sterilization.

They look at abortion as an extension of birth control, saying the latter also stops the potential for life. "The lives of women already here have to be considered more important than that of a two-month-old fetus," said Marcy Cohen, teacher at Simon Fraser University.

"Women shouldn't have to beg for abortions. They should stand up and ask — it's their right."

\*\*\*

She said recent liberalization of the abortion law hasn't changed the situation much — that it merely legislates what existed before.

She said there is a loophole in the legislation that would allow provincial governments to set up clinics that would give abortions, birth control information and pills and maternal care, but, to date, no progress has been made with the British Columbia government.

The gynaecologist admitted that the "liberalized" abortion law merely brought it up to the 1900 era but he noted that many of the position papers submitted by doctors across the country went far

beyond what was finally passed.

He said he believes prevention is the answer to doing away with unwanted pregnancies. "There are dangers in doing an abortion, even under the best conditions."

\*\*\*

Discussion see-sawed on and off the topic. Such subjects as why despite legalized abortion in some countries, the illegal birth rate is still exceedingly high, and just how good current birth control methods are, were talked out.

The doctor cautioned: "Don't make sweeping generalizations if you are trying to reach those who are trying to establish an argument for legalizing abortion."

He also suggested the group might make more progress if it pushed other alternatives, like education, harder.

"Our (the medical profession) hands are locked, let's face it. Any change is going to have to come through political action."

# Abortion Caravan On Move

By LYNNE RACH  
(Herald Staff Writer)

With fists clenched and cries of "abortion is our right," a band of Vancouver-based militant females arrived in Calgary Tuesday night.

The four-vehicle cavalcade of Women's Caucus members left Vancouver Tuesday morning on the first leg of a cross-Canada crusade to change the abortion law. They were met at the Happy Valley turn-off by local Women's Union members.

Both groups are offshoots of the leftist Women's Liberation Movement.

From the rendezvous, the Abortion caravan, complete with coffin to represent the "2,000 women who die each year in Canada" because they seek illegal abortions, made its way into the city to drop leaflets at Foothills Hospital and to demonstrate on the downtown mall.

Though the caravan did pass through the hospital's parking lot and paraded through the downtown area, speakers blaring, no demonstrations were held.

Undaunted by the lack of organization locally, the Vancouverites and the Calgary group proceeded to the Unitarian Church to eat and prepare for a public meeting later last night.

\*\*\*

Accompanying the caravan was a van with California licence plates driven by a six-month pregnant, 18-year-old, unmarried girl.

Laure Guarnera, an attractive blonde from San Francisco, said she became interested in joining the caravan while visiting a friend in Vancouver.

She said she had considered abortion when she found she was pregnant but that her boyfriend talked her out of it

and they are going to get married. Her point, however, was that if she had wanted an abortion, the red tape involved would likely have made it unobtainable.

Another woman travelling with the caravan was a 40-year-old mother of four who said if her son had known what day she was leaving, he would have tried to prevent her.

Betsy Meadley, formerly of Edmonton, and who now lives in West Vancouver, got involved with the abortion movement by working with a Planned Parenthood group.

\*\*\*

"My family objects to my participation. They just can't see the connection between the two," said Mrs. Meadley.

Average age of the women is about 25, but members prefer to say they represent all ages of women on the abortion issue. Indeed, the Van-

couver Women's Caucus boasts members who range in age from 17 to 84. (The 84-year-old saw them off and was sorry she couldn't accompany the caravan and be with the action. She participated in the suffragette movement in 1917.)

As the caravan moves across the country, it expects to pick up supporters along the way. A group of 200 plans to join in Toronto to make the final trek into Ottawa, where demonstrations are planned for Mother's Day.

Their hopes of meeting Prime Minister Trudeau, Health Minister Munro and Justice Minister Turner don't sound promising.

But they still plan to deliver an ultimatum. If steps are not taken to implement their demands by 3 p.m., May 11, "we will be forced to respond by declaring war on the Canadian government."

Exactly what this tactic involves, they say is a secret.

\*\*\*

Their demands, as stated in an open letter to the prime minister, include:

- That abortion (Section 237) be removed from the Criminal Code of Canada;

- That all persons who have been convicted under Section 237 or 150 of the Criminal Code of Canada be pardoned and that current prosecutions arising from the section be nullified;

- That methods of safe birth control for women and men be researched by the federal government;

- That new methods of abortion be researched by the federal government, and that both the birth control information and methods of abortion be made public and that this information be sent to all medical doctors and be taught in medical schools.



ANT FEMALE ON FIRST LEG OF CROSS-CANADA CRUSADE TO CHANGE ABORTION LAWS

officers carrying caravan vehicles at Happy Valley turn-off by local supporters



# Feminists demand no restrictions on abortions



**JUDY DARCY**  
Toronto panel moderator



**FRUMIE DIAMOND**  
At Town Hall meeting

By MARGARET WEIERS  
Star staff writer

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Health Minister John Munro and Justice Minister John Turner have all declined to meet Canada's feminists when the abortion caravan gets to Ottawa Saturday.

Marcy Cohen of Vancouver, a member of the Women's Liberation Movement that organized the caravan that started its cross-Canada journey from Vancouver April 27, yesterday accused the government of "gross irresponsibility to the women of Canada in not meeting us."

Marcy Cohen was one of four speakers at a Town Hall meeting at the St. Lawrence Centre at noon yesterday.

## Flew ahead

Marcy Cohen and Dawn Carrell, also of Vancouver, have been travelling across Canada with the caravan but flew ahead from Winnipeg for the noon meeting.

The women travelling with the caravan—the 17 Vancouverites have now been joined by 23 others from Prairie cities—intend to ask the government Saturday to remove all legal restrictions on abortions.

A woman alone has the right to decide whether she shall have an abortion, the caravan's supporters argue.

(At present, abortion in Canada is legal if a hospital-approved committee decides the life or health of the mother is endangered.)

The two Vancouver women said that rallies in Canadian cities the caravan has visited have been generally supportive of women's

The Toronto meeting, which featured a panel of four speakers (the two Vancouver women, moderator Judy Darcy and Alma Marks, both members of the Toronto Women's Liberation Movement) and which was televised by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, was more sympathetic than hostile.

The speakers, who objected to wearing makeup for television even though a producer suggested their faces would look washed out on the screen, wouldn't say whether they were married. None of the four has children. They, and their supporters in the audience, wore pants and boots and ponchos in what almost seemed to be a uniform.

Dawn Carrell said that in the four months that an abortion control clinic has been operated in Vancouver, 265 women have asked for abortions (most of them married) and only eight were able to get them legally.

In addition to asking the government for the removal of restrictions on abortion, Marcy Cohen said the women wanted more research and information on birth control methods.

She called especially for research into non-drug methods of birth control.

She also asked for community-run birth control clinics staffed by women and supported financially on a 50-50 basis by the provincial and federal governments.

"We don't expect to get it all right now," she said, "but we do expect the government at least to take us seriously."

## Male view

Replying to a question from the audience, Marcy Cohen added that the caravan supporters (the women travelling with the caravan will be augmented in number by a contingent from Toronto, one from the Maritimes, and Ottawa groups) would be "as militant as necessary" in Ottawa on Saturday.

A man in the audience took exception to women deciding for themselves whether to have abortions. He said the child's father ought to have something to say about it.

"It's misplaced zeal on your part if you don't take into account that two people are responsible," he said.



**MARILYN FREEMAN**  
Listens to abortion pleas



CLENCHED FIST salute is given by Marcy Cohen, left, and Dawn Carrell, Vancouver members of women's liberation group. They are members of an abortion

caravan travelling to Ottawa where they'll ask the government Saturday to remove all legal restrictions on abortions. They spoke at Town Hall yesterday.

# 300 expected to join abortion march on Ottawa

The Abortion Caravan sponsored by the Women's Liberation Movement, which has travelled across Canada from Vancouver protesting Canada's abortion laws, reached Toronto yesterday.

The 50 women who arrived expect to be joined by about 300 Toronto women for the final march on Ottawa Saturday, but it looks as though it might all be for no purpose.

Prime Minister Trudeau, Justice Minister John Turner and Health Minister John Munro all have refused to meet the women.

WLM members say the politicians have purposely scheduled out-of-town meetings to avoid a confrontation with the protesters.

Yesterday, the group held an open meeting to discuss the abortion issue at the St.

Lawrence arts centre's Town Hall.

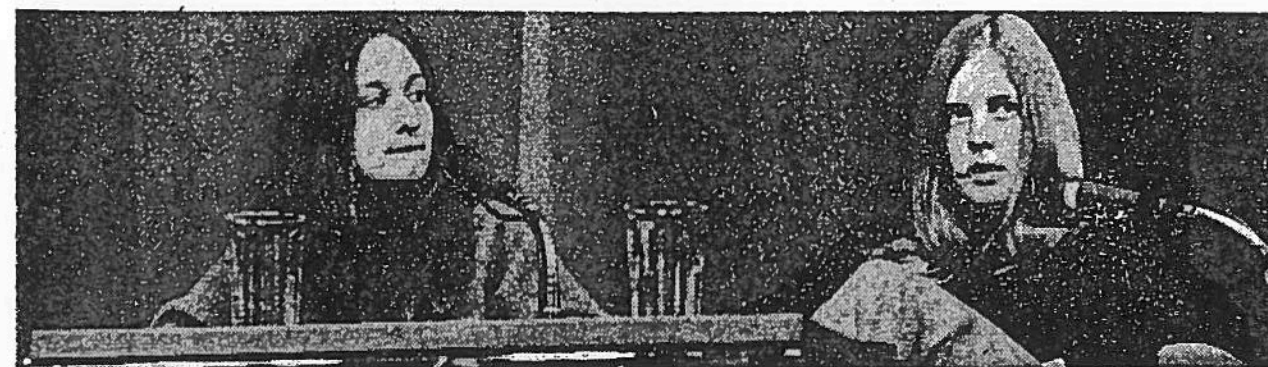
About 150 women, mostly WLM supporters, and a handful of males listened to four young women explain their position on abortion.

Marcy Cohen, a Vancouver student, said the group wants an emergency session of Parliament to be called to have abortion laws dropped immediately from the Criminal Code.

She said WLM members feel that so many women die from illegal abortions (approximately 1,000 every year) that the situation should be considered an emergency.

They want all those doctors who have been prosecuted for performing illegal abortions to be pardoned and reinstated in their medical practises.

The group is also calling



Women's Liberation Movement members Marcy Cohen (left) and Dawn Carroll.

for Government-funded clinics controlled by women to dispense information on birth control and abortions and to give free maternity health care.

WLM members feel that abortion is every woman's right and that not until she has full control of the uses of her body will she be equal to men in society.

They claim that from three to five women are admitted every night to Toronto General Hospital suffering from the effects of illegal abortions.

Two men expressed opinions counter to the group's philosophy, but both avoided the issue of abortion.

Caravan supporters will be bused from Toronto to Ottawa and will march on the Parliament Building Saturday afternoon.

## Abortion cavaladers will attend meeting - will PM?

Female fighters for women's rights will be off to Ottawa Saturday to see Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau—whether he's there to greet them or not.

That's the word from Dawn Carrell of Vancouver, a member of what has been described as an abortion caravan that has arrived here from the West.

"Health Minister John Munro told us he'd be at a meeting of the World Health Organization that day . . . Justice Minister Turner refused to meet us."

A meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. in the Railway Committee Room of the Parliament Buildings, Miss Carrell told a lunch-hour meeting yesterday in the Town Hall of the St. Lawrence Centre.

About half the 480 seats were filled, mostly with young women munching sandwiches and sympathetic to the cause against current abortion laws.

About 20 young men sat at the back and watched.

Miss Carrell talked about the "constant buck-passing at different levels of government," and the fear and guilt high school students feel because information about birth control is not available in the high school system.

Marcy Cohen, also from Vancouver, said the purpose of the cavalcade is to make clear to government the right of women to have abortions.

Two members of the Women's Liberation Movement, Alma Marks and Judy Darcy, both of Toronto, also were on the platform.

From talking specifically with hospital officials, Miss Darcy said she learned that from three to four women are admitted every night to Toronto General Hospital following "botched up" abortion attempts.

Toronto East General and Orthopedic Hospital reported between 300 and 550 a year.

A yellow-jacketed young man later identified as Morris Sabanski, a University of Waterloo student, bounced to his feet during the question period to object to the women's demands for more day care centres.

"If you have your kids going to day care centres you're going to end up with a

bunch of vegetables . . ." he said.

A few minutes later he got into an argument with the young women on the platform as to who had been first to invade Cambodia. "If you'd read the newspapers occasionally you'd see the Commies invaded first and then the Americans," he said.

Toronto Globe May 7

By BETTY PALIK

It was only a cardboard cage but the young woman inside yesterday didn't try to escape because she was acting out a symbolic protest against the enslavement of Canadian women.

"This is supposed to be a super-visual statement of women's condition," Sarah Yardley, 20, said from behind her bars in Phillips Square. Her fellow feminists distributed pamphlets on abortion to passers-by.

When a photographer asked her to "grip the bars for effect," she retorted, "I'm not going to do stunts for you!"

She had more important issues to impress upon the public — such as the Abortion Caravan to Ottawa this Saturday.

Miss Yardley is also going to take her cage to Ottawa as a symbol.

On her cage were signs saying, "Femina Sapiens, Quebec, circa 1970."

Staff Photo by Adrian Lunny



## FLF won't be along, but backs English

The Front de Liberation des Femmes won't be joining other women's liberation groups when they march on Ottawa tomorrow because they feel to do so would be contrary to their political views.

The FLF, however, has sent their English-speaking counterparts a letter expressing their solidarity and support of the march. And on Sunday members of the FLF will be marching through

Montreal alongside members of the Montreal group of Women's Liberation calling for free abortions "on demand."

"We refuse to manifest in front of a government whose jurisdiction over our country, Quebec, we do not recognize," they said in explanation of their refusal to join the Ottawa march. The FLF is a self-avowed radical leftist movement.

Their slogan is "no free Quebec without free women."

At a meeting to organize their participation in Sunday's march from Jeanne Mance park to Lafontaine Park and then to the University Settlement for an evening in the forum, the young women of the FLF discussed abortions. The right for any woman to have an abortion, they said, was just one of the many reforms they would like to see.

"But really we want to change the whole structure of society," one said.

"We won't go into that now. We are planning our parade," another interjected.

"Sunday is Mother's Day, though, and we should do something about that," an attractive young mother said. This opened a whole new discussion on what would be the best method of debunking Mother's Day without upsetting the feelings of women who liked the idea.

Finally, it was agreed that members of the FLF would carry signs like "Mother's Day is one day — Father's Day is 364 days a year," and hand out pamphlets explaining how society "uses" women.

# Women's Cavalcade Hits City To Protest Anti-Abortion Laws

By JAMES TOST

Just two days before the nation's tribute to Mother, the anti-unwanted-motherhood leaders gathered in Ottawa to protest against restrictive abortion laws.

