

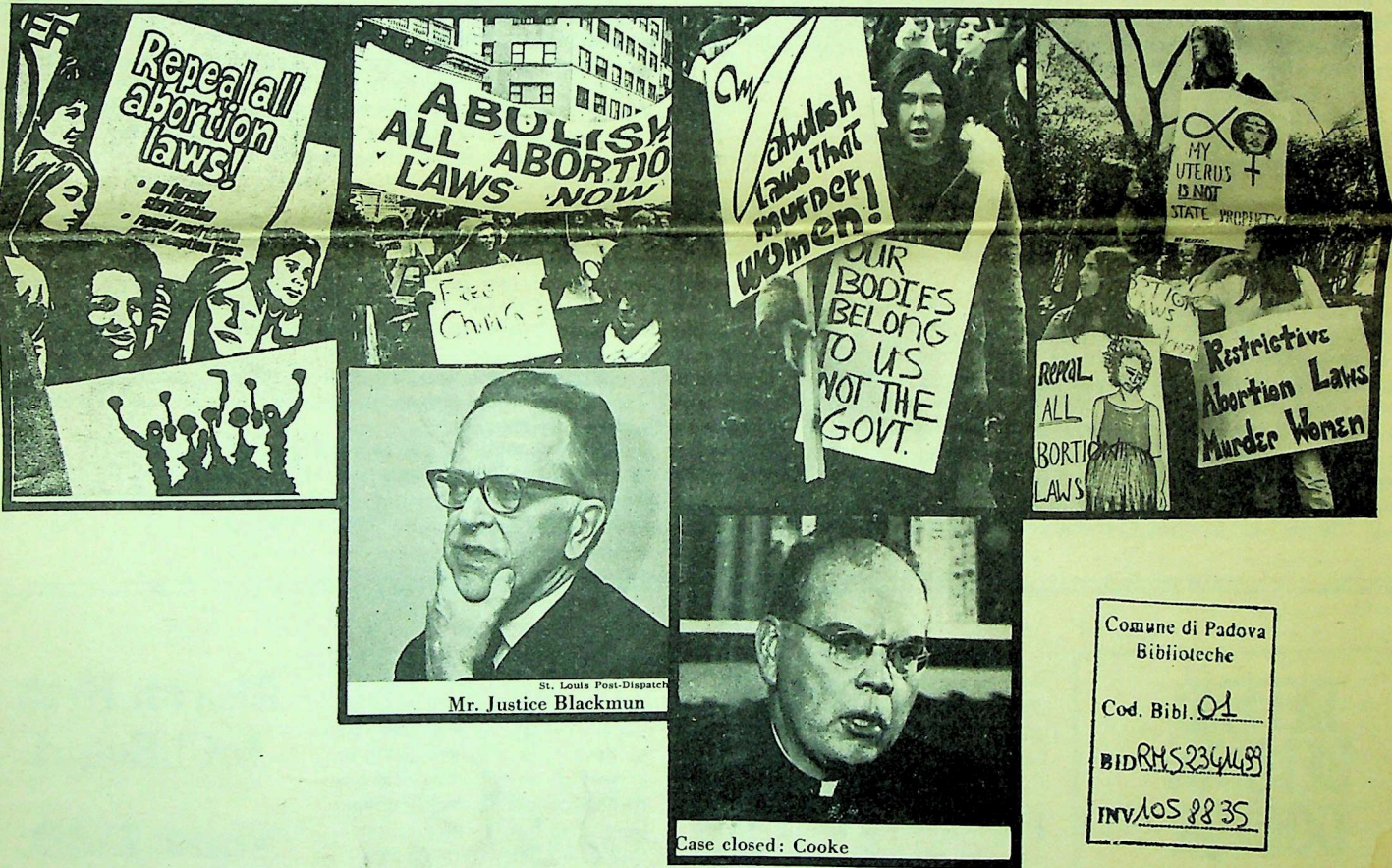
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WONAAC + NEWSLETTER

Feb.-March 1973

WOMEN'S NATIONAL ABORTION ACTION COALITION
150 FIFTH AVENUE ■ NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011 ■

WOMEN WIN ABORTION IN U.S.!



