



MORGENTALER - I think people should become indignant about the continued victimization of women across Canada, because of this cruel and unjust law and that they should make it known to the politicians that they're the majority and that it is cruel and barbarous that a law should remain on the books that victimizes women. I think that people should really get involved.

EXCALIBUR - When it's well known by means of Gallup Polls that a strong majority of Canadians and Quebecers feel that the abortions laws are unjust, and it's clear that many women are being victimized by them, how do you account for the failure of a more active and indignant response?

MORGENTALER - The failure is due first of all to the stubbornness of the government. The federal government has sold out the rights of women on the altar of political expediency. They're afraid of the Catholic vote, they're afraid of the so called pro-life, which I call the compulsive pregnancy people and what happens is because abortion is more readily available in the United States and it is available to women in the big cities; that those women who can't get them remain without spokesmen. People in rural constituencies, people who live in areas where they cannot get anything, those women really have nowhere to go, and are not effective in voicing their complaints. I think those people who are for freedom of choice have in a sense given up, they're not active. It's really staggering to see that. The politicians should not be listening to the reactionary voices, they should be listening to the freedom voices.

entire reason that the application is bad is within the law itself. The law, which according to the Badgley report itself makes it so that women get an abortion up to eight weeks after making an application. They have to spend the anguish and anxiety and waiting and the danger of a method which is much worse than they could have had. How can you say that the law is okay? The law is the biggest stumbling block to women obtaining access to an abortion.

EXCALIBUR - Why do you think the report was so wishy-washy?

MORGENTALER - I think the report was wishy-washy because the government wanted the Badgley Commission to come to these conclusions. I think they tried to satisfy what the government expected, and they tried to satisfy everybody and that's impossible.

EXCALIBUR - Do you think that now that they've at least made the information available it will be included in an equitable application of the law that abortions will become more available in Canada?

MORGENTALER - I don't think so, it doesn't look so. Obviously the government is not, according to statements made by Mr. Basford (Minister of Justice) the government is not willing to change the law. The government is cowardly as far as the abortion law is concerned, they don't want to move at all. It's up to the people concerned with the health of women in this country to put pressure on the government, the students, and many others to get themselves involved in this.

EXCALIBUR - What originally motivated you to begin the fight that you've been carrying the last many number of years?

Morgentaler:

out the rights of women..."

my principles. I was helping people in immediate need who could not have gotten help anywhere else, and it gave me a great deal of satisfaction to practice what I preached.

EXCALIBUR - What are your future plans?

MORGENTALER - After training the doctors and sufficient facilities are established across Quebec, and across Canada, I'd like to go on to other forms of medicine, I'm interested in psychotherapy and psychiatry, and especially that branch of psychiatry that is lifestyle related, so people get more meaning out of life.

EXCALIBUR - You incurred enormous expenses through all these legal hassles, is that something that has been cleared up, how is that being handled?

MORGENTALER - That's been cleared. I've been helped a great deal towards the \$110,000 in legal expenses, I expect I'll have to work hard to pay it off.

EXCALIBUR - What do you think people across Canada should be doing to continue the work that you've begun?

EXCALIBUR - What do you think of the Badgley Commission report which was recently released?

MORGENTALER - Well I haven't seen the whole thing. It contains extremely valuable material but the conclusions are all wrong. It's almost hard to believe that after seeing so many negations of the law that they should come to the conclusion that the law is OK, but the application is bad. The

MORGENTALER - The injustice of this law was so incredible, after I got involved and presented a brief on this law I received so many requests for abortions that I realized that my conscience as a doctor was more important than the letter of the law. That was my duty to lend a helping hand.