Four carloads of a cross-the-country cavalcade, which began April 26 in Vancouver, pulled into the Shoppers City plaza on Baseline Road about 6.30 p.m. Friday.

Shouting words of encouragement to the 30 Ottawa women waiting to greet them, the cavalcade women left their cars to generate an impromptu rally on the spot.

Fists raised in the marching sign of the Women's Liberation Movement, the gathering, consisting mainly of women in their late teens or early twenties, began singing victory hymns.

"Hold the fort, we are coming . . . Victory will come . . ." sang the women who place the right to freedom of abortion on a par with freedom of speech.

## GUERRILLA THEATRE

Complementing the determined faces of shirt-and-pants attired women was a guerrilla theatre performance illustrating the frustrated pregnant Canadian woman in the throes of rejection by unyielding figures of law and medicine.

"We've come to seek an end to the laws against abortion . . . We want our rights," announced a Winnipeg cavalcade member to the cheers of her cohorts.

While the women had their say, a male supporter stood by with his 12-month-old

daughter perched on his shoulders.

"Sure I'm sympathetic . . . They've been denied their rights of petition . . . But I've supported unpopular causes before," commented Henry Rucker, a government economist and husband of an Ottawa Women's Liberation member.

Banners carried by the women bore messages like "Illegal Abortions Kill 12,000 a Year in North America."

In Canada, hospitals in six provinces carried out 235 therapeutic abortions in the first three months of 1970, Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures show.

The provinces included in the study are Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

## PERSONAL SURVEYS

Although DBS has no similar figures on illegal abortions, Women's Liberation figures, gleaned from personal surveys, claim 2,000 Canadian women die each year from illegal abortions while 20,000 women are hospitalized due to complications of illegal abortions.

Federal law on abortion, revised last year, allows therapeutic abortion where a hospital committee certifies that continued pregnancy will endanger the mother's health.

Ottawa Women's Liberation spokesman Jackie Larkin Brown said about 1,000 women—to bus, hike or drive in from Toronto, Montreal, Kingston and other centres are expected to gather at 1 p.m. Saturday on Parliament Hill to demonstrate for the



## FREE ABORTION LAWS

Cheers and fists raised in the sign of the Women's Liberation Movement greeted a guerrilla theatre production illustrating a pregnant Canadian woman facing rejection by the medical and legal institutions. The performance highlighted an impromptu women's rally Friday.

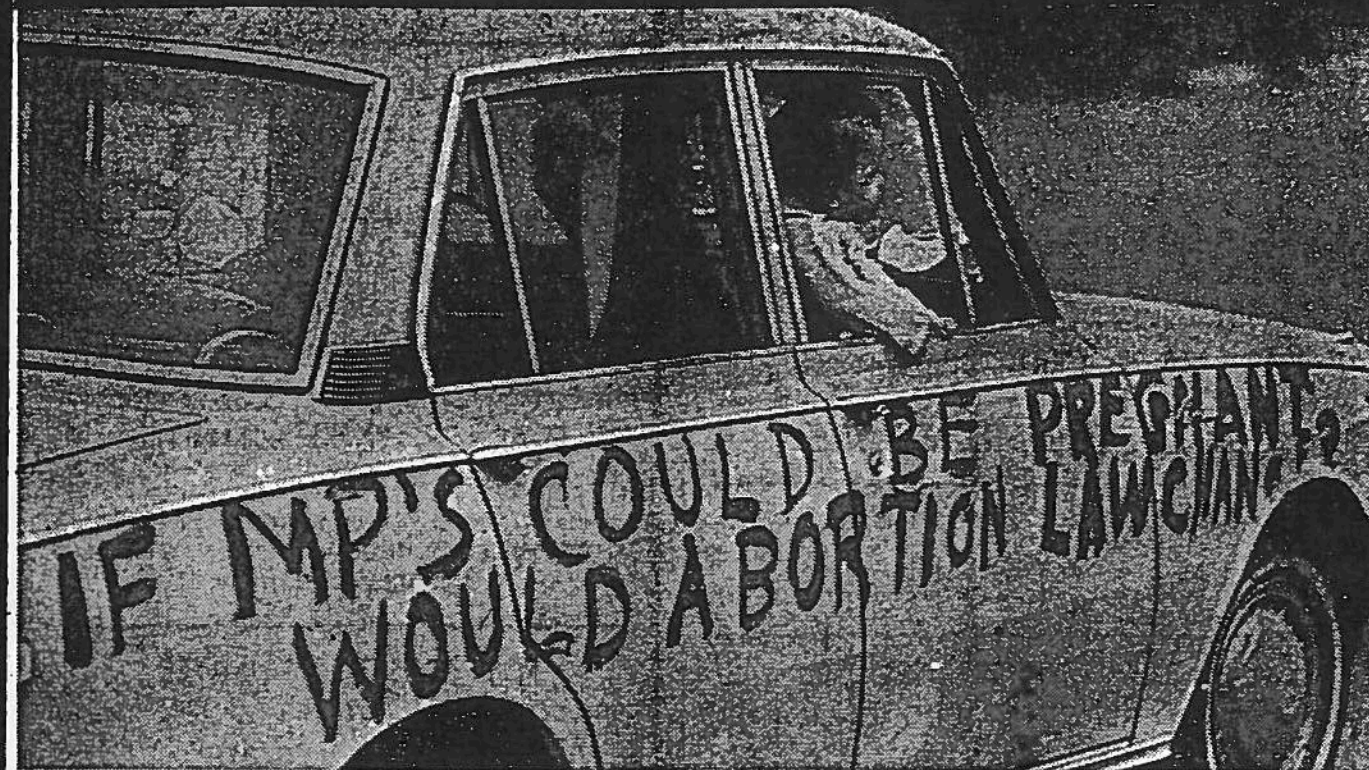
(Journal Photo by Dominion Wide)

removal of all abortion law from the Criminal Code.

Prime Minister Trudeau, who along with Justice Minister John Turner is being sought by the women for discussions on abortion, told the Commons Friday the government does not intend to

amend the law further at the present time.

Although both government figures are not expected to greet the women Saturday, a counter anti-abortion group of women, the Alliance for Life, has indicated it will be present.

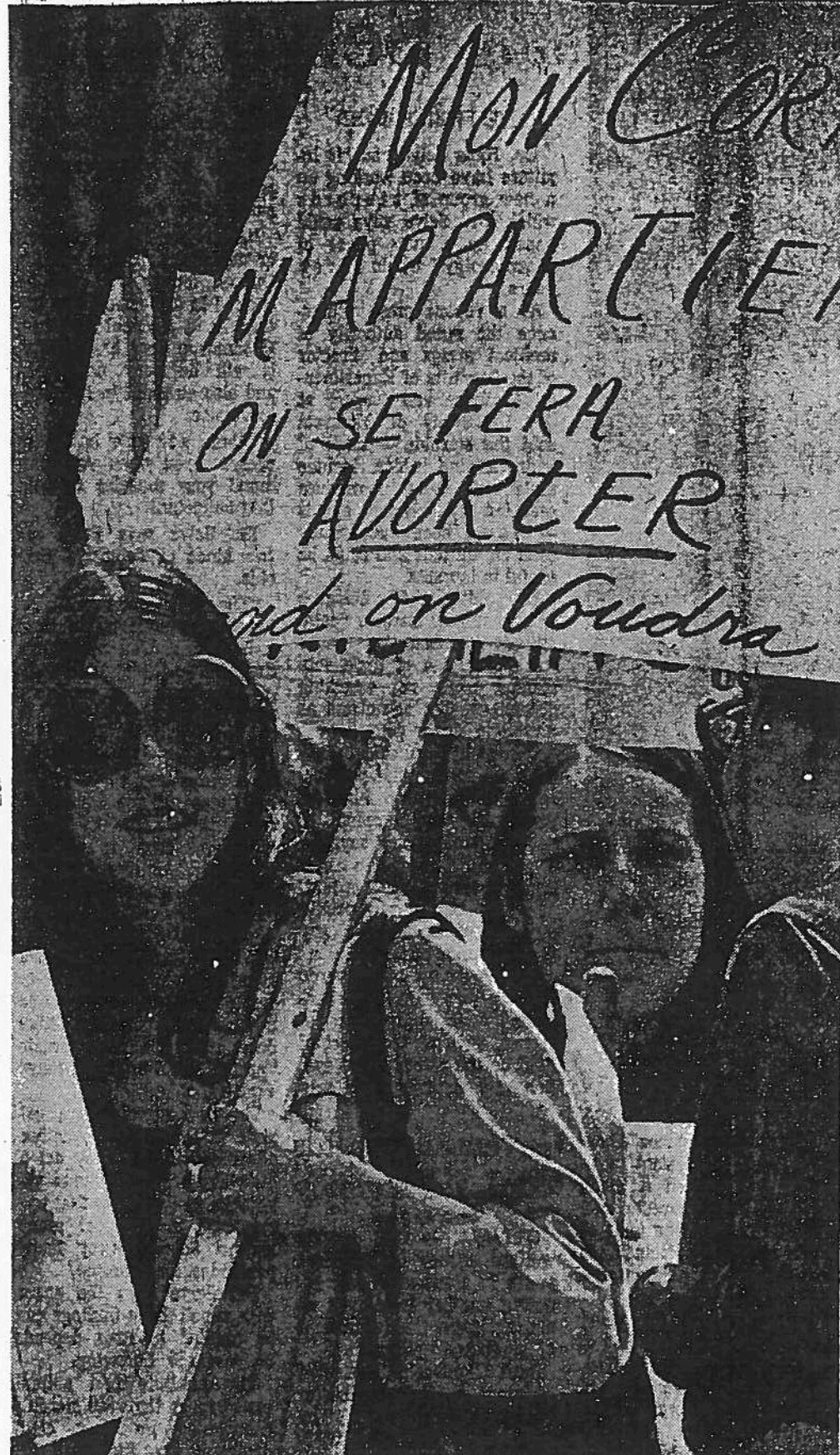


## WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT SYMPATHIZERS

Henry Rucker and his 12-month-old daughter show their support for the Women's Liberation Movement drive for removal of all abortion law from the Criminal Code. The two were among 40 persons gathered for

a spontaneous rally Friday at Shoppers City plaza on Baseline Road, following the arrival of a cavalcade from Vancouver. The group plans a demonstration on the Hill today.

(Journal Photo by Dominion Wide)



Eighty young women, husbands and boyfriends, children and animals marched through Montreal yesterday handing out leaflets calling for more birth control information, free abortions and just plain freedom for women

Staff Photo by Bill Robson

# Women seek abortion right on Mother's Day

By SANDRA DOLAN

Yesterday was Mother's Day. A bright beautiful Mother's Day. And hundreds of Mummies and Daddies were out in Lafontaine Park with their children.

When a strange group came marching in. There, two by two, were some 80 young women, an assortment of husbands and boyfriends, a dozen or two children, a couple of babies and two dogs. And they were all, including the children and dogs, protesting Canada's abortion laws.

What they were asking was that women be given the right to choose if and when they wanted to become mothers. "Abortions are our right," and "Bourassa, we want 100,000 abortions" their placards read.

At present between 10,000 and 25,000 Quebec women have illegal abortions each year and many result in serious complications and often death. The law allows a committee of doctors

to decide if a woman can have an abortion for health reasons but since the law was passed some nine months ago these committees have permitted very few abortions — probably less than 100 in Quebec.

"You're criminals, criminals," shouted an elderly man as the group settled down on the grass for an informal teach-in and pantomimes. The group had set out from Jeanne Mance Park just after 2 p.m. and walked down to Lafontaine Park for their meeting.

The first act came from Ottawa. A girl with a white sweater about her ears acted the part of a deaf judge; a boy in a white coat, a stubborn doctor; and a girl in a gold cape, an insensate society matron. To their horror they were set up by two desperate unwilling mothers-to-be.

A girl named Ellen, a young married member of Women's Liberation, read a brief the Abortion Caravan in

Ottawa had drawn up. "We are not against mothers, wives or motherhood for those that want," said Ellen in the preface to her talk.

But, she said, for those that don't want there should be "community-controlled" clinics to provide free birth control information and contraceptives, painless abortions on demand.

"Besides the right to have our children when we want them, we demand the means to bear and raise them as they deserve," she read and mentioned adequate pre-natal and post-natal care, low-cost housing for mothers alone with children and subsidized child-care centres.

"What utter garbage," said a young unmarried male. "You wouldn't say that if you were a female," a woman answered.

Then Marie Claire from the Front de Liberation des Femmes started to chant:

"To have babies every year."

And the group responded "nous sommes tané" (we are fed up.)

"To wear midis, minis, maxis."

"We are fed up."

"To read Marie Claire, Marie France and Chatelaine."

"We are fed up."

"To be typed up, classified and badly paid."

"We are fed up."

"To be denied day in day out to make decisions."

"We are fed up."

And all together they shouted "Happy Mother's Day to all."

# Pressure abortion boards doctor tells women's group

One young woman told a pro-abortion group last night of having to phone a barber shop, ask for a man named Sam; and then ask Sam to put her in contact with a doctor.

Another said she had been driven across Montreal by night to meet an abortionist. "He told me not to scream because 'I won't be able to do anything with the other girl if you do.'"

They both had difficulty raising money for the exorbitant price the doctor charged. They both were scared and the operation was painful and without anaesthetic. Both were

lucky. They had contacts and friends. And neither became infected as a result.

"The situation is absolutely intolerable. It is a shame any woman has to go through all that to get an abortion," Dr. Henry Morgentaler, a general practitioner and member of the Humanist Society told members of the Womens Liberation and the Front de Liberation des Femmes at the University Settlement.

Dr. Morgentaler, however, doesn't blame the present situation on the abortion laws. He believes they are

adequate but badly applied by Conservative old doctors on the hospitals' abortion boards.

In the first six months after the law came into existence, August, 1969, the Canadian abortion boards granted 236 legal abortions. "One woman in every 1,000 who had an abortion benefited from the new law."

Dr. Irene Simons, director of family planning at the Montreal General Hospital, estimates that every Montreal hospital has an average of 10 patients a week brought in following a self-inflicted or messed-up job of abortion.

"I've seen hundreds. I've seen girls who have tried to abort with a switch-blade, knitting needles, coat hangers and soapsud douches.

"I seen several women die horrible deaths. Some recover and still others have to have a hysterectomy," she said.

Dr. Simons said doctors who are against legalized abortions for all who want them give many reasons including: all abortions are murders; they would take up too many hospital beds (actually most could be done in the outpatients clinic) many girls will not use contraceptives and rely on abortions; girls will feel guilty; girls will be pressured into having an abortion; and many girls get pregnant deliberately and would continue to do so if abortions were made easy.

"The only argument I can agree with is the last one. There are some girls who get pregnant deliberately either because they are opting out, looking for sympathy or trying to manipulate some man into marrying them."

"Consultation is the answer otherwise they will keep coming back," Dr. Simons said.



Staff Photo by Bill Robson

This mother of six talked yesterday of the need for better pre-natal and post-natal care and the need for day-care centres. And who would know better than she? Yesterday she marched with her two eldest boys. When asked where the others were she replied "At home, it's Mother's Day. But 364 days a year, all six are her responsibility — and there is a seventh on the way."