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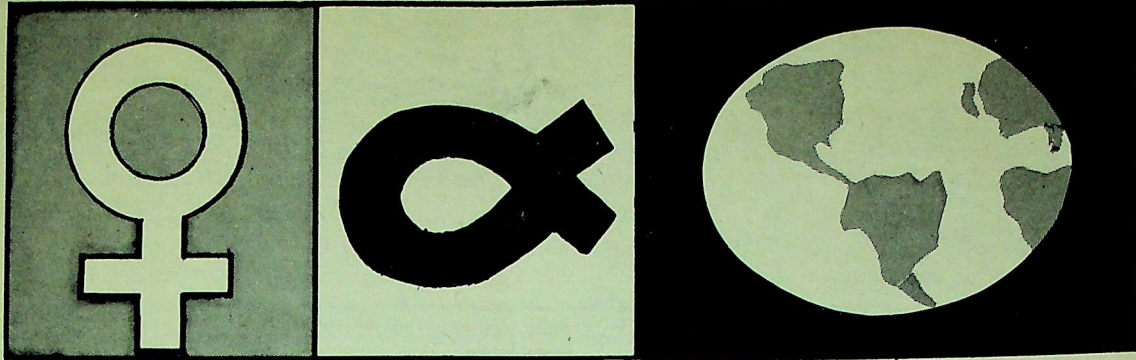
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March 10 International Solidarity



Meeting Replaces Int'l Tribunal

by Evelyn Smith

The victorious Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States has already given new impetus to the struggles internationally of women to control their reproductive lives.

On February 6th, 345 French doctors issued a public manifesto proclaiming that they had performed abortions. They stated that they were "greatly encouraged" by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision.

This action by the French doctors comes upon the heels of a court case in Bobigny, France where a 16 year old woman, Marie-Claire Chevalier, and her mother Mrs. Michele Chevalier, were tried under France's 162 year old abortion law which makes it a crime to perform, facilitate or undergo an abortion unless the mother's life is in danger. Both were acquitted, another victory for a woman's right to choose.

Our victory here has been greeted with joy and inspiration by women throughout the world. The day after the Supreme Court decision, WONAAC received congratulatory messages from Canada, England, and from Simone de Beauvoir.

The international abortion rights struggle is only just beginning. The lessons we have learned and the victory we have won in the United States can be a real example and inspiration for others fighting for the right to abortion in their own countries.

It is for this reason that on Saturday evening, March 10th, in commemoration of International Women's Day, WONAAC will sponsor a solidarity meeting on "The International Struggle for Abortion Rights." The featured speakers will be three outstanding women from the French abortion movement. Gisele Halimi, attorney for Marie-Claire and Mrs. Michele Chevalier, and a leader of "Choisir" the French abortion rights organization which organized the campaign to defend the Bobigny, France defendants, will speak. Also speaking will be Mrs. Michele Chevalier, one of the Bobigny defendants and mother of Marie-Claire; and Claude Servan-Schreiber, a leader of "Choisir" and feminist journalist who has written for *Ms.* magazine.

In a letter to WONAAC Ms. Servan-Schreiber said: "...As I am sure you know, the abortion issue is getting to be more important every day in France and since Marie-Claire Chevalier's trial, last November, our association (Choisir, meaning the right to choose) has become the major force fighting for the repeal of our present law. We are thrilled at the prospect of coming to New York and of telling our American sisters about our efforts. But we also want to learn more about their won struggle and its recent success (the Supreme Court's decision), and also ask for their support."

The March 10th event will take the place of the originally scheduled three-day International Abortion Tribunal. There had been three main purposes for the International Abortion Tribunal: (1) To hold a large-scale, public, national activity to demand the repeal of all abortion laws in the United States; (2) To focus national and international attention on the right and to defend the New York abortion law; (3) To share information about the situation with abortion around the world.

The first two reasons for holding the International Abortion Tribunal are no longer valid. Also, with the legalization of abortion through the sixth month in all states, the urgency around the issue of abortion does not exist as it did before the Supreme Court decision. This means that WONAAC's activities cannot be on the same scale as prior to the Supreme Court decision.

It is important, however, to solidarize ourselves with the international abortion movement, to do whatever is possible to extend the victory we have won to other countries, and to remain on the offensive and mobilized in face of right-to-life attacks.

