

# Birth control-abortion crusader could speak at Dalhousie

By Ross H. Munro  
Globe and Mail Reporter

WATERLOO — A man who has referred 8,000 American women seeking abortions to doctors in the United States said yesterday that he is helping Canadian set up similar abortion referral services in this country.

William Baird, a father of four from Hempstead, N.Y., said he has been approached by persons who want to set up organizations that act as links between pregnant women and doctors who are willing to perform abortions.

Mr. Baird was at the University of Waterloo setting up a lecture tour of Canadian universities for early next year. He was a guest of the annual conference of the Canadian University Press, an association of English-language college newspapers.

Mr. Baird, 37, said at a press conference that during his lecture tour he will help "to establish — underground if need be — abortion referral centres." He said he will also encourage students to set up "abortion slush funds" to pay for abortions for women who do not have enough money.

Mr. Baird claimed that quacks in the United States perform a million abortions each year and that 10,000 women die as a result. He estimated that proportionately the figures hold true for Canada.

He said his service has helped 200 Canadian women obtain abortions this year alone. A majority of them were from Toronto and Montreal, he said.

Mr. Baird's group, the Parents' Aid Society, works with 100 doctors in the United States as well as with doctors in England and Puerto Rico. He said he had regularly referred pregnant women to three Montreal doctors until about three months ago when "the authorities really cracked down."

Mr. Baird has never been arrested for operating his abortion referral service even though it has been well publicized. However, he has been jailed twice for giving out birth control information and is currently appealing a three-month sentence for giving a package of contraceptive foam to an unmarried Massachusetts woman.

Mr. Baird, a former clinical director of a large pharmaceutical company, said his

service is free and depends upon personal donations. He derives his personal income from lecturing.

Despite his reformist zeal, Mr. Baird struck many of the students attending the conference as a man with a very conventional life style. He was dressed in a conservative suit, and talked about his belief in God and the family.

He lectured the students on various forms of contraception and stressed that none of them, including the pill, were fool proof. He said he could not tell them not to engage in sexual relations but he did say they had a responsibility to be both careful and informed about what they were doing.

To help avoid prosecution, Mr. Baird requires all his clients to sign statements saying they came to him voluntarily and that he charged them no fee.

Asked why the doctors were not being arrested, he suggested that in many cases the doctors are forced instead to pay bribes to local police forces. Besides, he added, "you may be surprised that policemen have intercourse too."

Mr. Baird said not one of the 8,000 women he has referred to doctors has died. He said abortions performed by doctors have a mortality rate which is one-sixth that of the rate for tonsillectomies. He said he keeps extensive records which show that of the women who have come to him, 62 per cent are Roman Catholics, 54 per cent are single and 18 per cent are black.

He said he is especially concerned about blacks and other poor women who can't afford to have neither a child nor an abortion. His organization tries to arrange low prices for such cases.

He said he has been criticized recently by Black Panthers who say he is part of a "white man's plot" to reduce the size of the black population in the United States. But he added that his main opposition comes from "the political arm of the Catholic Church, which is at my throat." He said he has received about 20 death threats, most of them from religious zealots.

## Profits on pollution

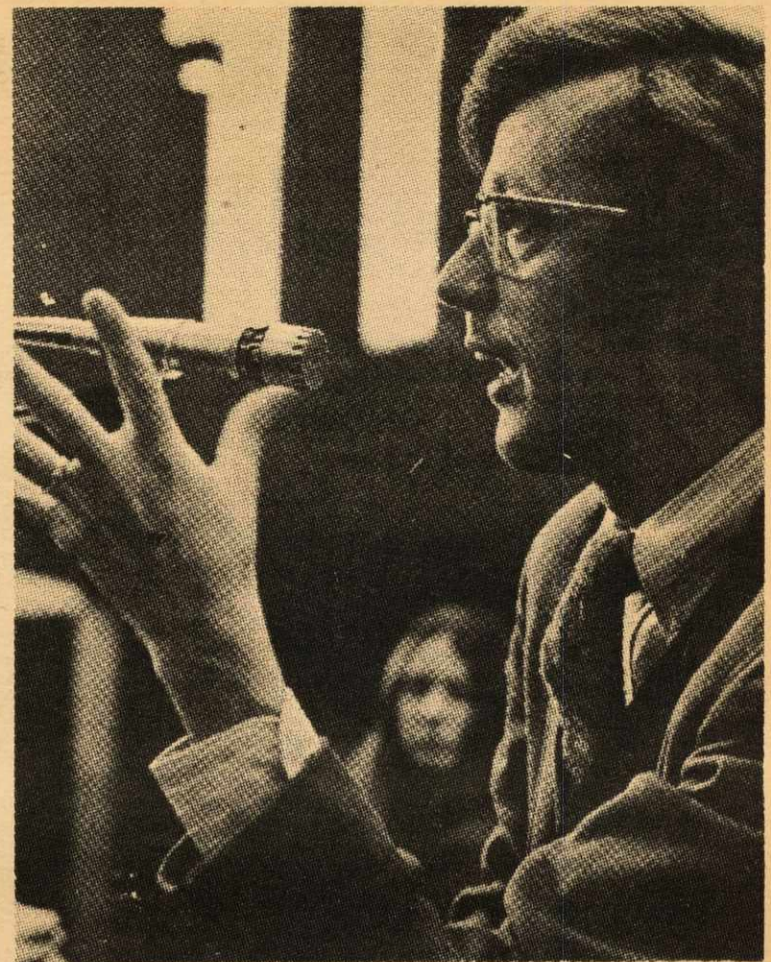
NEW YORK (CUPI) — The New York Times of Sunday January 11 carried an advertisement claiming "Now you can escape air pollution in your home or office." And it will only cost \$99.50 — reduced from \$184.50.