May 11 - 1970



CP Wirephoto

**PROTEST CANADA'S ABORTION LAWS:** Some of the 300 demonstrators who marched on Parliament Hill Saturday in protest of Canada's abortion laws. The women, from all parts of the country, sang, enacted plays and denounced what they call Canada's backward abortion laws. They were not met by any government official.

## Abortion Caravan sits in at 24 Sussex

By SUSAN BECKER  
*Canadian Press*

OTTAWA — The grounds of Prime Minister Trudeau's residence were invaded Saturday by an estimated 150 demonstrators demanding that statutes on abortion be removed from the Criminal Code.

Police and a few of the protesters engaged in a minor scuffle before a half-hour sit-in began outside Mr. Trudeau's Sussex Street home.

The sit-in followed a peaceful Parliament Hill demonstration at which about 400 persons favoring that abortion be made a matter between a woman and her doctor gathered in juxtaposition to about 60 persons challenging their cause.

The larger group represented the climax of Abortion Caravan, a predominantly-female group which has moved from Vancouver across Canada in recent weeks advocat-

ing the repeal of abortion laws.

On hand to meet them at Parliament Hill after they marched through Ottawa's business section were representatives of the anti-abortion group Alliance for Life. After the hill demonstration part of the Abortion Caravan group, whose leaders expressed anger that no government representatives were present at a meeting inside the Centre Block, marched to the prime minister's residence.

Consisting mostly of young women from feminist groups across Canada, they linked arms and chanted "Trudeau coward" as they moved steadily toward a line of RCMP at the entrance of the official grey stone residence.

They forced police back towards the house until a few of them were grabbed when they tried to break through, after which they sat in a wide semicircle across the driveway.

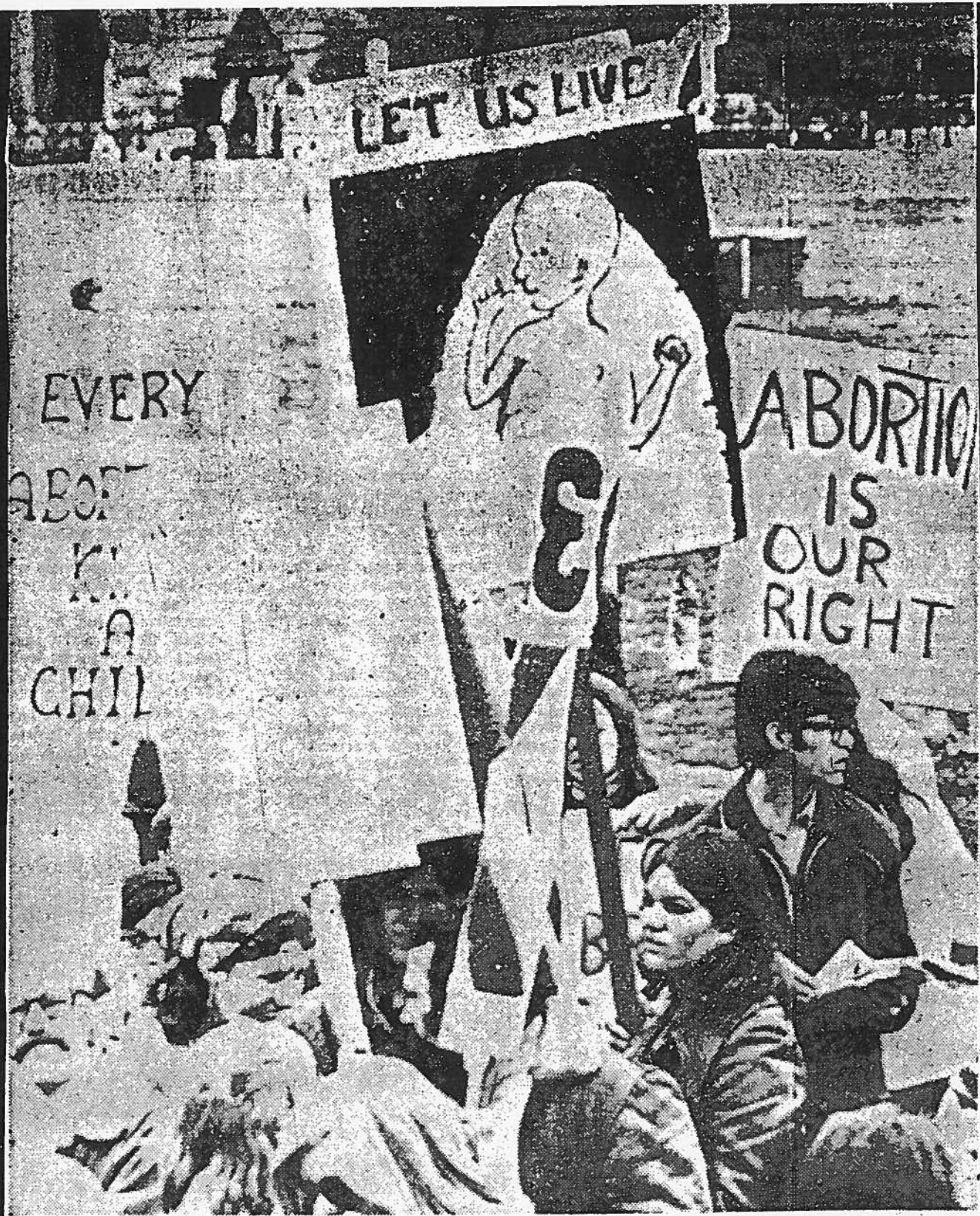
They chanted "free abortion" and "we want Trudeau," and placed a mock black coffin, a wreath and what they called the tools of illegal abortion — including a coat hanger — before more than 15 silent police.

Gordon Gibsmn, the prime minister's executive secretary, told them that Mr. Trudeau was not home and that they were "not very nice" to call the police pigs.

The group disbursed quietly after four of them were allowed to deposit the coffin near the canopied entrance to the house.

On Parliament Hill the rally was received by David Lewis NDP—York south, Gerald W. Baldwin PC—Peace River, Lorne Nystrom NDP—Yorkton-Melville and Grace MacInnis NDP—Vancouver-Kingsway.

The Alliance for Life distributed leaflets challenging the larger group's abortion statistics.



### Two different views

DEMONSTRATORS urging freer abortions and others protesting legalized abortions mingle briefly on Parliament Hill. Those seeking freer abortions have staged a series of demonstrations there recently.

### ★ ★ ★ Easy Abortion Termed Cancer Of Women's Rights

The push for easy abortion is the "cancer of the women's rights movement," Mary Cooper, secretary of the Alliance for Life, said in a statement Sunday.

Some 35 supporters of the Alliance — a group opposing further liberalization of Canada's abortion laws — held a silent protest before and during a larger pro-abortion demonstration on parliament hill Saturday by Anti-Abortion Law supporters.

"We believe the women's liberation movement (which spearheaded the anti-abortion law demonstration) may be increasing the number of illegal abortions, by persuading women abortion is all right," Mrs. Cooper said.

The 800-member Alliance also challenged anti-abortion law group claims, that up to 2,000 women have died in Canada as a result of illegal abortions.



### 'ABORTION KILLS'

Supporters of the Alliance for Life, an 800-member group opposed to further liberalization of Canada's abortion laws, tour around the Parliament Hill grounds, avoiding a larger group of pro-abortion demonstrators Saturday. The alliance supporters staged a silent counter-protest.





# Pleas for abortion greeted by silence

By Sheila McCook  
Citizen staff writer

"Big Brother" wasn't watching. Nor was he listening.

Saturday's demonstration to demand repeal of abortion legislation from the Criminal Code, marched from the Supreme Court, wound through downtown streets, settled on Parliament Hill for some speeches then moved in to the railway committee room to say a few more words.

No one from the government came to listen.

Frustrated and angry, the marchers, most of them women, headed off to 24 Sussex in hopes of flushing Prime Minister Trudeau out of his residence to hear their demands.

They were told he was not in.

Mr. Trudeau's executive assistant Gordon Gibson told the crowd of about 150 who had pushed through Royal Canadian Mounted Police lines and sat on the prime ministerial front lawn that no government official was available to hear them.

The demonstration, which at its height numbered about 500, was a merging of feminist groups from major cities from Vancouver to Montreal who urged removal of any mention of abortion from the Criminal Code. Their stand is that recent liberalization of abortion laws had done nothing to improve women's chances of gaining a legal abortion.

Estimates are that, because of red tape, one or two in a hundred Canadian abortions are legal, feminists say.

"Getting a lobotomy (brain surgery) does not require the sanction of committee approval," said Nancy Peterson of Toronto who criticized the system of hospital committees which were left to decide the fate of a woman requesting a therapeutic abortion.

Described by marchers as "humiliating" and "undignified," the committees, along with reluctant doctors, medical associations and politicians, were charged with denying women control over their own bodies and with

discriminating against the poor.

Toronto welfare recipient Doris Power, mother of three and eight months pregnant, said she had been turned down when she requested an abortion.

A medical doctor and two psychiatrists had interrogated her with questions "unrelated to my feelings about the child or about its welfare."

"They asked me how I got pregnant."

## Sterilization offer

Applicants who were on welfare, she said, were asked if they would submit to sterilization in return for a legal abortion, but "if a woman agrees, she's lost all power to make any future decisions over her own body."

Besides asking for abortion on demand, the marchers said they had come to ask the government to provide access to free birth control for all women and for clinics that would provide birth control, abortions on demand and pre-and

post-natal care, all to be financed by federal and provincial funds.

Reading a brief to the turbulent crowd of 400 squeezed into the railway committee room for two hours in the afternoon, Judy Darcy of Toronto received thunderous applause when she said:

"In this society, concern for the foetus is not matched by an equal concern for the living child."

A comparatively silent parade of about 40 anti-abortion protesters, including members of the Alliance for Life, had circled the grounds of Parliament Hill while the pro-abortion hundreds rallied both outside and in.

Three anti-abortion members were asked to leave the meeting inside the building but managed to stay on, arguing that it had been publicized as a public meeting.

There was no trouble with police during the 5½ hours of activity, apart from the minor surge through police lines at the prime minister's residence.

Early portions of the march were marked with singing of women's liberation songs, with the mood altering to more immediate anger when no government officials showed up.

Only MPs to show were New Democrats David Lewis, Grace MacInnis and Lorne Nystrom, and Conservative whip Gerald Baldwin.

Dodie Walker of Vancouver charged the government with "extreme arrogance" and "gross irresponsibility" for its failure to send a representative. She said efforts to bring the prime minister, Justice Minister Turner and Health Minister Munro to the rally started March 19.

Miss Walker accused Mr. Munro of breaking a verbal commitment made in Saskatchewan to the effect that he would meet with the cross-country abortion caravan when it arrived in Ottawa.

He would meet with the cross-country abortion caravan when it arrived in Ottawa.

## Return demanded

Mr. Munro, at a World Health Organization meeting in Geneva, has been sent a telegram which in part, reads: "You cannot escape your responsibilities to the women of Canada." It demands his return by today to meet with demonstrators remaining in the capital.

Citing "buck passing" at every level, Miss Walker said petitions to provincial governments asking for abortion reforms had netted replies that responsibility lay with the federal government and the medical profession.

Medical associations, meanwhile, had told them to consult the federal government.

The only MP to address the meeting was Mrs. MacInnis who informed the audience that she has had a resolution for removal of abortion laws from the Criminal Code on the order paper two years. She urged the women to circulate a petition to Mr. Turner and other government members. "If you can break up the solid ranks of the government, then you've done something," she said. "I'm solidly behind you," she told the women.

Canadian abortion laws were "archaic" said a speaker, Dr. Henry Morgentaler, president of the Humanist Association of Canada.

In a statement outside the meeting he said that 1,000 Canadian women died each year as a result of back-alley abortions.

Quoting a recent poll which indicated that 44 per cent of Canadians were in favor of abortion on request, he said he was "optimistic" that public opinion would swing along those lines.

## Strong support

"For every woman here today, there are 100,000 others who feel the same way."

Doris Power informed the meeting indoors that when she told the committee of doctors that many people had illegal abortions, the trio had replied, "take your misery and get the hell out of here."

"We the poor of Canada are the dirt shoved under the rug of a vicious economy," she cried during the stormy session.

Referring to the scores of young women who had sung liberation songs on their way to the Parliament Buildings, she remarked: "I am not a young woman. I'm not one of those women who sang on the way up here because

I don't have a god damned thing to sing about."

Another welfare recipient and mother of five told the women's liberation members to "please don't be so intellectual... please come to the people who need it... and get the hell out of the universities."

## Symbolic coffin

By six in the evening, on the grounds of 24 Sussex, the last supporters were finally permitted to deposit a

wreath-topped coffin, commemorating women who had died from butchered or self-induced abortions near the prime minister's front steps.

With the black coffin were instruments of quack abortions, the caravan's brief and a card which read: "Every child a wanted child."

Sunday afternoon, after strategy sessions, spokesmen for the movement stated that if they had not

heard from the government by the end of the question period in the Commons today, they would "declare war on the government."

They warned that when they returned to their home towns they planned to mobilize pressure upon hospitals to gain abortions for anyone who sought the operation.

"If the government refuses to deal with us this weekend they will have to face us at the hospitals," warned Myrna Wood of Toronto.



**PRO-ABORTION GROUP RUSHES POLICE LINE**

RCMP officers attempt to turn back demonstrators of the Abortion Caravan who linked arms to crash police lines at the entrance to the Prime Minister's residence at Ottawa Saturday following a demonstration on Parliament Hill. Police finally gave

way to the group and allowed them to place a coffin—symbolizing the deaths of Canadian women from illegal abortions—at the doorstep of the prime minister's home.

(CP-Journal Wirephoto)

# Angry Feminists Cry Out For 'Free Abortion' Laws

Some 150 angry feminists laid siege to Prime Minister Trudeau's residence Saturday, demanding that statutes on abortion be removed from the Criminal Code.

The group was part of an Anti-Abortion Law cavalcade which moved from Vancouver across Canada in recent weeks. They staged a demonstration on parliament hill protesting what they say are unfair abortion laws.

RCMP and city police engaged in a minor scuffle with the demonstrators before an hour-an-a-half sit-in began outside the PM's residence on Sussex Street.

Cries of "free abortion" and "Trudeau coward" filled the air as the group surged through police lines. Most of the demonstrators stopped within 20 yards of the house, averting serious violence with police.

Unable to speak to Mr. Trudeau the demonstrators deposited a black coffin and some "items of abortion," including a coathanger, on the

Earlier the group had staged a peaceful demonstration on the hill. The group, 400 strong, wants abortion to be made a private matter between a woman and her doctor.

In addition to removing all abortion provisions from the Criminal Code, the group wants to provide free, safe birth control for all women and set up women's community - controlled clinics giving abortion on demand as well as pre-natal and post-natal care.