Some areas around the country are still planning to send people to New York for the March 10th event. Housing can be arranged if areas will let the national office know.

The momentum of a victory is a powerful weapon which we now hold. We here in the United States have a responsibility to wield it in support of those around the world and to further our struggle here. The March 10th International Women's Day Meeting will be a major step in this direction.

DEFEND BELGIAN DOCTOR

By Ginny McGrath

Dr. Willy Peers, a co-founder of the Belgian Society to Repeal the Abortion Law, is now in prison in Belgium, awaiting trial for performing more than three hundred abortions in 1972. His arrest came after several months of harassment by the Secret Police, the District Attorneys, and the Governor of the Province of Namur. Belgian abortion laws prohibit abortion except when the mother's life would be endangered by having a child. The law also provides a maximum of five years in jail for women who undergo abortions and twenty years for the doctor performing them.

On February 1, 1973, a preliminary hearing was held in Liege, Belgium. The hearing upheld Dr. Peers' arrest and detention and, since there is no bail system in Belgium, he can be held in prison up to two years awaiting trial. In an effort to have him released, Dr. Peers' defense has filed a motion for a hearing to be heard on February 17, 1973.

The arrest of Dr. Peers has caused a great upsurge of protest in his behalf in Belgium. Ten thousand supporters gathered in front of the prison of Namur on January 27th demanding his release and the repeal of Belgium's abortion law. In New York, WONAAC and the Ad Hoc Artists' Movement for Freedom participated in a picket line in front of the Belgian Consulate, raising the same demands.

The 'Comite Willy Peers' is calling for another demonstration in Liege on February 24th, and an even larger turnout is expected. WONAAC is asking that all its coalitions and affiliates organize solidarity picket lines on that day. In New York, WONAAC and the Ad Hoc Artists' Movement for Freedom are sponsoring a picket line in front of Sabena

Airlines on Saturday, February 24th at 1 PM. The airline's offices are located at 589 Fifth Avenue, between 47th and 48th Streets. Local coalitions can organize picket lines in front of consulates, or Sabena Airlines offices, or simply downtown or in front of city hall, if there is no Belgium-connected office in your area. (A list of Belgian consulates in the United States follows.)

We in the United States have won a great victory in the recent Supreme Court decision. But it is more important than ever now to support our sisters and brothers in other countries where oppressive abortion laws still exist. We urge you to send letters and telegrams of support to Dr. Peers, c/o Comite Willy Peers, 75 Rue Robert-Jones, Brussels, 180, Belgium. Telephone 02-43-77-29. In addition, WONAAC chapters should get organizations and prominent individuals in your area to send messages. We must continue the struggle until abortion has become a woman's right all over the world.

**March 10th
Int'l. Event**

Time: 7:30

Date: 3/10/73

**Place: TOWN
HALL**

113 West 43rd St.
Manhattan, N.Y.

Donation: \$2.50

The Meaning of the Supreme Court Decision

by Barbara Mutnick and Susan LaMont,
WONAAC National Coordinator



'Supreme Court OKs Abortions'- that was the banner headline on the front page of the January 22nd New York Post, announcing that the Supreme Court, after 13 months of deliberation and two hearings, had finally reached a decision on the Texas and Georgia abortion cases. Similar headlines appeared in papers around the country and the world, followed by quotes from women's liberation and abortion rights activists, declaring the Supreme Court decision a 'fantastic victory' and a 'sweeping vindication of our position.'

The full impact of the decision became more apparent as the anti-abortion forces responded. Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York described the decision as 'shocking' and 'horrifying.' Philadelphia's Cardinal Krol called it 'an unspeakable tragedy for this nation.' President Nixon's aides referred the press to Nixon's now-infamous letter of May 1972, in which he wrote to Cardinal Cooke supporting the Cardinal's efforts to overturn New York's liberalized abortion law. At that time, President Nixon referred to 'the right to life of literally hundreds of thousands of unborn children' and opposed abortion because it violated his belief in the 'sanctity of life!'

