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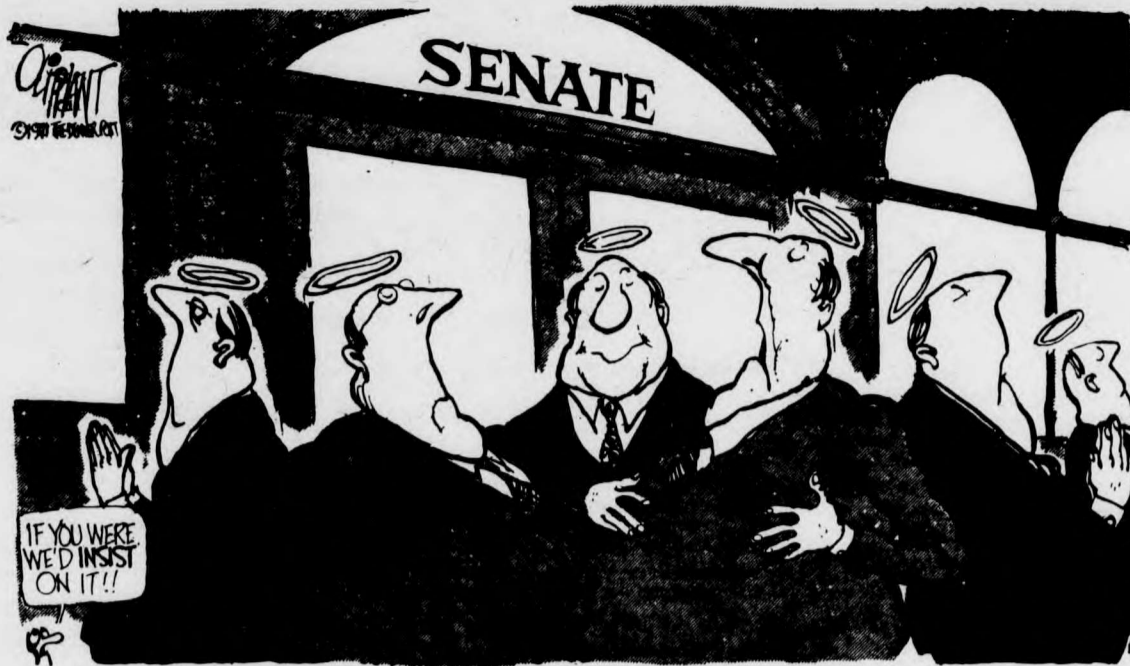
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**'WELL, IF I WERE PREGNANT I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE AN ABORTION!'**

## Gov't abortion report released: Basford says laws won't change

OTTAWA (CUP) — No changes in Canada's existing abortion laws will be recommended, justice minister Ron Basford said February 9, as a result of the release of the government's report on the operation of the abortion law.

Basford said the report "clearly shows, to me at least, that the law is not operating equitably." He said the inequality of the provincial regulations was at fault, not the law itself.

The Badgley report (named after its chairperson Robin Badgley) was given, according to its terms of reference "a fact-finding mandate to determine if the procedure set out in the abortion law was working equitably. The committee was instructed to make no recommendations on the policy underlying the abortion law."

Committee chairperson Badgley was reluctant to say what the report's political implications were going to be.

"I'm not a politician. I'm a researcher," he said at a press conference.

In a response to a question about what the government can do with this 474 page, year-long study, Badgley said that was parliament's job.

There were 11 main findings of the committee: 1) There is no consensus for major changes in the abortion law. 2) The law is not operating equitably throughout Canada now. 3) The abortion law itself is not equitable. 4) There are a number of additional provincial requirements in order to perform abortions. 5) Hospitals have developed some additional requirements in order to perform abortion. 6) There are delays by physicians in actually doing the abortion. 7) There are no detailed reviews by the provinces of the provincial provisions for the abortion procedure. 8) One of every six Canadians who has an abortion leaves the country to do so. 9) There are fewer risks when abortions are done in special treatment centres. 10) Canadians lack accurate and detailed information about family planning and contraception. 11) There is little extensive collection and classification of information relating to abortions.

Views of doctors on questions relating to abortion were indicated in a number of surveys taken by the committee.

Over one third (39.2 per cent) of the 3,129 doctors said they would be prepared to accept an appointment to serve as a member of the hospital therapeutic abortion committee, an almost equal number said they would not (34.6 per cent) and the remainder (26.6 per cent) gave no reply. Only 20.2 per cent of the physicians surveyed had ever served on an abortion committee.

In a chapter on post-secondary student health services the committee received information from 211 institutions. Twelve had additional clinical or counselling services for female students ad-

ministered by students' councils.

The study says that a majority of the student health services, 76.0 per cent, handled requests for abortion on a local basis, while the rest, 24 per cent, directed requests to out-of-town hospitals or to abortion facilities in the United States.

Over half (58.1 per cent) of those referring health services said there were financial problems for students seeking an induced abortion.

One report, from a larger institution said, "It is my impression that fewer students are using university resources in the last two years. In that time period, community resources have become more numerous and more visible."

Of the student health services 82.8 per cent offered pregnancy counselling and 80.6 per cent offered abortion referral. Additionally "among the health services which were reported to be inadequate were 44.4 per cent, abortion facilities and 27.8 per cent for pregnancy counselling."



## Pro-Life doesn't like it...

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Badgley report on the operation of the abortion laws commissioned by the federal government "actively advocates abortion on demand" the Canadian Youth Pro-Life organization, a national anti-abortion group claiming a membership of 800, said February 14.

Youth Pro-Life organizer Peter Howell of Carleton University said he knew his group had not been too well received in universities but although it may be "idealistic", it is not "young and naive."

The organizer who said the report advocated abortion on demand admitted at the meeting, held on Parliament Hill, that she had in fact only read the summary of the report and not the complete 474-page document. Eleanor Lusignan of Hull, Quebec, said she doesn't believe there is any real need to have abortions done in Canada. She did say that in cases where the mother's life is in danger, "I guess abortion would be okay."

According to representatives of the group, Canadian Pro-Life represents "that part of society that cannot represent itself — the unborn, the mentally and physically handicapped, and the elderly."

The meeting was organized by a committee of members of parliament called Defense of the Unborn. The committee includes Donald Munroe (PC-Esquimalt-Saanich), Ursula Appolloni (L-York South), Sean O'Sullivan (PC-Hamilton Wentworth), Herb Gray (L-Windsor West) and Renaude Lapoint, Speaker of the Senate.

The group says it has chapters in Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia with university groups at the University of Toronto, Western Ontario and Carleton.

## ...and neither does CARAL

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Badgley Report on the operation of the abortion laws shows no factual basis whatsoever for the pro-abortion view that there should be increased access to abortion in Canada," according to the anti-abortion Alliance for Life. But according to the Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Laws (CARAL) there are "gross geographical and other inequities" shown in the administration of the abortion laws.

CARAL said "it is high time for the government to realize that any law restricting abortion guarantees unequal treatment."

The Right to Life Association said the government is continuing to ignore the rights of the unborn.

Planned Parenthood said pregnant women across the country should have equal access to the abortion and not depend on the way regional hospital committees, if they exist, interpret the law.