The Criminal Code, revised last year, permits therapeutic abortions where a hospital committee of doctors rules that a pregnant woman's health is endangered.

Many demonstrators wore placards across their loins say-

ing, "this uterus is not government property."

On parliament hill they were met by 35 members of an opposing group, the Alliance For Life, which had been silently picketing by the centennial flame.

Grace MacInnes (NDP Vancouver-Kingsway) advised the Abortion Caravan demonstrators to petition members of Parliament.

Doris Power, of Toronto, a pregnant member of the demonstration, said she had been refused a legal, therapeutic abortion and was being "exploited" by a situation she couldn't control.

"To send me around with a ----- petition is just not the answer," she said.

Mrs. MacInnes invited the

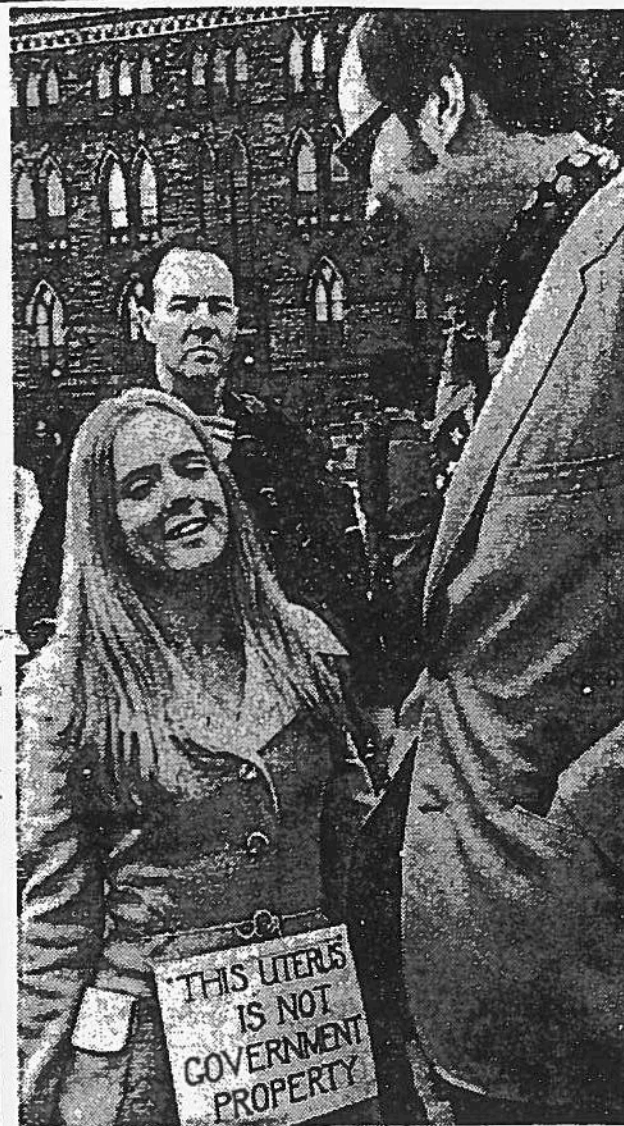
group into a committee room in the parliament buildings.

Just before the meeting started the abortionist group threatened to throw out some Alliance for Life members.

But it was decided they could stay because "they are women."

The meeting indicated the women want immediate action. A telegram was sent to Health Minister Munro telling him it is urgent he return from a World Health Organization meeting in Geneva by Monday.

If no government action comes by Monday, organizers say the march on the PM's residence is only a sign of things to come. One organizer said: "We will declare war on the Canadian government."



ABORTION PROTESTERS Lorne Nystrom (NDP—Yorkton-Melville), right, and his wife Gayle were among 300 demonstrators who marched on the Hill Saturday.

## Abortion backers dump coffin at PM's door

By STAN McDOWELL  
Star staff writer

OTTAWA—Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was burned in effigy, called a murderer and had a coffin planted on his doorstep Saturday in a chain of demonstrations linking supporters of free abortion with opponents of the Viet Nam war and a handful of Quebec separatists.

The black coffin left on the doorstep of the prime minister's house at 24 Sussex Drive had been carted across the country in an Abortion Caravan organized by the Vancouver Women's Liberation movement.

It represented Canadian women who die at the hands of back alley abortionists after being refused legal operations to end unwanted pregnancy.

Women's Liberation leaders marched to the Trudeau residence after an afternoon demonstration attended by some 400 people on Parliament Hill.

In the evening many of them returned to join members of the Viet Nam Mobilization Committee and the ultra-left Students For A Democratic Society for a Viet Nam demonstration at the National War Memorial at which Trudeau and President Richard Nixon were burned in effigy.

At both demonstrations there were chants, in French, of "Trudeau Assassin" (Trudeau's murderer).

and picket signs calling for "liberated women in a free Quebec."

Despite a small counter-demonstration on Parliament Hill by anti-abortion Alliance For Life, and a few objectors among the 150 demonstrators at the War Memorial when Trudeau was burned in effigy, there was no violence.

The only police intervention came when RCMP asked demonstrators to move the effigies a few feet away from wreaths that had been placed at the War Memorial on the 25th anniversary of V-E Day Friday, "so you won't burn the flowers."

At the Parliament Hill demonstrations, attended mainly by young members of the Women's Liberation Movement, including two busloads from Toronto, Dawn Carrell of the Vancouver WLM complained that Health Minister John Munro had gone to a world health conference in Geneva instead of staying in Ottawa to meet the Abortion Caravan.

"He cares more about the health of the women of the world than he does about the health of Canadian women," she charged.

After the public demonstration the women moved in to the railway committee room in the Parliament Hill centre block, made available for them by the government.

But finding no government spokesman there to meet them, the leaders and a militant minority among their supporters decided to take their symbolic coffin to Trudeau's doorstep.

In Trudeau's absence, making last-minute preparations for his Pacific tour which began yesterday, they were met by the Prime Minister's appointments secretary, Gordon Gibson.

But any hope of dialogue collapsed when Gibson addressed one of the women as "Miss," a title which, like "Mrs.," Women's Liberation militants reject.

He was shouted down in spite of his explanation that he was only saying "what my mother always taught me."

## OTTAWA DEMONSTRATION

# Abortion law protesters take coffin to PM's home

By MAGGIE SIGGINS  
Telegram Staff Reporter

OTTAWA — A casket topped with instruments of illegal abortion — coat hangers, a bottle of Lysol and a wreath — was placed on the doorstep of Prime Minister Trudeau's residence Saturday as part of a protest against Canadian abortion laws.

About 650 women and 50 men

from across Canada, carrying signs which read *The State Does Not Belong In The Uterus Of The Nation* and *We Are Furious Females*, paraded on Parliament Hill to ask abortion be dropped from the Criminal Code.

It was likely the biggest demonstration staged for and by women ever held in Ottawa.

The protesters were given permission, seldom granted before, to use

a parliamentary committee room to hold a rally.

However, no official Liberal spokesman was present to meet with the women, although a letter had been sent to every Liberal MP as well as the Prime Minister, Health Minister John Munro and Justice Minister John Turner.

### 'Go home, Turner'

Mr. Munro, who was attending a World Health Organization conference, was greeted in Vienna by about 50 Austrian women liberation members saying "Turner go home to your responsibility."

Yesterday at a press conference the women said they since the Government was not willing to listen to them they were declaring war.

Myrna Wood, of Toronto, said the campaign will consist of applying pressure on hospitals and doctors to perform abortions.

She said great numbers of pregnant women will demand that they present their own case before a hospital committee which grants abortions. Presently, only family doctors present a woman's case to the committees.

After an emotional and heated rally Saturday, during which several women described their experience at the hands of illegal abortionists and their unsuccessful attempts to obtain legal abortions, the Ottawa protesters voted to march on Mr. Trudeau's residence.

### Broke barrier

Although a permit had not been granted, about 300 marched through downtown Ottawa with a police escort, to the Prime Minister's home. Only four RCMPs, however, were on hand to greet the marchers. The protesters quickly broke through a barrier which the officers formed.

The protesters rushed to the Prime Minister's house, but they were stopped practically on his doorstep by about 15 RCMP and Ottawa policemen.

An RCMP officer said this was the first time a group has managed to get on to the Prime Minister's grounds although many have tried. He admitted that the strength of the women had been underestimated.

The women, singing feminists protest songs, then staged an hour-long sit-in on the Prime Minister's front lawn, during which time two police officers, who were continually called pigs by the women, and a government aide attempted to clear the area.

### Obscene

The aide, however, began his plea with "Ladies," apparently a terrible insult in feminists terms, and he was told in obscene terms to leave.

After the women were allowed to deposit the coffin on Mr. Trudeau's doorstep, they left to consider further action.

As well as the repeal of abortion laws, the women want community-controlled birth control clinics to provide free birth control, abortion on demand and pre- and post-natal care.

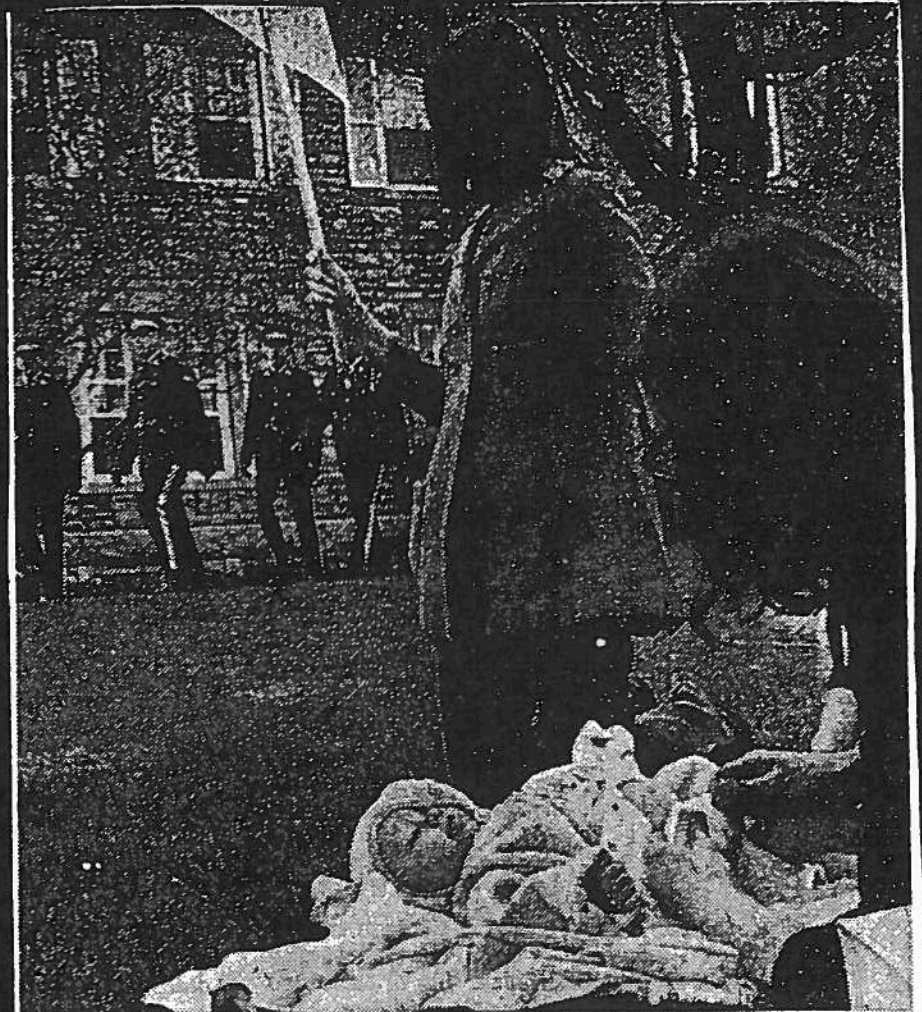
Dr. Henry Morgentaler, a member of the Montreal Humanist Fellowship, an organization which has long advocated abortion on demand, said at the rally only one out 1,000 women who want legal abortions is granted it under the present laws, which, he said, are "absolutely ineffective."

A woman must have the consent of two psychiatrists and her family doctor before she can appear before a three-man hospital board to obtain a legal abortion.

Dr. Morgentaler pointed out that only 50 per cent of hospitals in Canada have boards to consider

abortion. He said it is unfair to turn doctors into judges.

"I consider it is the right to every woman to be able to have a safe abortion, and she should be able to have it with dignity and not be humiliated."



—CP photo

### Some things just can't wait

A mother changes her baby's diaper on the lawns of the Prime Minister's residence Saturday as RCMP constables move in to control demonstrators. About 150 supporters of the Abortion Caravan — a movement for legalized abortions — marched to Mr. Trudeau's home following a demonstration on Parliament Hill.

### Prediction

Dr. Morgentaler predicted that Canadian women will flock to New York State after July 1 when a bill allowing abortion on demand goes into effect there.

MP Grace MacInnis (NDP., Vancouver-Kingsway), who has attempted to get an abortion-on-demand bill on the Parliamentary agenda for sometime, also addressed the group.

She suggested that the women take up petitions to send to the

MPs. The women, however, bowed their heads, saying they could not wait that long.

Several women on welfare, including Doris Powers, of Toronto's Just Society, emphasized the need for free abortion for poor women.

The Ottawa march climaxed the abortion caravan which has traveled across Canada distributing pamphlets and drawing public attention to the issue.

The protesters, including two bus loads of Toronto women and men, drew from many groups. The women's Liberation Movement in cities across Canada was the main organizer, but members of Voice of Women, New Feminists and the Association for the Modernization of Abortion Laws also participated.

Most of the protesters slept in sleeping bags on the lawn during the night.

Monday, May 11, 1970.

## Coffin carried to protest abortion deaths

By SUSAN JANZ

"Who killed this woman? How come she had to die? And what's the reason why?" This refrain was chanted by members of the Women's Liberation Movement during their Mother's Day demonstration.

The protest started at 2 p.m. Saturday with a march from City Hall to Memorial Park. The procession was headed by seven girls dressed in long robes with their faces painted white to symbolize death. Six carried a black coffin to commemorate the death of 2,000 Canadian women each year from illegal abortion. They also carried knitting needles, the symbol of one method of carrying out abortion.

At Memorial Park, the group held a dramatic reading of

a poem called "Who killed This Woman". Written by a member of the Women's Liberation Movement, the five verses were addressed to the quack, the medical men, the school; administration, the Church and the state.

Doreen Plowman, a representative from the Congress of Canadian Women, addressed the crowd and said in part: "As women won the right to vote — they'll win the right to abort." A second speaker, Helen Nelson, spoke on behalf of the Women's Liberation Movement. She stated that members of the movement had taken an abortion cavalcade to Ottawa to present a brief to Prime Minister Trudeau, Justice Turner and Health Minister Munro. The brief demanded that the abor-

tion laws be repealed; that those prosecuted under the laws be given amnesty; that the government provide access to free birth control for all women; and that community clinics for birth control and abortion be set up.

Miss Nelson went on to say that women die every year in Canada from illegal abortion and "the government of Canada killed these women by their unjust laws." She claimed that the government and businessmen are at fault because women are not taken seriously. She ended her speech by saying, "We are angry women . . . we want the abortion laws changed now!"

