

# 1,000 women die from abortions

Abortion is a reality. Let's have legality and morality aside for the moment and just look at the facts. Each year thirty million women around the world have abortions. These women are not degerate or promiscuous -- 80 per cent of them already having several children.

Canada's "liberal" abortion laws are still very restrictive and most women who find themselves unwillingly pregnant turn to illegal abortions. There are at least 100,000 of these performed each year in this country. 100,000 women are so determined not to bear a child that they risk imprisonment and death.

Of these determined 100,000 approximately one-fifth are admitted to hospital for postabortive complications. Some of these complications lead to serious injury, sterilization or death. About 1,000 Canadian women die needlessly each year as the result of a botched abortion.

And is it any wonder? Driven out of the hospital and clinic, abortion becomes dangerous. A good many abortionists particularly those a poor woman can afford, are not medically trained at all and use improper and unsterile methods. Desperate women try to about themselves with a frightening array of tools- knitting needles, vacuum cleaners, coat hangers, lysol.

These women don't need quotations from the Criminal Code or the bible. They need safe abortions.

### RESPECT FOR LIFE

That's why I have little patience with those who get dewy-eyed about a fetus' right to life.

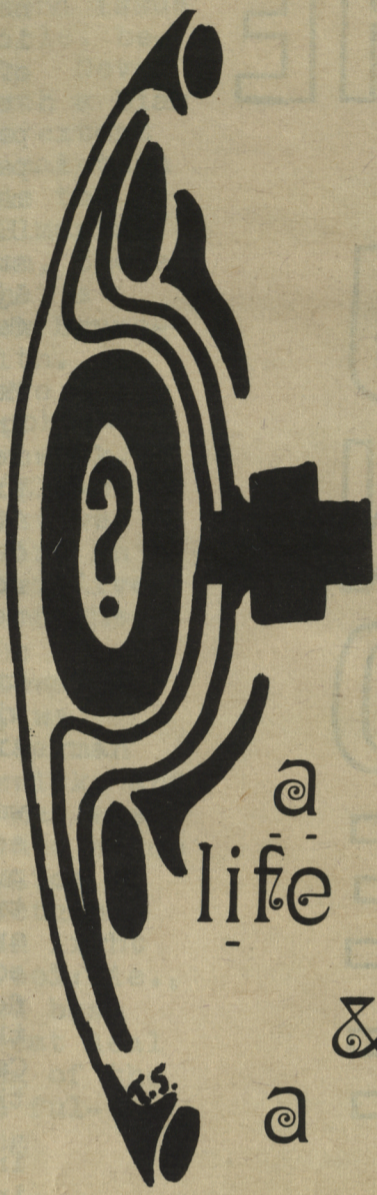
Any decision as to when life begins must be aritrary. The church that makes the most fuss hasn't decided on the magic moment itself. The law doesn't require a death certificate for a miscarriage and, as far as I know, the Catholics don't hold funerals for them either.

Paul Erhlich has pointed out that to confuse a blueprint with a building. Our main concern must be with the right of a woman to decide when and how many children she will bear.

If a woman decides, as 100,000 did last year, that for some reason- physical, emotional or financial- that she cannot give birth to a child that has been conceived in her body, that is her decision and it has been enough for us. We must not stand in the way with the law that forces her to undergo humiliation and pain. She shouldn't have to fear legal reprisals or death.

In countries where legal abortions, performed by trained persons is available deaths from abortion are minimal. For example Czechoslovakia has had no deaths in 140,000 legal abortions.

It is clear that 1,000 women died senselessly last year. We have any respect for life, we must demand that those deaths stop. How? By making available free and safe abortions to all who ask for them.



### BIRTH CONTROL

The critics say to us "If you dumb women would only use birth control, you wouldn't need abortions" or more kindly "I disagree with abortion but think birth control information and devices should be made available."

Of course, they should be made available. Free of charge in community clinics. Birth control information should be distributed widely. Almost everyone (except the Catholic Chirch) has reconized the spectre of overpopulation and need for contraception.

It must be stressed that abortion is a birth control method and one of the most effective. Right now most contraceptive methods available have a significant failure rate (3 per cent - 20 per cent or more). AND some (the IUD, condom and coitus interruptus) represent little improvement from ancient Egyption or Roman times.

The Pill has been a major break through in effectiveness but many women simply cannot take it or are rightfully worried about its long term effects.

Given the present state of medical and scientific knowledge and scientific birth control programmes must be backed by:

1. Government sponsored research into birth control and "reversible sterilization".
- 2) a liberal abortion law and adequate abortion facilities.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure -sure - but sickness sill strikes we still need the cure for pregnancy abortion.

Our goal is to have abortion removed entirely from the Criminal Code. The matter should be question of concern only to the patient and her doctor and should be covered by Medicare (like an appendectomy or any other operation).

There should be local clinics that perform abortions. This would decrease the demand for valuable hospital bed space and the clinic could serve the community with birth control information and prescriptions pre and post natal care.

Respect for the dignity of human life, demands that we work until this slogan is truth.

"Every mother a willing mother. Every child a wanted child."

Jack be nimble  
Jack be quick  
Jack jumped over the candle stick  
and burnt the hair on his legs



Lickory Dickory Dock:  
The mouse ran up the clock:  
The clock struck one  
The other got away with minor injuries

"It's my first time too"