

ARE MOVING ABORTION SITUATION...

If abortions are legal, the Abortion Task Force has been asking, why is it nearly impossible to get one in a Chicago hospital? Why such low quotas? Why such high prices? Why so little commitment to decent health care for women?

The response, predictable enough, has been a good deal of buck-passing. Individual doctors point to medical society or hospital policy. Hospitals point to Atty. Gen. William Scott and Dr. Joyce Lashof (Ill. Dept. of Public Health), or to the legislature. Accordingly, the Abortion Task Force decided to concentrate its effort--everywhere.

Of the two bills before the Ill. House of Representatives to regulate abortion, both have serious flaws. The more offensive of the two is the Gibbs bill (#623). Half of this bill deals with punishing its violators; the other half requires 10 husband's consent if married, parent's consent if a minor, 2) 2nd trimester abortions to be done in a hospital with elaborate recussitation equipment in the event the fetus shows any sign of life, 3) a court order to approve 3rd trimester abortion, 4) the name of the woman to be reported by the doctor, along with a "non-viability" statement, before the abortion is performed. A petition opposing HB 623 is being circulated by Ill. Women's Abortion Coalition (IWAC).

The Wolfe/Rayson/Fleck bill (#097) also requires husband's or parent's consent, limits 2nd trimester abortions to cases which endanger physical or mental health, and also demands three impartial doctors' approval. This bill carries heavy penalties for advertising information or suggesting an act in defiance of its regulations, a provision which may violate free-speech guarantees.



ABORTION SEVEN FREED!

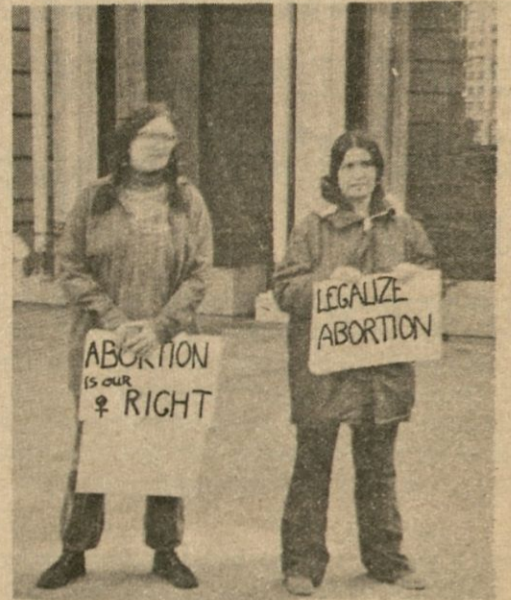
The legal charges against the Abortion Seven have been dropped as a consequence of the Supreme Court's decision on abortion. The seven women had been arrested in May, 1972 and charged with committing abortion and conspiracy to commit abortion, under the Illinois law making abortion a crime. After the Supreme Court decision in January which declared all state anti-abortion laws unconstitutional, the defendants' attorney urged that the case be dropped, since the law under which they were charged was no longer valid. This was agreed to and the charges were dropped on March 9.

The House of Representatives is also considering a bill sponsored by Leinenweber

and others (#710) to eliminate Public Aid payments for abortion procedures, and two other bills (#650, 624) to protect the rights of persons conscientiously opposed to abortion.

After the Supreme Court ruling was announced, the ATF constructed guidelines for acceptable abortion care and distributed them to the city's leading hospitals and medical societies. These guidelines have formed the basis for discussions with representatives from Grant Hospital, the American College of Ob-Gyn, and Dr. Lashof. In addition, a 3 page checklist was made, compiling reliable information on services currently offered in the city. We are assessing the results of these questionnaires, and are weighing the results in our referrals. Preliminary information is available at the C.W.L.U. office and has been published in the Chicago Reader.

Some ATF members appeared at the press conference following the Midwest medical society's March convention. After the doctors' statement, the press heard a comment and rebuttal from an ATF spokeswoman who specified the key points of ATF's guidelines and pointed out the weaknesses in the medical society's position.



On March 8, International Women's Day, we also staged a skit in front of the American College of Ob-Gyn, mocking the legal tangles of the last few years which sought to prevent legal abortions. The skit, which celebrates this initial victory and reaffirms our commitment to assure full availability of total medical care for all, also was performed at an informational Forum on Abortion (March 24, Central 'Y'), along with another skit, and an excellent performance by Betsy Martens (autoharp) and Carole Whiteside (mandolin), singing Carole's satire on government birth control policies.

FOR ABORTION INFORMATION, CALL...

The Abortion Task Force of CWLU has compiled the following information for abortion referrals. This list is not an endorsement by CWLU of the physicians, clinics, or hospitals, since we have had little opportunity to study the quality of the care provided. We welcome calls for further information.

FRIENDSHIP CLINIC 850 W. 103rd. St. 239-9100 Hours: 7am to 8:30pm. No appointments (you may have to wait 5 to 7 hours); no Rh sensitization (Rhogam). Will accept green card if you're on welfare, but only under 3 months pregnant. They take responsibility for any complications that might follow, and don't charge extra for doing so. Schedule of fees:

under 10 weeks	= \$125
10-12 weeks	= \$150
12-14 "	= \$300
14-16 "	= \$350
16-20 "	= \$400

COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL ABORTION CLINIC 633-8814 Hours: 8am to 4pm. Includes physical exam and group counselling. Green cards accepted. No residency requirement. Priority to women without much money. Flat fee: \$146. Limit of 18 abortions a day.

THE FOLLOWING HOSPITALS do a limited number of abortions per day (six or less), and take only women referred through their own physicians or clinics:

Michael Reese
Billings
Grant

DR. MYRIAM WILSON 5631 W. Lake St. 264-1331 Does the procedure in her office, with hospital backup arrangement at Mt. Sinai Hospital. Accepts welfare green card, but only with \$50 cash. Schedule of fees:

thru 10 weeks	= \$125.
10-12 "	= \$150
above 12 "	= \$250 plus hospital costs

EVANSTON HOSPITAL 2650 Ridge, Evan. 492-2000 The \$30 fee includes blood tests, complete physical exam, and post-operative care, Limit: 2 per day. Breakdown of fees:

Doctor's fee	= \$200
Hospital fee	= \$150
Lab fee	= \$15
Anesthesiologist	= \$65