The women then carried the coffin over to the legislative building and placed it in the front hall. They later removed

it. They spoke with Education Minister Saul Miller and discussed with him the lack of sex education in schools. Mr. Miller informed them that there were no facilities in Manitoba for training teachers to give sex education.

A Women's Liberation member estimated that the marchers numbered around 100. There were several youths marching with the women. All carried placards and banners with legends such as "Abortion is our right," "Save our sisters" and "Doctors Not Butchers."

One youth in the crowd stated that he was marching because he felt that women should have control over their own bodies. He went on to comment "I personally am concerned with the woman's role in society. Capitalism is

an exploitative system, but it exploits women doubly. Society as a whole must change."

An elderly woman marching said she was not associated with Women's Liberation, but had come down on her own "because the laws are unfair to everyone." She went on to say, "I came to help my daughters." Commenting further, she said she found the deaths of women from illegal abortion, "very, very sad."

In an interview later, members of the Women's Liberation Movement were asked if they considered the demonstration a success. They said it was a success in terms of public exposure, and in the sense that women outside the movement were shown the government does not take women seriously.

## List for PM

### Brief outlines feminists demands

A six-page brief outlining the Canadian Women's Liberation Movement's demands for abortion repeal and for reform of birth control information and distribution, read to a rally of 400 on the Hill was left at Prime Minister Trudeau's residence after Saturday's protest.

The demands for repeal of any mention of abortion from the Criminal Code, are accompanied by demands for pardons for persons already charged under certain sections of the law.

Two other legislative changes urged are government provision of access to "free and safe birth control for all women" and the setting up of "women's community-controlled clinics to provide free birth control, abortion on demand and pre-natal and post-natal care under federal-provincial financing.

Other demands in the brief include removal of hospital committees currently authorized to decide whether or not a legal abortion can be performed, free access to birth control for all women from puberty, rights to maternity leave with pay, job security during childbirth, equal pay, low-cost housing for mothers alone with children and child care facilities at places of employment.

Investigation into the haz-

ards of the Pill and other birth control methods is listed among the demands, along with enforced enclosure listing Pill hazards on all packages sold, food and drug directorate research into new, safe methods of birth control for both men and women and into abortion procedures.

According to the brief, 19 out of 20 women who want abortions are refused by their doctors before getting as far as a hospital committee. The brief estimates that one or two abortions in 100 are legal.

Further, the brief states that one of every four Canadian woman has an abortion sometime in her life.

The death rate is 1,000 to 2,000 per year from illegal abortions, says the brief, with 20,000 to 40,000 women landing in hospitals with complications.

## Ladies talking tough to make their points

As demonstrations become less and less of a rarity, written slogans and biting comments become more and more of a specialty.

Among signs and remarks at Saturday's abortion demonstration:

"This uterus is not government property." A sign worn about the waists of numerous marchers, including a toddler barely old enough to speak.

"The state should not become the owner of a pregnant uterus," said by Dr. Henry Morgentaler.

"It's not very nice of you to call policemen pigs," said by Gordon Gibson to demonstrators on grounds of prime minister's residence.

"Trudeau said the government has no business in the bedrooms of the nation, but they're sure ready to catch you when you come out."

"Who are the real bastards?" said by a pregnant woman regarding officialdom's discrimination against unwed mothers.

"The government says it has no place in the bedrooms of the nation. Well it has no place in the womb of a woman either," said by Grace MacInnis (NDP—Vancouver-Kingsway).

"If Nixon's mother could have had free abortions think what the world would be spared."

"Get your heads out of the universities and your asses down to the slums where the problems begin." Doris Power in momentary outburst at predominantly middle-class supporters.

"Up from the kitchen! Up from the bedroom! Up from under! Women unite!" A chant sung by demonstrators during march.

## Pledge War Against Gov't On Abortion

Organizers of the Abortion Caravan Sunday re-affirmed their threat to declare war against the government, the Canadian Medical Association and hospitals across Canada if statutes on abortion is not removed from the Criminal Code by 3 p.m. today.

Myrna Wood, of Toronto, said at a news conference, the government did not even have enough interest to listen to the more than 300 demonstrators who met inside a committee room in the parliament buildings and before the prime minister's private house Saturday.

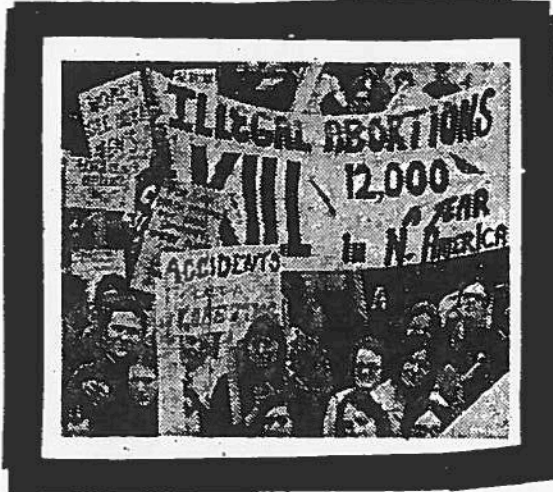
Asked what tactics the threatened war might include, the anti-abortion law group would say only it was going to work to fill hospitals across Canada with women who need and want abortions.

Nancy Peterson, of Toronto, said the supporters of Abortion Calvacade which arrived here Saturday hopes to show the government how many Canadian women really want abortions.

# THE CALGARY HERALD

MAY 11, 1970

## 'Free-Abortionists' Bring House To Halt



### Gallery Uproar Jolts Commons

By BEN TIERNEY and PETER CALAMAI  
(The Herald's Ottawa Bureau, copyright 1970)

OTTAWA — Shouting and chanting from every part of the public galleries, about 100 women forced adjournment of the House of Commons sitting today.

The women were demonstrating in favor of free abortions and it was clearly a well-organized protest. They rose in various parts of the spectators' galleries of the Commons to shout in favor of unrestricted abortions for women.

It is the first time since 1967 that the House of Commons has been adjourned because of a demonstration.

Then, there was a bomb explosion in a washroom near the Commons chamber which resulted in the death of one man.

The women rose at first one at a time and were physically carried from the galleries by Commons guards, but eventually they rose in unison to chant "free abortions on demand."

In response, the Commons Speaker at first ordered the demonstrators be removed and when that proved impossible, that all public galleries be cleared of all spectators.

When that also proved impossible the Speaker adjourned the House.

#### STARTED

The demonstration began shortly before 3 p.m. EDT (noon MST) just as the Commons question period was coming to an end.

Earlier in the question period Andrew Brewin of the NDP had asked the government if it intended to make many changes in the federal laws governing abortion in the near future.

Justice Minister John Turner told Mr. Brewin that the government was involved in a continuous review of statistics in an attempt to determine how

effective changes in the law governing abortion had been.

No injuries were reported as a result of the scuffles between Commons guards and demonstrators although the exchanges were at times violent.

While still being carried from the galleries the women continued to shout at MPs on the Commons floor below and guards were seen to gag the women with their hands.

As Commons security officers hauled some of the female protesters from the members' galleries one protestor said she represented the Women's Liberation Movement.

At least three of the protesters were handcuffed to their seats in the opposition gallery and it took 15 minutes before security officers freed them and pushed them from the chamber.

Twenty minutes after the demonstration began security officers cleared all the gallery doors and locked the entrances to the Commons.

The last few demonstrators set up a chant of "Trudeau assassin, Trudeau assassin."

"Trudeau is responsible for the deaths of 2,000 women a year," said one demonstrator who like most was in her mid-twenties.

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1970

## MPs study ways to curb disruptions

By BRIAN McKENNA  
The Star's Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA — In the wake of an historic disruption of Parliament by the Women's Liberation Movement, shaken party leaders are today considering far ranging measures to prevent similar outbreaks by other militant protest groups.

Some 35 impassioned women — chanting "free abortion on request" — stunned the House of Commons with a spectacular demonstration yesterday and eventually forced it to adjourn.

Justice Minister John Turner said he will not reconsider liberalizing the abortion laws as a result of the incident.

The possibility of laying criminal charges against some of the women is being studied — but is unlikely as there appears to be nothing in the law to cover their action.

However, the government today is believed to be on the verge of introducing an amendment to the criminal code that would make it a crime for spectators to disrupt the House of Commons.

MPs from all parties are alarmed that yesterday's fireworks may catch on like aircraft hijackings, with other movements following swiftly on the heels of the women's demonstration.

Veteran parliamentary observers said that it was the first time in history that the Canadian Parliament has been forced to adjourn as the result of such an incident.

At the height of the demonstration a water bomb was thrown into the chamber. It landed in front of a startled MP but failed to burst.

Although security guards were quick to move in when the speeches and chants began, at least a dozen of the women had chained themselves to their seats in the galleries.

Several of the women are nursing lacerations which, after security officers tried to yank them free of their

chains. At least one officer, who tried to clap his hand over the mouth of a protester, was bitten in return.

The demonstration caught the Commons — and its security — completely by surprise.

It broke in the middle of a plodding question period.

A woman in the top row of the visitors gallery suddenly stood up and began a speech demanding a repeal of the present abortion law.

As security guards made a beeline for her, another feminist popped up on the other side of the gallery with a similar speech.

From there it snowballed with feminists bolting to their feet in all sections of the galleries faster than security officers could quiet them.

After the initial surprise some MPs reacted with loud laughter, others with desk thumping, but when a feminist screamed down that the women were dead serious and the issue wasn't a laughing matter the reaction turned to anger.

In the face of a rising chant "free abortion on request" from the feminists who had chained themselves to the solid wooden arms of their seats, the speaker gave up an attempt to continue and called for the House temporarily to adjourn.

Guards rushed into the galleries with wire cutters and hack saws to cut the women loose.

During the uproar inside by the

estimated 35 feminists, another 80 were staging a colorful demonstration on the steps at the top of Parliament Hill.

Cloaked in black with red headbands covering their hair, the women marched slowly around a black coffin symbolic of the women who have died as a result of illegal abortions.

Most of the protesters inside were forcefully dragged down long corridors and ejected through a side entrance. Four were detained for about half an hour and were photographed and questioned.

Spokesmen for the militant feminists said they would not have resorted to the demonstration if a government minister had met with them as promised on Saturday.

"Few people seem to realize that women are being butchered by quack abortionists and are dying because of the present law," said Lynn Gibson of Winnipeg moments after she was heaved out the side door of the Parliament buildings.

### Missed minister

Last year slight liberalization of the abortion law, she said, was totally useless.

As it stands now the law stipulates that an abortion can only be performed if a woman's physical or mental health is endangered. A woman seeking an abortion must persuade a doctor to present her case before a hospital committee.

The feminists argue that the law is so encumbered with stumbling blocks that most women seeking relief are frustrated to the point where they stumble back into the hands of the quacks.

The law also discriminates against the poor, few of whom could ever find

(over)



ACTIVIST DEMONSTRATING IN OTTAWA



# Women halt House session

a doctor to argue their case before a hospital abortion committee.

"The government controls our bodies. We want to regain that control."

Last Saturday 400 members of the movement from a dozen cities across the nation marched peacefully on Parliament Hill, decrying the present laws. When no government minister came out to meet them, they headed for the prime minister's residence, but he refused to come out.

The feminists said that Health Minister Munro pledged six weeks ago in Vancouver that he would meet with the movement when it came to Ottawa, but Mr. Munro was out of the country attending a health ministers' conference over the weekend.

Justice Minister Turner, who piloted last year's change in the abortion law, said that the women never made a request to meet with a minister. "They just issued ultimatums."

"Anyway, he told reporters, "even if we had met with them, they would still have carried through what they did today."

Sources inside the movement say the contrary is true. "We didn't plan this action until Sunday. We were really frustrated. We had to wake them up and get the message through."

Although qualified support for their demonstration came from at least two NDP members of Parliament, the vast majority of government and Opposi-

tion MPs were infuriated.

"I think these ladies don't understand the democratic process," said Mr. Turner. "I don't think that this would be the way to convince Canadian public opinion as to the legitimacy or lack of legitimacy, of their cause."

Lorne Nystrom, at 24 the youngest member in the Commons, said: "I wouldn't have done it myself — but I can understand their frustrations."

The NDP member thought the action could be justified if they had exhausted all the other channels of protest.

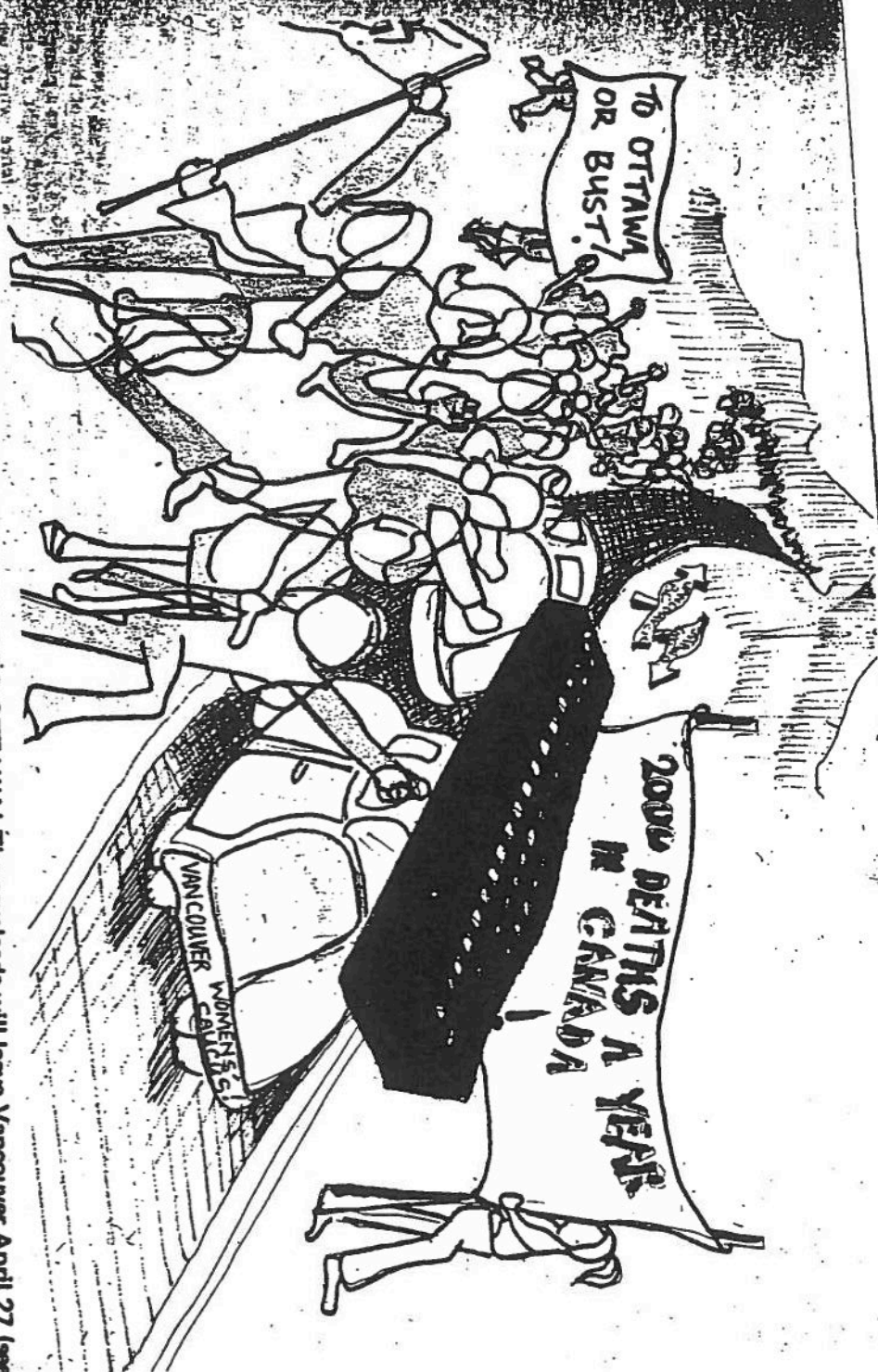
"But if it did nothing else, it sure as hell shook up some of the old MPs. At least they'll start thinking about the issue now."