Selectronair, a portable answer to environmental devastation is offered by Whitaker's of Hartsdale, N.Y., "Westchester's complete drug and surgical store."

No longer, claim the merchants, need you cope with "the polluted air you are forced to breathe at your home or office." Selectronair just plugs into the wall and uses less current than a 100w bulb.

The device complements recent increases in sale of gas masks for street wear, although no announcement has been made about plans to colour-coordinate the two devices.

No information is available about the amount of pollution produced by the Selectronair factory.



Melville Watkins, economist at the University of Toronto, speaks to delegates of the Canadian University Press.

## Watkins assails need for federal policies

Ron Crocker  
Canadian University Press

Federal policies to fight economic inflation are irrelevant because Canada does not have a national economy, says Melville Watkins, a professor of economics at the University of Toronto.

Watkins, New Democratic Party organizer and author of the controversial Watkins Manifesto which warns that economic survival is Canada's most pressing problem, told delegates at the convention of the Canadian University Press recently that it is senseless for the Trudeau government to adopt an inflation policy for Canada because the Canadian economy is almost completely American-controlled.

"The immediate question is not inflation because we no longer have an economy. It has dissintegrated."

"The inflation policy is as useless as Canada's foreign policy which fails to deal with the country — the U.S. — with which Canada conducts 95 per cent of her foreign relations."

Watkins calls Canada's economy a "branch plant" of the American economic empire and warns that American dominance is increasing with the trend towards conglomerates.

"There is more to worry about than the other countries, particularly Japan, are competing with the economic control of countries like Canada."

Watkins echoed his manifesto that democratic socialism is the only solution to the nation's economic ills but thought it unlikely that the socialist alternative will be reached in the 70s.

"The Future looks bleak even though the present has become intolerable for many Canadians."

The key to democratic socialism lies in re-distribution of political power and income "but there is little power left... it has been concentrated in board rooms south of the border."

Watkins sees repercussions of the branch-plant economy in all aspects of Canadian life.

"Unions, universities the press, even domestic politics are controlled to varying degrees by American economic imperialists."

"Even education is being discouraged because the elitist groups who perpetuate the system poorly educated themselves and realize that if they are to maintain power education must be discouraged."

He also forecast an increase in anti-imperialist sentiment which he says will continue in Canada for the same reasons that sparked it in the U.S.

Watkins said no solution is possible in the present political structure because the Liberals are representing big business and the Progressive Conservatives can only get power when they are led by a "populist" like former prime minister Diefenbaker.

"Neither party can be expected to fight foreign ownership because neither sees it as Canada's greatest problem."

The only option, Watkins continued, is "socialist independence" and public ownership of the means of production.

He said crown corporations are justified as a means of building an independent economy "and only by independence and public ownership can Canada ever become a democratic place."

## AROUND HALIFAX

JANUARY 26-JANUARY 31

Capitol Theatre - Jan. 26-29 - "John & Mary"  
Jan. 30 - "The Sterile Cuckoo"

Hyland Theatre - Jan. 26-31 - "Bob, Carol, Ted and Alice"

Casino Theatre - Jan. 26-31 - "Run, Angel, Run"  
"A Few Bullets More"

Paramount Theatre - Jan. 26-31 - "The Undefeated"

Vogue Theatre - Jan. 26-27 - "How to Commit Marriage"  
"Cop-out"  
Jan. 28-31 - "Castle Keep"  
"Valley of the Gwangi"

Monterey Restaurant and Lounge - "Ricky Lamoureux" - nightly

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