But for millions of women throughout this country, the Supreme Court ruling was greeted with elation and relief. No longer will women be forced to bear the burden of unwanted pregnancies or face the terror of an illegal abortion. Women also greeted this decision with pride. The decision proved that the women's movement is a political force capable of achieving major victories. Not since 1920, when women won the right to vote, has such a far-reaching constitutional or legal step been taken toward the total liberation of women.

The seven justices of the majority, with Justice Blackmun writing the opinion, essentially declared abortion legal in all fifty states through the 24th week of pregnancy. During the first trimester, no restrictions whatsoever may be placed on the access to abortion, except the requirement that it be performed by a licensed physician. The only regulations allowed for in the second trimester are those which are 'reasonably related to maternal health,' meaning such regulations as those requiring women who are more than twelve weeks pregnant to obtain abortions in a hospital as opposed to in a clinic or a doctor's office.

Only in the last trimester may states prohibit abortion - and it is important to note that the decision says 'may,' not 'must.' Also, even in the last 12 weeks, abortion cannot be prohibited

if the life or health of the woman is endangered, according to the ruling. Based on a past Supreme Court ruling (U.S. vs. Vuitch, 1971) and other court precedents, 'health' has become broadly interpreted to mean both physical and mental health. An example of what this means is that it has the effect of making New York's abortion law - the most liberal in the country up to January 22nd - unconstitutional, since the New York law prohibits abortion after the 24th week except to save the physical life of the woman. (It also means that New York's first trimester regulation, requiring abortions to be performed in clinics only is struck down, allowing abortions in doctors' offices.)

According to the Supreme Court, it is during the third trimester that the fetus becomes capable of 'meaningful' life outside the woman's womb. Thus, they say, there may be 'compelling state interest' in the potentiality of human life. In this way, the Supreme Court puts qualifications on the right to choose, qualifications which are inconsistent with the basis of its decision. Although the vast majority of women seeking abortion obtain them early in pregnancy, late abortion must be available for those who require them. In addition, there is no reason whatsoever for the states to legislate in this area. The decision should always be left to the woman in consultation with her physician, and abortion should not be subject to special legislative restrictions any more than tonsillectomies or heart surgery.

In order to assess the impact of the women's movement on the Supreme Court decision, it is only necessary to ask 'What would have happened if the Supreme Court had ruled on these cases ten, or even five years ago?'

Even if they had decided to hear cases such as those of Mary Roe and Jane Doe - the anonymous housewife from Atlanta and the waitress from Dallas - the Court would most probably have upheld the state laws restricting the right to abortion. Or perhaps they would have simply struck down 'unconstitutionally vague' abortion statutes. But they would never have done what they did on January 22nd - strike down the abortion laws of 46 states, basing their ruling on arguments advanced by the women's liberation and abortion rights movement.

Affirming our assertion that abortion is a basic constitutional right, the decision is based on the premise that the right of privacy includes the right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. Although not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution, the

right to privacy has, over the years, been interpreted as integral to the 14th Amendment's concept of personal liberty. In the majority opinion, Justice Blackmun writes 'This right of privacy, whether it be founded in the Fourteenth Amendment's concept of personal liberty and restrictions upon state action, as we feel it is, or, as the District Court determined, in the Ninth Amendment's reservation of rights to the people, is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy.'

Attempting to strike a middle ground, the decision rejects the contention of the plaintiffs that the woman's right to terminate a pregnancy at any time is absolute. This is the major aspect of the decision with which the abortion rights movement disagrees. However, Blackmun goes on to explain that just as the court could not support the 'absolute' right of the woman, neither could they uphold the assertion by the appellee in the Texas case that the state has a 'compelling state interest' in maintaining the anti-abortion statute.

It is important to note that the Supreme Court decision leaves open the possibility of the passage of total repeal legislation, either on a state level or on a federal level, such as through the passage of the Abortion Rights Act of 1973. The abortion rights movement should press for the passage of such legislation, which would take the question of abortion out of the state criminal codes altogether.