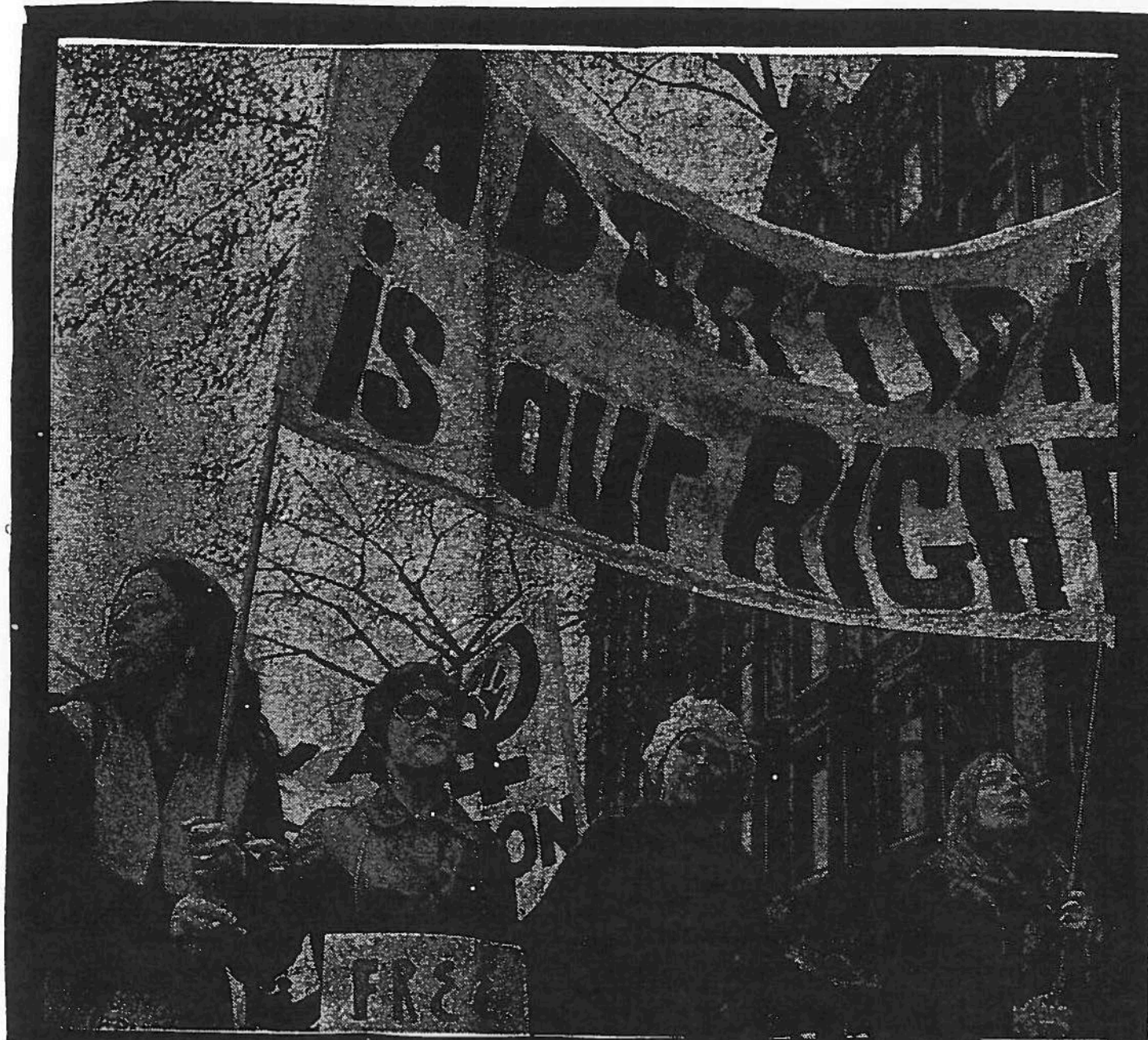
When leaders of the various parties meet with Commons Speaker Lucien Lamoureux today, a proposal to install a plexiglass screen around the chamber will be at the top of the agenda.

The screen would serve the double purpose of shutting out all noise from the public galleries as well as preventing any missile thrown from the galleries from landing in the House chamber.

Although the possibility of restricting admittance to the galleries is discussed after every untoward incident in the Parliament buildings, party leaders and Commons security forces have been unable to come up with an acceptable formula.

JOIN THE ABORTION CAMPAIGN CAVALCADE TO OTTAWA! The cavalcade will leave Vancouver April 27 (see story & schedule p. 2) and will stop in major cities, with women joining in along the route. The women will reach Ottawa before Mother's Day demanding that abortion be removed from the Criminal Code. Demonstrations will be held across Canada in support of the Ottawa's action. ABORTION IS OUR RIGHT!  
 (For more news on the abortion campaign see: Trudeau Passes the Buck, p. 2; Women Confront Loffmark, p. 3; Defend Makaroff, p. 7; Edmonton John's Campaign, p. 7; Open Letter to Trudeau, p. 8.)





Margo  
Duane

Gwen



A workman on the Hill prepares to haul away female demonstrators' coffin as part of the day's trash.

### Turner turned off by abortion girls

Southam News Services

Justice Minister Turner, visibly angered by the demonstration that forced adjournment of the Commons Monday, says he does not expect further changes in Canada's abortion laws during this Parliament.

Mr. Turner said the Commons had spent 65-80 days on the changes made to the Criminal Code during the last session.

"I don't think it (abortion) will be reviewed again by this Parliament."

Normally a good-humored minister, Mr. Turner was annoyed at the way the women demonstrators had forced Speaker Lucien Lamoureux to adjourn the afternoon sitting of the Commons.

-Citizen-UPI staff photos

# The Ottawa Citizen

Ottawa, Tuesday, May 12, 1970

## Pro-abortion protest

# House screams to a halt



By Greg Connolley  
Citizen staff writer

Screaming, ranting women demonstrating for free abortion forced the Commons to a halt Monday, causing fears that similar protests could cripple the parliamentary system.

Chaining themselves to chairs in the galleries, the shouting, gesticulating women brought the deliberations of the all-male assembly in the Commons to a dead stop.

Solicitor-General McIlraith warned that if other, more sinister groups take up this tactic, Parliament would be unable to function.

"We might be forced to close the Commons galleries to the public — a most regrettable action which I hope will never be necessary," he declared.

Angered when no government minister would receive them Saturday, the women carefully organized their protest plan and yesterday, with the aid of MP's passes, infiltrated the public and private galleries.

Parliamentary officials today were investigating mass forgery of signatures of MPs on entry cards used by the women to get into the Commons.

Ambrose Peddle (Newfoundland), Jack Cullen (Sarnia) and Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin) were among MPs whose names were forged. Mr. Cullen said it was evident that the same person had signed various MPs names to a number of cards. Some of those victimized, he said, strongly opposed any easing of abortion law.

The Commons was in its question period just before 3 p.m., when the first feminine voice exclaimed: "Free abortion on demand." When police checked this demonstrator, other women got up and shouted.

Speaker Lucien Lamoureux called repeatedly for order but the women weren't listening. Initially, MPs laughed at the disorder, but later they didn't find it so amusing.

Mr. McIlraith said this was the first time the Commons had been forced to suspend its sitting in such a startling and shocking manner.

### Nazi-style tactics

Wallace Nesbitt (PC—Oxford) said "It was something like the tactics the Nazis used in the thirties to break the German parliamentary system."

The Speaker convened a meeting of party House leaders this morning to tighten security. At the very least it will become more difficult to get into

Commons galleries. Consideration is also being given to glass separating the galleries from the Commons.

But yesterday women popped up in the galleries with such studied timing that the Commons protective staff was run ragged.

"Clear the galleries," demanded the Speaker. But it wasn't all that easy because the abortion group had chained their legs to gallery chairs and railings.

Speaker Lamoureux saw he had been defeated and observed: "In view of the difficulties, I suggest the House be adjourned." MPs pounded their desks in approval and then dispersed.

But these crusaders weren't through yet. Donning black head coverings they gathered in a mock funeral procession with a dummy coffin and marched in front of the Peace Tower, exclaiming in dramatic tones: "No more women will die."

They finally straggled away from the Hill, evidently well pleased with their efforts. The coffin was carted away in a push-cart by a phlegmatic pipe-smoking groundskeeper.

Ironically, the only woman MP, Grace MacInnis, who is an ardent champion of unrestricted abortion, was absent, and left her male colleagues to cope uncertainly with the female invaders.

After hours in Commons, more slogans outside

# The Gazette

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1970

## Women yelling for abortion halt Commons

By GORDON PAPE

OTTAWA — (Gazette) — In all its long history, the House of Commons has never seen anything like it. Shouting demands for total repeal of abortion laws, dozens of members of the Women's Liberation Movement yesterday threw the House into turmoil and forced an unprecedented half hour adjournment of proceedings.

The normally staid Commons chamber was turned into something resembling a madhouse.

Security guards wrestled with yelling, screaming women, attempting to silence them, while Speaker Lucien Lamoureux called repeatedly for order and MPs watched in amazement.

### TIED TO SEATS

In tactics reminiscent of the suffragette movement, some of the women chained themselves to gallery seats and bound themselves together with wire, making it impossible to evict them quickly.

The Speaker was finally forced to order a temporary adjournment of the House and to demand that all galleries be cleared — the first time within memory that the Commons had to suspend its business because of a disturbance in the galleries.

The demonstration was a masterpiece of timing and organization. Members of the movement, who had demonstrated on Parliament Hill on Saturday for more liberal abortion laws, managed to infiltrate almost every part of the galleries.

### GALLERY SEATS

Several of the demonstrators also managed to obtain seats in the Members' gallery and in the Opposition gallery, where special passes are required for entrance.

At 2.45 p.m., with the House in the middle of the daily question period, a slim woman about 30 years old rose to her feet in the last row of the north public gallery and loudly demanded the repeal of the abortion laws "that murder 2,000 of our sisters every year."

Security guards rushed to silence her, but as they reached her another woman jumped up in the Opposition gallery.

Suddenly, they were everywhere, shouting things like "free abortion on demand," "women are declaring war on this country," "Trudeau assassin."

One angry girl, incensed by the refusal of Justice Minister Turner to appear at the Saturday demonstration, kept shouting at the justice minister: "You'll hear from us, Turner."

### COULDN'T COPE

Security guards, hampered by the large number of yelling women and the fact that some of them were bound to their seats, were unable to cope with the uproar, leaving the Speaker with no choice but to adjourn the House.

The galleries were immediately cleared, and the guards set to work evicting the women who remained, shouting speeches and slogans

(Continued on Page 2)

2

The GAZETTE, Montreal, Tues., May 12, 1970

## House shut down

(Continued from Page 1) at the MPs milling about on the floor of the House.

Several of the women charged later that the security officers were unnecessarily rough in the process.

One Vancouver girl who refused to give her name told reporters: "They gagged us. They lifted my sister beside

me and pushed her through against the wall so she was coughing and couldn't breathe.

"The other guy grabbed my mouth very firmly and was holding it and trying to stick his hand in my mouth. He forced me backward over the chair so I was almost fainting and wouldn't let me sit down."

Most reporters watching the incident felt, however, that the security officers exercised restraint and did not resort to undue roughness with the demonstrators.

No arrests were made, although about half a dozen of the women were detained briefly and then released.

Even the demonstrators themselves were unsure how many people actually took part in the melee. One of the women told reporters they had tried to get about 35 of their members in the galleries, but were unsure how many had made it.

Following their eviction from the Parliament buildings, the women staged a protest demonstration in front of the Peace Tower.

Donning red bandanas, they chanted "No more women will die" and "Free abortion on demand" and then listened to one of their leaders tell them: "We will no longer permit irresponsible male legislators to use this law to repress us. The women of Canada answer with fire."

The women, most of whom appeared to be in their teens or early twenties, were part of the cross-country anti-abortion caravan which wound up in Ottawa with a demonstration on Saturday. A large part of the contingent was from Montreal.

# The Globe and Mail

TORONTO, TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1970

## Demand free abortions

# Angry women halt sitting of Parliament

By CLYDE SANGER  
Globe and Mail Reporter  
OTTAWA — Thirty women from the Cross-Canada Abortion Caravan, some of them chained to their seats, created such a disturbance inside the House of Commons yesterday that Speaker Lucien Lamoureux first ordered the galleries cleared and then ad-

journal House business for 30 minutes.

It took security guards more than 15 minutes to clear the chamber of the demonstrating women, who want abortions made available on demand.

Such a disturbance is without precedence in Parliament, an official of the reference

branch said afterward. (In May, 1966, the business of the Commons was suspended for nearly an hour when a bomb exploded in a nearby washroom, killing the man who had apparently brought it.)

The Speaker reacted after five minutes of disorders in which women strategically posted around four different

galleries rose in their seats to shout slogans for free abortions. One apparently had connected a microphone to the simultaneous translation system connected to every gallery seat, adding an electronic assist to the din her companions were creating with pure lung power.

Security guards seemed to be confused by the good organization of the demonstrators. As they turned to silence and remove one woman, another some distance away would rise to add to the chorus of denunciation of existing abortion laws that permit abortions only with the approval of a special hospital committee that rules that continued pregnancy is likely to endanger a woman's health.

The demonstration started when one woman rose in the gallery and started making a speech calling for a change in abortion laws. When the guards started to remove her, the others raised the clamor.

Betsy Meadley of West Vancouver, led the women in their chant. She said the demonstrators are mostly under 25 and came from Halifax to Victoria.

One girl broke down in tears but the others chanted solemnly, then were quieted for a brief speech by Mrs. Meadley in which they were told that abortion laws "kill 2,000 of our sisters each year."

"The legislators made this murderous law," Mrs. Meadley said. "They won't listen to us. We are forced to declare war. Women are enslaved."

