# **Medical And Legal Aspects Of Oral Contraception Discussed**

#### By Helene Chomiak

Oral contraception was discussed last week at Fall Forum in Wauneita Lounge.

Fall Forum is sponsored by the Medical Undergraduate Society to discuss social, moral and religious problems which arise from medical advances.

This year, the medical and legal aspects of oral contraception were presented and representatives of Protestant and Catholic churches explained church dogma. THE PILL

Dr. T. R. Nelson explained the pill is a chemical substance acting like the ovary hormones, estrogen and progestrogen. A state of psuedo-pregnancy which results, stops egg development and conception is prevented.

Besides stopping egg development, the pill also helps regulate the menstrual cycle.

Since the ovary is a unique organ which can stop activity for extended periods and then resume its normal function, the pill must be taken regularly.

No long-term research has been done, but Dr. Nelson said, "This is one of the few pills which can be used by so many people with so few side effects."

But the pill must be administered under a doctor's supervision for there are some individual variations. These may be nausea, vomiting, increased salt and water intake and weight gain, deposition of pigment and breast discomfort.

THE LAW Judge Norman Hewitt of the Ed-monton Juvenile and Family Court spoke on legal issues. Technically, anyone who sells, advertises or otherwise disposes of contraceptives is commiting a crime under Section 150 of the Criminal Code of Canada and may receive a fine of up to \$500

## **Scholarships** For Europeans

Canada Council has played Father Christmas to forty-odd French-speaking students.

Scholarships and fellowships for study in Canada have been awarded to scholars, researchers and artists from France, Belgium and Switzerland. Part of a new cultural exchange program, the Canadian government has chosen people in fields ranging from linguistics to nuclear physics.

The awards, which may be renew-ed, have an average value of \$4,000. Including travel and tuition, a majority of the students will be stay-

ing ten to twelve months. Most of the award-winners chose Quebec universities. But about one-third chose other Canadian univer-sities which specialize in their fields.

Scientific studies predominate. With physics leading, chemistry, neurology, geology and forestry fol-low. Other students will study economics, law and music

and a sentence up to six months.

The last case tried on this issue was in 1956 in Winnipeg. A company was convicted on the charge of advertising contraceptives and was fined \$25. The only other case was tried some 60 years earlier than that. LAW NOT UPHELD

This law is not upheld very strictly since it is an attempt of the legisla-ture to dictate public morals, said Judge Hewitt, "Amendments are being considered by the department

being considered by the department of justice and this section will prob-ably be struck out." He continued: "The pill will not result in any greater immorality, but some of the publicity surround-ing it might."

Judge Hewitt listed several cases children and asked if preventing the personality."

effective, perhaps it is the answer." one partner from the sex act is Rev. Merdith McLean, associate Anglican chaplain, said his church But contraception is not a matter asks if contraceptives ought ever to be used, and if so, when?

The Anglican church does not distinguish between the types of contraceptives. Mr. McLean says "If it is ever right to prevent conception, perhaps the pill is the best way.

#### **COUNCIL VIEWPOINT**

The Lambeth Council of Anglican bishops gave this viewpoint on the topics: "It is not the sole purpose of marriage to procreate children but Father

to strengthen the union between man and woman." "Sometimes it may be necessary to

limit the procreative function but Pius XII. in which parents had unwanted would be wrong to limit the union of

birth of these children may be more moral. He said, "If the pill is so felt, "The repeated withholding by matrimony is guilty of great sin."

of simple convenience. If the couple is simply trying to avoid the responsibilities the only difference is the pill is more effective. Mr. McLean said, "When some

form of contraception must be used, the pill has some advantages. Since it eliminates physical means, it may enhance the act of love.'

Each individual case must be dealt with separately, said Mr. McLean.

Father Daley, chaplain at St. Joseph's residence said the Roman Catholic Church takes its stand from statement of Pope Pius XI and Pope

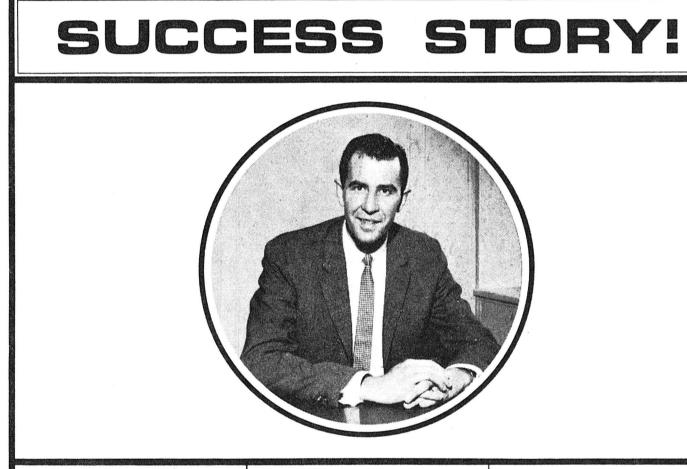
The basic principle is "Anyone using any method to frustrate the Any method used solely to pre-vent conception is called direct sterilization and is not permitted.

Indirect sterilization, when the sex function is altered for any medical purposes is allowed when the good results of this interference are greater than the sin caused by stopping conception.

Father Daley said, "The views of the church are presently changing. Vatican council is studying the question of contraceptives and there may be a change.

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Henry Gillespie is but one of 60 recent college graduates who have joined the Company within the past five years and who have become key management personnel in all phases of the insurance business at the Company's head office in Winnipeg.

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