The 'Right to Life' Forces

The Supreme Court decision has dealt a devastating blow to the so-called 'Right to Life' forces. The decision explicitly states that the fetus cannot be considered a 'person' in the constitutional sense of the word, and, therefore, it has no constitutional rights. Citing the use of the word 'person' throughout the Constitution, Blackmun wrote, 'in nearly all these instances, the use of the word is such that it has application only postnatally.' Blackmun's opinion says that the appellee in the Texas case (the state of Texas, which was attempting to maintain the old law) could cite no case that 'holds a fetus is a person within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment.' He went on to point out the contradiction that Texas and states with similar statutes face in using the argument that a fetus is a person in the constitutional sense. If a fetus were actually considered a person in the full sense, exceptions such as performing legal abortions to save the life of the woman (the Texas law) would deprive the fetus of its life without due process of law as would be required under the Fourteenth Amendment. Furthermore, he argues, if the Texas law and others like it were consistent with the argument

that a fetus has full constitutional rights, a woman who aborted a fetus would have to be considered a 'principal or an accomplice' and should suffer a penalty the same as if she had committed a murder.

The attorneys for the state of Texas, like the other "Right to Life" forces, based their contention that the fetus is entitled to constitutional rights on the argument that life begins at conception, and therefore, must be protected by the state from that moment throughout pregnancy. The Court dismissed that argument, stating "We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins. When those trained in the respective disciplines of medicine, philosophy, and theology are unable to arrive at any consensus, the judiciary, at this point in the development of man's knowledge, is not in a position to speculate as to the answer."

This has always been the position of the abortion rights movement - that people can and should believe whatever they want to about such questions. We have been the ones to uphold religious liberty for all, not just for some. It has been the "Right to Life" forces who have violated the religious, philosophical, and personal beliefs of the vast majority of Americans by saying that their beliefs, and only their beliefs, should be maintained as law.

The Supreme Court also ruled on the Georgia abortion law, which was considered more "liberal" than the Texas one, in that it permitted abortion to protect the life or health of the woman, if the pregnancy was the result of rape, or if there was serious fetal deformity. Thirteen states had laws like Georgia's. The specific aspects of Georgia's law which were struck down were the requirements that: (1) abortions be restricted to residents of the state; (2) a hospital board approve each abortion; (3) two additional physicians concur that a woman's life or health are endangered by the pregnancy; and (4) abortion must be performed in a hospital accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. Agreeing that such regulations impose "substantial and irrational roadblocks" in performing an abortion under the earliest and safest conditions, the Court repeatedly states that no such restrictions are attached to any other medical procedure. Thus, the position of the abortion rights and women's movement that abortion should be treated as a medical matter like any other is bolstered by this aspect of the decision.

Implementation

An important question which has arisen since the decision was made is whether or not it applies directly to states other than Texas and Georgia - in other words, are all state laws which do not fall within the framework of the decision automatically invalidated? Harriet Pilpel, attorney for Planned Parenthood - World Population, states in her summary of the decision:

"Based on generally applicable principles of law and the Supreme Court's statements in both cases, we believe that the decisions became effective when they were handed down, namely on January 22, 1973. In our opinion, it is not necessary for statutes which are unconstitutional to be repealed; the Supreme Court decisions supercede state laws inconsistent with them." (cont. on pg. 7)

michigan

by Leslie Craine

The recent Supreme Court decision on abortion was hailed by the abortion rights forces in Michigan as a victory for women. Anti-abortionist leaders expressed shock and outrage at the ruling. Wayne County Prosecutor William Cahalan, long an abortion foe, refused to disclose whether he will attempt to prosecute doctors here who perform abortions under the U.S. Supreme Court's decision. "I am not convinced that the decision necessarily knocks down our Michigan law, since we weren't even a party in the opinion," he said. He cautioned doctors to consult their lawyers before performing abortions.

Nevertheless, the Supreme Court decision was rapidly put into effect. Within a day of the decision, commercial abortion referral services were referring women to Detroit area clinics for first trimester abortions, and were making arrangements to refer women to doctors and hospitals for second trimester abortions. Other organizations, such as Michigan Clergy Counseling Service, are also making such referrals.

Dr. Maurice Reizen, director of the Michigan Department of Public Health, has expressed concern about the possibility of unsafe "abortion mills" arising and has asked Governor Milliken for emergency powers to impose guidelines regulating abortion procedures and facilities. The Detroit Metropolitan chapter of NOW has also expressed concern over this possibility and has organized a 24-hour answering service to collect information on abortion practices and prices in Michigan and to provide counseling to women seeking abortions.