She said they would fight government and the medical profession until abortion laws are repealed.

Removal of chains from about 10 of the women was a slow process for the nonplused guards. The women had used choker chains, wire or bicycle padlocks and chains around their ankles, and guards had to obtain cutters to snip them loose.

One woman screamed as the guards worked to free her, another said later, rubbing a chafed wrist, that "they took the chains off after nearly breaking our arms."

Authorities said no legal action will be taken. Most of the demonstrators were simply escorted out of the Centre

Block. A few were held briefly for questioning.

Mr. Lamoureux said in an interview later he would meet House leaders for all parties this morning to discuss the incident but he refused to say whether the subject for consideration would be a change in the rules governing security in the galleries.

He said his first reaction to the outburst had been nothing but surprise and that his decision to clear the galleries was based on standing orders granting him discretionary powers to do so.

The demonstration was not a criminal offense, he said, but it was "contrary to the decorum of the House."

He said more details about the demonstration, and the possible issuing by MPs of gallery passes to demonstrators, would be contained in a report being prepared by the Commons Security Staff. He would

whether the report would be made public.

The demonstration was planned after the Abortion Caravan arrived in Ottawa at the end of its journey from Vancouver, and found that neither Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau nor the ministers most involved—Health Minister John Munro and Justice Minister John Turner—could or would meet them on Saturday.

On Saturday 450 supporters of abortion law reform held a protest meeting on Parliament Hill. Afterward about 150 of them went a mile farther to demonstrate outside the Prime Minister's house on Sussex Drive. Yesterday about 70 joined in the protests, either inside or outside the House of Commons.

After the 30 who demonstrated inside the Commons had been dragged out, they joined others who had failed to get into the House and marched around a black-draped coffin chanting, "no more women will die."

By then each had on her head a red scarf in the style of women of the French Revolution. One explained it was symbolic of having "declared war on Parliament."

A Vancouver woman, who refused to give her name, led the group in burning a large parchment on which the words of Section 237 of the Criminal Code had been written.

She called this section, which makes any woman attempting to obtain an abortion liable to two years' imprisonment and any person engaged in carrying out an abortion liable to life imprisonment, an "archaic and cruel law."

"They were burning the parchment," she said, "because we no longer recognize laws that destroy rather than protect lives." She added: "Women of Canada answer with fire the blood of their sisters."

The Abortion Caravan's brief, published Saturday, said between 1,000 and 2,000 Canadian women die each year from illegal abortions, while as many as 40,000 women enter hospital with complications from illegal abortions.

Their figures were challenged yesterday by Mr. Turner, who called them "a mere guess." He said the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was compiling statistics on "both positive and negative aspects" of abortion since the Criminal Code was amended last year to allow hospital abortions if a committee of doctors in an approved hospital decides the life or health of the mother is in danger.

He said it would take time to review such figures. "I doubt whether this law would be reviewed in this Parliament."

His prediction, that women could expect no further abortion reform before the next election, was made to reporters after the House business was suspended. During a question period, he answered a question from Andrew Brewin (NDP, Greenwood) by simply saying the Government was "reviewing statistics on a continuing basis."

Mr. Brewin had quoted the DBS figures, released on Friday, that hospitals in six provinces had carried out 235 therapeutic abortions during the first three months of 1970, and asked whether the Government intended to find remedies for what must remain a large number of "back-alley abortions."

(The six provinces are Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The DBS figure was not broken down by provinces.)

Asked whether the demonstration had occurred because he refused to meet the caravan leaders on Saturday, Mr. Turner said curtly: "I doubt that. It's more likely that these young women don't understand the democratic process."

He said the group had made no request for a meeting, but had simply sent a series of ultimatums and had made "no attempt to find a mutually convenient time."

While the Criminal Code amendments were under review last year, Mr. Turner said, he saw "over 100 groups, some for and others against a wider abortion law. I have always had a policy to keep my office door open."

But he would not submit to "ultimatum, or public blackmail." These ladies demonstrate a lack of patience that makes dialogue virtually impossible.

Mr. Turner said his reaction to the demonstration in the Commons was of "surprise and dismay that these young women understand the democratic process so little. I would not think this would be the way to convince the Canadian public of the legitimacy of their cause."

Acting Prime Minister Mitchell Sharp also told reporters he thought the demonstrators had "set their cause back. To interrupt the House

from the galleries and chain themselves to their seats is the kind of action taken, not by people who are serious, but by people who must feel they cannot convince people of the urgency of their cause."

Mr. Sharp began with the flippant complaint that the demonstration was hardly fair to himself on his first day as acting Prime Minister. (He was also celebrating his birthday. He was 59 yesterday.) He said he had been in To-

ministers had been in their home constituencies and unable to meet the Caravan organizers.

Yesterday the women's anger seemed strongest against Mr. Turner. While Mr. Trudeau had spent Saturday preparing for his departure on his Pacific tour and Mr. Munro was at a World Health Organization meeting in Geneva, Mr. Turner was in Ottawa dealing with normal engagements. The women had also heard him given an answer to Mr. Brewin's question which they considered evasive.

One of the demonstrators removed from the Commons, Marcy Cohen of Vancouver, said Mr. Turner apparently expected them to "wait two years for the statistics." They would not accept such delays. "We will not stand for women to die or be mutilated. We did it (the demonstration) to show we declare war."

Miss Cohen said the abortion reform groups—she belonged to the Women's Caucus, a Vancouver affiliate of the Women's Liberation Movement—had written to every MP about the caravan's plans and brief. They had received only a dozen replies, and 10 of these had come from New Democrats.

It is clear, however, that at least one Liberal MP helped the demonstrators gain access to the Commons galleries, without knowing their purpose. At least two of the women who chained themselves to their seats, had taken places in the Government members' gallery. Admission to it is gained only by a card issued from a Liberal MP's office.

Asked whether his office had issued any cards yesterday, Mr. Turner said he didn't know. House Leader Donald S. Macdonald checked his own office later and found his staff had issued none.

The first interruption came from the back of the public gallery at 2:45 p.m.

Mr. Brewin's question had been asked 20 minutes earlier. Mr. Brewin said afterward he had no idea the demonstration was planned, but added: "They have a sound and urgent case. I respect them for feeling strongly about it."

(over)

The official Hansard account of the incident reads: "Editor's note: At this point there was an interruption from the public gallery developing into a series of interruptions which continued until the adjournment of the House."

Hansard records the speaker calling for order and asking Robert Simpson (PC, Churchill) to continue, and George Hees (PC, Prince Edward-Hastings) intervening with the comment: "I am all for her."

The Hansard account gives no record of the phrases shouted by the women. But the most frequently used were "Free abortion on demand" and "We demand free abortion." They also shouted: "We want control of our bodies," "No more women will die" and "They have killed 2,000 of our sisters."

As soon as the first demonstrator was grabbed from the public gallery and hustled to the door, another stood up in the Opposition gallery (above and behind Mr. Turner) to add her voice. As guards tackled her, others stood up in the Government and ladies' galleries. One guard said: "They were popping up all over the place."

One woman shouted, as she was pulled out of the Government gallery: "You may be putting us out of the gallery, but you haven't seen the last of us yet. We are solid and we have the women of the country behind us."

Another, who chained her ankle to a seat, said a guard "nearly strangled" her in attempting first to silence and then removed her.

Some security guards did clap hands over the women's mouths, reaching them from behind the seats and pulling them backward. In other cases it seemed the guards hesitated to use any force, and were puzzled about what to do against this well-organized militancy.

# Winnipeg Free Press

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1970

## Protesters Force House To Adjourn Women Carry 'Abortion War' Into Commons Galleries

By VICTOR MACKIE

OTTAWA (Staff) — Complete disorder and pandemonium took over in the Commons Monday as 31 young women rose one after another in the public and members' galleries and screamed at startled MPs "free abortions on demand."

It was chaos and confusion of the street demonstrations moved into the galleries of the House of Commons.

A harassed and frustrated protective staff found it impossible to cope with the well-planned and co-ordinated moves to disrupt the proceedings of Parliament. They attempted to forcibly remove the women but found many of them were handcuffed or chained to their chairs. The House was forced to adjourn.

Bedlam broke loose at 2:45 p.m. For five frantic, desperate minutes the guards struggled with the squirming, shouting and screaming women before Mr. Speaker Lucien Lamoureux, who had frequently called for "order, order," recognized the difficulties the protective staff were having and announced the House will be adjourned at this moment.

Bud Simpson (PC-Churchill) was asking a question on the floor of the chamber when suddenly the proceeding were disrupted by a high-pitched female voice chanting, "Free abortions on demand." Another, levelling her scorn at Justice Minister John Turner because he had not received their delegation Saturday, screamed, "You'll hear from us Turner." The handsome justice minister looked up shocked and surprised at the galleries.

Members of the protective staff quickly moved in on the two women. They were located in the public gallery behind the press gallery. They tried to quieten them and pleaded with them to leave the chamber. The women refused. As they were being forcibly ejected another woman in the gallery at the opposite end began shouting.

Protective staff officers moved in on that woman protester, when another two in the galleries on both sides of the House took up the chant for better abortion legislation. The officers were outnumbered and could not cope with the large group of women who began popping up all over the galleries, adding to the general din and commotion.

Mr. Speaker ordered the public galleries cleared.

But the protective staff found that easier said than done. They had to send for heavy wire cutters to remove the handcuffs and chains that clamped many of the women to the seats.

Later, outside the Parliament Buildings, the women, who had been escorted out of the House of Commons, were joined by others. They held a rally on the steps of the Parliament Buildings under the Peace Tower, conducting a "mock funeral" and burned a facsimile of the Criminal Code.

Genevieve Taped of Saskatoon, her voice shaking with emotion, addressed the group. "We are forced to declare war. All Canadian women are enslaved. We will not longer permit legislators to control our bodies."

Spokesmen for the group of about 100 women said they had decided to move in and disrupt the proceedings in Parliament when they failed to get any sort of a reception from the government. They had travelled from as far away as Vancouver on the west coast and Halifax on the east coast. Women from Calgary, Winnipeg and other major cities, including Toronto and Montreal, had joined them to march in protest on Parliament Hill Saturday.

They had been informed by Prime Minister Trudeau's office they should meet with Justice Minister Turner because the prime minister was too busy to see them.

Mr. Turner had not seen them, they said. He explained they had "demanded" he meet them and issued ultimatums. He said there had been no formal request for a meeting.

After the galleries were finally cleared the House went back into session at 3:18 p.m. Only the press were admitted to their gallery. The other galleries were locked.

Few MPs were in the chamber. Most were outside discussing the incident, one of the best organized ever to disrupt Parliament.

Even when the militant farmers marched on Ottawa they did not succeed in forcing Parliament to adjourn. The women by strategically posting groups of women in all lobbies and sending them into action simultaneously overtaxed the protective staff.

The women were not arrested or detained. There is nothing in the rules of Parliament providing for charges to be laid against the general public.

However, in 1967 and again in 1968 Real Caouette, Creditiste

leader and a member of Parliament, introduced a private bill calling for an amendment to the Criminal Code. It would enable charges to be laid against a person or persons breaking the peace of Parliament and interfering with its proceedings. The bill reached first reading in 1967 but did not even get that far in 1968. Private bills seldom go beyond first or second reading stages.

The women posted in the members' galleries could only gain admission to those seats through passes issued by members of Parliament. Speaker Lamoureux said he had summoned a meeting of party leaders for Tuesday noon to discuss the incident and ways and means of tightening up on the issuing of such passes.

MP's reacted differently to the demonstration.

Some smiled and said they had to congratulate the young ladies on the effectiveness of their organization.

"They had guts and they got their point across," said Andrew Brewin (NDP — Greenwood).

Other MP's were dismayed. They said other groups would probably take similar steps to gain recognition.

The march of women in favor of easier abortion laws converged on Ottawa over the weekend. They came from all across Canada. But they could find no cabinet minister to listen to their protests and representations.

Prime Minister Trudeau's office explained he was too busy preparing to depart Sunday for his tour of the Pacific. The women protested that if he could find time on short notice for the former Beatle member John Lennon and his bride Yoko, the prime minister should be able to give them half an hour. He gave Lennon an hour's audience.

Health Minister John Munro was not in Ottawa. He is in Geneva at a World Health Organization meeting. When the delegation was referred to Justice Minister Turner they claimed they got a "curt rejection" signed by his executive assistant. (Saturday morning when the delegation was looking for the minister, Mr. Turner was playing tennis near his home in Rockcliffe, posh Ottawa suburb.)

Irate and incensed, the delegation marched from Parli-

ament Hill to the official residence of the prime minister at 24 Sussex Street. There they were told by Mr. Trudeau's appointments secretary that he was not at home and that there was no one there to hear their pleas for better abortion laws.

Dodie Walker of Vancouver, Monday accused the government members of "extreme arrogance" and "gross irresponsibility" for their failure to delegate a member of the cabinet to meet the group of nearly 400 women.

The only MPs to show up over the weekend and talk to the ladies were New Democrats David Lewis, Grace MacInnis and Lorne Nystrom, along with Progressive Conservative House leader Gerald Baldwin. Miss Walker told reporters the women had been trying since March 19 to get a hearing from the cabinet.

Outside the House Mr. Brewin

said of the women, "I think they've got a lot of guts and gumption. If they have a good case they have got to find some way to bring it to the attention of the public and members of parliament. This they have now done."

"Perhaps the way they did it was a bit dubious. But remember their grandmothers had to do the same thing, fighting for women's rights. They were pushed and shoved around in the suffragette movement but they finally made their point."

Harold Winch (NDP — Vancouver East) said, "This is the worst disturbance I've seen around here in my 17 years."

Gordon Blair (L — Grenville Carleton) shook his head in sorrow. He said he was afraid "the MPs can expect more and more of these sort of demonstrations in the future."

Solicitor-general George McIlraith, the senior cabinet minister in charge of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canada's top security officer, was frankly "alarmed." He said he was "deeply disturbed" by the implications of the demonstration.

Parliament had been overwhelmed by the screaming tumult. MPs sat in shocked silence. Never had they experienced anything like this before in the Commons.

"Where does this sort of thing end?" asked Mr. McIlraith when questioned by reporters. "How do you keep Parliament an open forum free of violent minority pressure groups and its galleries available to the public?"

Carried to the ultimate extreme it could force Parliament to bar its doors to the general public he pointed out. He hoped public reaction would demonstrate that the Canadian public would not stand still "for this wild nonsense."

## Signatures forged in abortion protest, three MPs charge

By CLYDE SANGER  
Globe and Mail Reporter

OTTAWA — Three MPs said yesterday that their signatures were forged on pass cards used by women members of the Cross-Canada Abortion Caravan who forced an adjournment of the House of Commons on Monday by shouting demands for free abortions from the public galleries.

Their reactions contrasted strongly as they rose on a point of privilege at yesterday's Commons session.

Ambrose Peddle (PC, Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador), who found his signature had been forged on two cards which helped admit four women, announced that he was asking the RCMP "to investigate the circumstances under which and by whom my name was forged." He told Speaker Lucien Lamoureux: "Forgery is a crime."

