

The *Toronto Star* printed an editorial dated April 24, 1965, entitled "Canada's 3,000,000 Lawbreakers". I would like to quote briefly from that:

Whoever coined the phrase "laws are made to be broken" would be startled to discover how enthusiastically Canadians have endorsed it.

Last year alone, section 150 of the Criminal Code of Canada which prohibits the sale of advertisement of birth control methods, was broken about three million times. This was the number of across-the-counter sales of contraceptive devices in the nation's drug stores.

In addition to the legion of individual lawbreakers, municipal governments like Toronto are open to prosecution because their welfare departments dispense advice on birth control methods—also prohibited by the Criminal Code.

Now, there have been very few prosecutions under this section of the Criminal Code but there have been some, a few over the years. I have in front of me a copy of one which took place in the Winnipeg Magistrates' Court on August 31, 1961, called *Regina vs. Keystone Enterprises Ltd.* This was against a person selling contraceptive materials. The defence stated that it was for the prevention of venereal disease but this was not accepted as a defence in the case. Four years ago a druggist by the name of Fines in Toronto was prosecuted and convicted for the same sort of thing, so there have been a few prosecutions but, generally speaking, no one pays very much attention to the law.

In addition to the pamphlets and books which I mentioned are available, a number of public bodies have become active in the field of family planning in recent years. The law has not prevented most people of average means, if you like, in Canada from obtaining information on this subject, but it has in the past worked to the detriment of lower income families, the kind of people you find in social welfare rolls, because many public bodies have hesitated to give information on the subject simply because it was against the law. However, public bodies are not paying attention to that now. The city of Toronto found out about a year and a half ago that their social welfare department was giving prescriptions for birth control pills to people on the social welfare rolls. When the city council discovered this they debated it for a while and finally decided it was all right, they would continue in spite of the law.

● (11: 20 a.m.)

The municipality of Scarborough has made a decision that they will be in this field and I would like to read an extract from the *Toronto Telegram* of Thursday, February 24, 1966, as follows:

Family planning clinics for married women 18 and over will be opened in Scarboro next month, Medical Officer of Health Dr. J. Allen Bull said yesterday.

He told Board of Health that advice on birth control will be given at nine of the township's 16 child clinics, and patients will be referred to either family doctors or public health staff for examination and prescriptions.

So here is another municipality which is going ahead. Quite a number of hospitals in this country have been giving this sort of information in their out-patient clinics for quite some time. Recently the Minister of Welfare and