ATKINSON COLLEGE

YORK UNIVERSITY

OPTION QUEBEC

THE POSSIBILITIES OF SEPARATISM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26th, 1977
BURTON AUDITORIUM, YORK UNIVERSITY

PROGRAMME

MORNING SESSION: (10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)

PROFESSOR JOHN SAYWELL, Department of History, York University.

Topic: "The Idea of Separatism in Historical Perspective."

PROFESSOR MAURICE PINARD, Department of Sociology, McGill

University.

Topic: "The Social Base of Separatist Support."

PROFESSOR ABRAHAM ROTSTEIN,

Department of Political Economy, University of Toronto.

Topic: "The Economic Cost of Separatism."

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION: (1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

PANEL DISCUSSION "SEPARATISM - THE BEST OPTION."

MODERATOR: PETER DESBARATS, GLOBAL NEWS.

PARTICIPANTS:

BERNARD LANDRY - Minister of State for Economic Development, Parti Quebecois

RODRIGUE BIRON - Leader, Union Nationale BRYCE MACKASEY - Liberal Member, Quebec National Assembly

SEMINAR DISCUSSIONS: (3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.) 4:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

ATKINSON PUB - THE COMEBACK INN, STUDENT COMMON ROOM, ATKINSON COLLEGE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Room 218 - Atkinson College
Phone: 667-2482

Harbinger's Column by Carol Bianco



Between 1945 and 1965, several million North American women who showed signs of difficulty during pregnancy, were given a hormone supplement which was believed to help prevent miscarriage. This synthetic estrogen, DES (diethylstibestrol), has since been proven to be ineffective in saving fetuses, but is still used by some doctors for this purpose.

The long term effects of this hormone are like a time bomb, which has started to explode in this decade. Since 1970, a rare type of vaginal or cervical cancer has been discovered in hundreds of young women. This particular cancer was virtually unknown before this time, and those who are afflicted with it have one important factor in common: while they were in the womb, their mothers took DES to prevent miscarriage. There have also been indications that DES causes sterility and genital abnormalities in sons of women who took it during pregnancy.

In addition to the development of vaginal cervical cancer, another

peculiar condition known as adenosis is visible in many DES daughters. This is the existence of abnormal vaginal cells which may be precancerous.

Unfortunately these conditions can not be detected by a usual gynecological exam and pap smear. Many women who have regular exams and think they are normal and healthy, may actually have adenosis, or early vaginal cancer. This is very important for DES daughters to know. So far, 90% of these particular women who have been tested for adenosis have received positive results.

Despite this fact, there is very little known about adenosis. No one is sure how the abnormal cells will be affected by the hormonal changes occurring during pregnancy and menopause. Many DES daughters are taking birth control pills which may affect other cellular changes. Although many doctors know about this condition, very little has been done to educate women of the risks they face, and the screening procedures available.

There are two tests which are presently being used to screen for adenosis and cervical cancer. The most commonly used is the Schiller test, which involves applying a stain to the vaginal walls and the cervix, letting it dry and then looking to see if the cells took the stain.

Another test which is available is called a colposcopy, which lights and magnifies the vaginal walls after the stain. It is recommended that DES daughters have one of these tests twice a year.

All women under 30 should ask their mothers if they took any hormones during their pregnancy. If so, check to see if it was DES.

If you find that you were exposed to it, consult your general practitioner who should refer you to a gynecologist for proper testing. If you'd like more information, drop in at Harbinger, 214 Vanier Residence.

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