But Jack Cullen (L, Sarajia) told the Commons he thought "this thing has been blown out of proportion, and these women given more publicity than they warranted . . . I will let it go at that."

And Gordon Ritchie (PC Dauphin) contented himself with saying his name was forged on two passes. A fourth MP whose signature was forged did not speak up: he is apparently a Liberal member who was absent from Parliament yesterday.

Mr. Peddle carried out his intention and telephoned an RCMP officer yesterday afternoon. Asked if he thought police could trace exactly which of the women handed in the cards forged with his signature, he said: "I don't see why not. The women arrived here on two big buses. The police should be able to sort them out." Other MPs were far more doubtful.

Government House Leader Donald S. Macdonald said outside the House he felt it would probably be futile for the committee to become involved further in the issue of forged

"It was forgery," he said, "but it would be difficult to determine who did the forging."

"A Crown prosecutor would have trouble making a case." In his opinion, he said, the committee should consider the possibility of stronger legal sanctions against disruptions in the Commons galleries.

For 300 years, he said, actions in Parliament have been beyond the normal control of the criminal courts. In the case of disturbances, the rules call on the sergeant-at-arms to hold the offenders in custody until the members decide what action should be taken.

"Probably the only reason why he didn't hold them yesterday," Mr. Macdonald added in jest, "is that we don't have a dungeon."

The women caused the adjournment of the House for half an hour by standing in all corners of the galleries and chanting that abortions should be available to any women who request them. About 10 chained themselves to their seats.

In the wake of the disruptions, the Commons yesterday

agreed to refer the question of security measures in parliamentary galleries to a standing committee. This was a compromise move after a meeting of Mr. Lamoureux and House leaders of the different parties had all but agreed to hold an immediate Commons debate on the incident.

Stanley Knowles (NDP, Winnipeg North Centre) arrived late to this lunchtime meeting yesterday, but just in time to speak against more discussion of the incident in the House. "I opposed it very strongly. It would have been a case of over-reacting," he said.

The House leaders agreed to wait until some MPs, who had given the Speaker notice they wanted to make statements on a point of privilege, had had their say in case they proposed some other course. When these three MPs did not do so, Government House Leader Donald S. Macdonald won unanimous consent for the subject to go before the 12-member standing committee on procedure and organization.

By chance this committee had already scheduled a meeting for today, to discuss the subject of televising House business. This afternoon's meeting of the committee, under Gordon Blair (L, Grenville-Carleton), will probably move on to this new subject of security measures.

The Speaker, in an opening statement yesterday, called the incident "a source of legitimate concern to all Canadians who feel that deliberations of Parliament should not be disrupted by organized interference." It was, he added, "obviously a well planned operation" and it was clear the passes were "actually forged."

But he set a calm tone by saying he was sure MPs would "want to consider the matter objectively, and in the perspective of the tradition of free and open access by the Canadian public to their parliament, the practice which has characterized this institution for over 100 years."

His attitude was echoed by House leaders. Mr. Macdonald said he would not like to think in terms of enclosing the public galleries, but he believed there should perhaps be "a little tighter scrutiny of pass arrangements and security procedure."

Asked if he was not concerned that spectators might hurl something more dangerous than slogans, he said: "As the man who sits directly behind the Prime Minister, I have thought about it from time to time." But he said there was an "inescapable difficulty" in reconciling the need to protect MPs with the right of the public to come and sit in the galleries.

Mr. Knowles (who is also a member of the procedures committee) said MPs had a right "to be protected from bombs and blood, but I don't favor keeping the public out of the House. I think that the public should have a right to be in the House."

## MP's charge signature forged

By BRIAN McKENNA  
The Star's Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA — Some members of the Women's Liberation Movement forged signatures to get themselves into the House of Commons galleries yesterday to stage their spectacular abortion demonstration.

At least one MP whose name was forged, Conservative MP Ambrose Peddle, said he has asked the RCMP to fully investigate the matter and lay charges if there is clear proof.

But one Liberal backbencher, who claims his name was also forged, warned against "overreacting".

He said the feminists have had much more publicity than their cause deserves, and that the matter should be taken no further.

House Speaker Lucien Lamoureux today urged the House to study with all possible haste precautions that could be taken to prevent further disruptions like yesterday.

At a secret meeting today, the Speaker, who is in charge of security for the House of Commons, met House leaders from all parties to discuss:

— The possibility of installing a plexi-glass shield to protect the Commons from thrown objects and disruptive noise.

— The possibility of introducing amendments to the Criminal Code that would make it a crime to disrupt the Commons.

Later when Parliament sat today, MPs voted unanimously to refer the

whole security question to a parliamentary committee.

Justice Minister John Turner said he will not reconsider liberalizing the abortion laws as a result of the incident.

The possibility of laying criminal charges against some of the women is being studied — but is unlikely as there appears to be nothing in the law to cover their action.

However, the government today is believed to be on the verge of introducing an amendment to the Criminal Code that would make it a crime for spectators to disrupt the House of Commons.

MPs from all parties are alarmed that yesterday's fireworks may catch on like aircraft hijackings, with other movements following swiftly on the heels of the women's demonstration.

Veteran parliamentary observers said that it was the first time in history that the Canadian Parliament has been forced to adjourn as the result of such an incident.

At the height of the demonstration a water bomb was thrown into the chamber. It landed in front of a startled MP but failed to burst.

Although security guards were quick to move in when the speeches and chants began, at least a dozen of the women had chained themselves to their seats in the galleries.

Several of the women are nursing lacerated wrists after security officers tried to yank them free of their chains. At least one officer, who tried

to clap his hand over the mouth of a protester, was bitten in return.

The demonstration caught the Commons — and its security guards — completely by surprise.

It broke in the middle of a plodding question period.

A woman in the top row of the visitors, gallery suddenly stood up and began a speech demanding a repeal of the present abortion law.

As security guards made a beeline for her, another feminist popped up on the other side of the gallery with a similar speech.

From there it snowballed with feminists bolting to their feet in all sections of the galleries faster than security officers could quiet them.

After the initial surprise some MPs reacted with loud laughter, others with desk-thumping, but when a feminist screamed down that the women were dead serious and the issue wasn't a laughing matter the reaction turned to anger.

In the face of a rising chant "free abortion on request" from the feminists who had chained themselves to the solid wooden arms of their seats, the speaker gave up an attempt to continue and called for the House temporarily to adjourn.

Guards rushed into the galleries with wire-cutters and hacksaws to cut the women loose.

During the uproar inside by the estimated 35 feminists, another 80 were staging a colorful demonstration on the steps at the top of Parliament Hill.



# Tighter Control Of Gallery Passes Likely Protest Result

By BEN TIERNEY

[The Herald's Ottawa Bureau, Copyright, 1970]

OTTAWA — Tighter control over admittance to House of Commons public galleries is possible following Monday's demonstration by about 50 screaming women protesting Canada's law governing abortion.

The House of Commons protective service began preparing a report on the incident late Monday afternoon and it is likely to go to the Commons speaker, Lucien Lamoureux, within the next few days.

The tighter controls, if they materialize, could be in the form of some change in the way members of Parliament how issue passes to galleries in the Commons that are set aside for their guests.

In Monday's demonstration it was evident that the protesters were well organized and had positioned themselves strategically in the Commons galleries for the greatest possible effect. To do this, they had to get in to both the opposition and the government galleries, accessible only by pass, as well as the public gallery.

Following the demonstration an examination of passes issued was carried out, and this revealed, according to one source, that MPs from all parties had issued the passes that made the strategic placement of demonstrators possible.

No detailed breakdown of how many passes were issued by each party was available, although the New Democratic Party freely admitted that it was responsible for seven.

They were, said NDP leader Douglas, issued by two members of the party, three by one, four by three other. He declined to name the members.

Conservative House Leader G. W. Baldwin said that, as far as he knew, no passes were issued by members of his party. That statement, he said, was based on a very casual survey of Conservatives present in the Commons chamber when the demonstration took place.

Government House Leader, Donald Macdonald, could not be reached for comment.

Monday's demonstration, perhaps unprecedented, forced the Commons to adjourn for more than half an hour and turned the normally staid chamber into something resembling a three-ring circus.

Within minutes of its start,

Commons guards, most mild-mannered veterans, were running in all directions grasping at young, screaming women. Seemingly uncertain and embarrassed, the guards tried, mostly without success, to drag the women out.

A few of the women had handcuffed themselves to their seats. They were guarded by plain clothes policemen while maintenance staff brought tools to cut them loose.

The demonstration began shortly before 3 p.m. EDT as the Commons question period was drawing to a close.

Then, a young woman in the public gallery jumped up and began shouting. "We are going to take our struggle to the provincial governments . . . to the medical profession . . . to the hospitals. . ."

As guards moved in and sub-

dued her, and a friend who had joined her in the meantime, another demonstrator popped up in the opposition members' gallery. As she was subdued, another appeared in the government gallery.

And so it went, with demonstrators popping up at every angle faster than the guards could move in to restrain them. They shouted, "The women of Canada are declaring war on this government," "free abortion on demand," "Trudeau assassin," and "Trudeau is responsible for the death of 2,000 women a year."

Then, from all corners, they chanted in unison: "Free abortion on demand."

Reacting to the situation, Commons Speaker Lamoureux at first ordered the demonstrators removed. When that was clearly impossible, he ordered

all of the galleries cleared. And when that seemed just as difficult, he ordered the House adjourned.

Most of the women, in their 20s and 30s, wore red head scarves. That, said one, was to represent blood. "It means," she said, "that we have declared war. We have given up black for mourning."

The demonstration Monday was perhaps the climax of a cross-Canada caravan to protest the continued existence in Canada of law limiting abortion. It began in British Columbia seven weeks ago and ended in Ottawa last weekend.

On Saturday several hundred demonstrators gathered on Parliament Hill to protest the legislation which, as a result of amendments to the Criminal

Code last year, permits abortion, but only when a committee of doctors at an accredited hospital are agreed that it is necessary because the life or the health of the women involved is in danger.

The women maintain—and some government spokesmen privately admit—that the legislation has proven largely ineffective because the medical profession has chosen to interpret the legislation in its narrowest sense.

The word "health" contained in the recent amendments could have been interpreted by the medical profession so as to give Canada abortion law as liberal as any in North America, but instead it had been interpreted so as to "open no great avenue" to Canadian women in search of legal abortion.

**Our view**

**Freedom  
to  
decide**

Why are people afraid of scrapping abortion laws? What restrains politicians, any more than their natural resistance to committing themselves to making progress at speed? Somehow abortion is a dirty word, with dirty associations; it is a word to be shied away from. It is a word that can get politicians in trouble.

But abortion should not be dirty, nor should it be unhealthy. Abortion is unhealthy if it is carried out by a hack doctor in a sleazy back room. But it need not be, if handled tastefully in a hospital with all the skill and protection that modern medicine can offer.

In contrast what is healthy about bringing an unwanted child into this world? What is healthy about wrecking a woman's life for the sake of a folly? What is smart about contributing to potential overpopulation? In short, what's healthy about tragedy, all the forms of tragedy that inevitably result from the lack of abortion?

Is abortion immoral? Yes, in the eyes of many who view it in a religious context. That is their privilege. Religious beliefs — any personal beliefs — deserve respect and defence. But not necessarily to the extent of imposing them as legislation. And despite some slight easing in the name of 20th century reform, Canada still has laws prohibiting abortion.

The whole point of the argument in favor of scrapping all prohibitive abortion laws is that a woman has the right to control her own body; just as a woman has the right to control her own mind, to worship, or to practise any form of religion, free of hindrance, discrimination — or law.

We believe the word abortion has no place in Canada's lawbooks. We are not advocating promiscuity, or denying religious freedom; we are not encouraging medical prostitution. We are advocating freedom. And this includes the freedom of a woman to decide what she does with her own body, to decide whether or not she shall bring a child into the world.

## AFTER WOMEN'S 'INVASION'

# Protective shield urged for MPs

By WAYNE MacDONALD  
Sun Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA — Members of Parliament are in an uproar over security in the House of Commons following this week's shouting demonstration by women demanding free abortions.

The Commons' 12-member committee on procedure and organization is delving into the security problem, and RCMP are investigating cases of forgery of MPs' signatures by some of the abortion supporters.

Among proposals being considered are enclosing the public galleries behind sound-proof, bullet-proof glass, and electronic checks of persons entering the House to see if they are carrying concealed objects.

MPs and members of the parliamentary protective staff are frankly fearful that someone could easily get into the Commons with a bomb or a weapon.

Their concern came to a head when 36 women — several of them from Vancouver — forced the House to adjourn for half an hour when they held a well-organized screaming match in all four of the Commons' galleries.

Some of the demonstrators had chained themselves to their seats with bicycle chains and locks, and were able to continue their shouts for "free abortions on demand" while guards scurried around to find bolt-cutters.

Others were hustled out of the chamber, but as soon as the screaming women would have another in an oppo-

part of the galleries would jump up and continue the harangue.

The bewildered protective officers ran from one end of the chamber to the other but they couldn't control the situation.

Speaker Lucien Lamoureux, equally bewildered, first ordered the demonstrators ejected, then ordered the entire public and press galleries cleared, and finally was forced to adjourn the House.

It was the first time in the 103-year history of the Canadian Parliament that such an adjournment was provoked by a disturbance in the galleries, and has led to the fears that any kook group or individual could do the same thing.

(The business of the House was suspended, but not adjourned, in 1966 when a man with a bomb blew himself up in a Commons washroom. He was believed to be on his way to the chamber when it exploded.)

In some ways, the government itself brought on this week's demonstration when it refused to meet with the women from the Cross Canada Abortion Caravan who were campaigning for free abortions for all who wished them.

The group which travelled

from Vancouver and held public rallies in a dozen cities, had asked to meet last Saturday with Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Health Minister John Munro, or Justice Minister John Turner.

Trudeau begged off, saying he was busy preparing for his current trip to the Far East. Munro was in Geneva attending a health conference. Turner left and played tennis because he did not like the women's demanding tone.

When the government refused to see the women, they decided to "damn well see the government," and organized the disturbance.

At least half of them managed to get access to the

special galleries by forging MP's signatures to the passes required. Where they got the black passes remains a mystery.

The trick of chaining themselves to their gallery seats was the piece de resistance. While the call went out for bolt cutters the women were able to continue their high-pitched speeches while the guards looked on in despair.

The problem of security in the House has been plaguing members and the police since the summer of 1964, when Vancouverite David Cowlishaw threw a carton of beef blood on to the chamber floor.

The worries escalated in May, 1966, with the near-suc-

cess of the bomber from Toronto, but MP's have never been able to settle on a suitable solution.

Parliaments here and in Britain have a centuries-old tradition of free access to the public and officials want to maintain it, if possible.

More and more members, however, are coming around to the idea of some sort of protective shield between themselves and the galleries and this will be considered.

In the meantime, protective officers are keeping a keen watch on everyone in the galleries. I have been challenged in the House and in the members' lobby no fewer than three times this week.