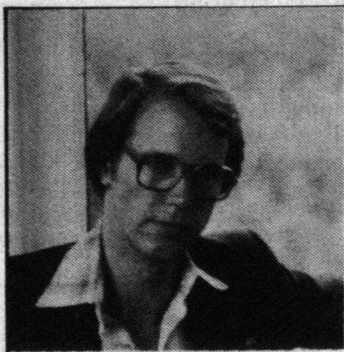


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# HOLOCAUST

by J

The word burns, conjuring up horrific images of innocent people being led to slaughter by inhuman monsters, images of swastikas, jack-boots, bloody graves, a numbing reminder of our ability to kill. The word is emotionally charged.

It is a weapon currently being employed by anti-choice forces in the United States to take away a woman's right to safe, legal abortion, even in cases of pregnancy by rape, or incest. Even if the woman is a girl of 13, even if the baby will be born with severe deformities, it must be carried to term.

At the beginning of this year the anti-choice forces brought in their heaviest artillery yet. Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Henry Hyde (D-IL) introduced bills to the Senate and House of Representatives which would guarantee that human life "shall be deemed to exist from conception." The bills are worded exactly the same. The Human Life Statute and Human Life A mendment are clear in their intent and their impact will be mammoth.

"It's scary and it's not just this issue, this is just part of a whole movement," says Deejah Sherman-Peterson, a National Abortion Rights Action League organizer in Seattle, Washington.

"We got a nasty letter from a pro-lifer today, with gory pictures and covered with stickers like Planned Parenthood is anti-family. This came and it was sent to all the NARAL groups. I've been in this organization for seven years and my skin is thick, but that hurt....Me, a mother with two kids,

a baby killer?"

What makes the fight so bitter is that the stakes are so high. According to Sherman-Peterson, all contraceptives which act to prevent implantation of a fertilized egg would be made illegal by the statute and that includes the IUD and 35 per cent of birth control pills. A badly deformed fetus, pregnancy by rape or by incest, would no longer be considered grounds for abortion. "Defect" is disregarded as a basis for depriving an unborn child of life.

According to Marilyn Knight, a spokesperson for Seattle Planned Parenthood, the statute will affect the women who need abortions most. Knight says women who can afford to go somewhere else for abortions have always been able to, but women on low-incomes will be forced either to raise another child, or to seek illegal abortions.

"It will outlaw abortion but it won't stop it. Women will have to go back to back-alleys and dirty little rooms.

But Knight adds it won't be an easily won fight for anti-choice groups. Over 30,000 women annually have therapeutic abortions in Washington state where abortion has been legalized for 10 years, she says.

"If people are alarmed, they will think they are, they will give up that right over without a fight."

She says the con statute would be "very upheaval would be enor

Barbara Banfield, a at Seattle's Aradia cli would have disastrous (clinic) economically as v women's rights to repr adding that these are p

Right now we're for money. If abortion is another source of incom Banfield adds. Aradia c

lowest rate for abortion She adds she do statute will actually possibility right-wing f roll this thing through"

"A lot of us are fe what's happening in there's a lot of progress organized in Seattle."

If the statute did she foresees a network underground to prov services denied them by has been legal in Seatt doctors to know how operations and this ma of a return to the back adds.

"Abortion in Sea available. We do so many places that d, I believing that women v

She says within movements there are m

members even think o and the morning-after far."

According to Sher per cent of birth con under the definition contraceptive methods prevent implantation tion or conception.

Some direct results be a jump in mortality abuse, increased numbe or contacting crippling, unclean, botched abor more teenage pregnanc

There is also the fa have difficulty knowing

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