The Detroit Women's Abortion Action Coalition views the Supreme Court decision as a tremendous victory for women and a vindication of the efforts of WONAAC chapters around the country. DWAAC will be keeping an eye on the anti-abortion forces in the state and will stand ready to counter any drive to roll back the Supreme Court decision.

A successful meeting held on February 8, sponsored by Wayne Women's Liberation analyzed the Supreme Court decision. Marty Pettit, a DWAAC member, along with Dr. Edgar B. Keemer, spoke about the decision's implications for the women's movement and the role of WONAAC in the struggle leading to that decision. Dr. Keemer, who was arrested in November on the charge of performing an abortion, is a member of the National Association to Repeal Abortion Laws (NARAL) and a strong supporter of WONAAC.

washington

The situation in Washington is basically unchanged since the January 22nd Supreme Court abortion decision. We have already had for the past year and a half a vigorous campaign educating women to the true nature of this so called liberalized law. In order to obtain an abortion in Washington a woman

has to be a resident of the state for three months; if married and living with her husband she must obtain his consent; if a minor, a woman has to have the consent of her parent or legal guardian. Abortions have to be performed within the first four lunar months and in approved clinics which have to be within ten miles of a hospital. This last restriction virtually cuts off women who live east of the Cascade Mountains and could not obtain abortions in clinic or doctors offices, where there are no hospitals. The necessity of women to have lived in the state for three months and have the abortion performed in four months discriminates against female students who move to the state to attend school. The true nature of these restrictions was best dramatized by the recent conviction of Dr. A. Frans Koome in December of 1972 for performing an abortion on a minor woman.

REPORTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

She had sought and obtained the permission of the court when she

was unable to receive the approval for an abortion from her parents or the Catholic Youth Services who were her legal guardians at the time. They then filed a stay on the court approval and when Dr. Koome went ahead and performed the abortion he was brought into court. His case is being appealed. Since the Supreme Court decision our State Attorney General has stated that the present laws and restrictions remain in effect until they have been tested in the local courts or until the legislature passes new laws in conformity with the Supreme Court decision. So here in Washington, an attitude similar to that following the 1954 Civil Rights decision is what we are facing. On February 5 1973 a Seattle judge approved an abortion for a minor in Seattle only after checking out that she was not more than four months pregnant and had been a resident of the state for three months. He was definitely

following the guidelines laid down by the Attorney General. The local human life organization has received broad press coverage in stating their opposition to the Supreme Court decision. One spokesperson has stated, "The only remaining avenue that appears to be open at this time is to pursue a constitutional amendment to afford protection to all life including the unborn." They have been vigorously opposing a current bill in the state legislature

which authorizes the distribution of contraception to minors without parental consent. This has become the focus of their present campaign. The newspapers report that this issue has been the hottest of the current legislative session.

ohio

by Nancy Brown

Almost a month after the Supreme Court decision declaring the Texas and Georgia abortion laws unconstitutional, it is still unclear what the decision will mean for the 132 year old Ohio abortion law. The Ohio abortion law preventing abortion except in cases where it would save the life or mental health of the woman still stands. No woman has yet been able to get an abortion in Ohio under the new guidelines set down by the Supreme Court decision. No repeal or reform bills have been introduced into the legislature, and it appears that none will be in the near future. No abortion clinics have been set up anywhere in Ohio. Most legislators and abortion groups are still awaiting

up Hughes as a trustee for the unborn child. The action is permitted under the Ohio law when a funded trust is established for an unborn child. The injunction petition contended that 'killing an unborn child violates the statutory and common law rights of the unborn child.'

Such a contention is counter to the January 22nd ruling of the Supreme Court, and if the injunction is upheld, it will mean a serious setback in the struggle of women to win the right to abortion in Ohio. The injunction denies women the basic right to control their own bodies, and puts control of a woman's body in the hands of the state or any individual who wants it. The ACLU, the Abortion Project Coalition, and other abortion rights groups in the state will be fighting the injunction and continuing the campaign to get the restrictive Ohio abortion law invalidated.

The Right to Life forces have also been lining up support outside the Courts. Two days after the Supreme Court decision, Ohio Health Director John Cashman called abortion 'a public health hazard' and announced plans to meet with the state attorney general and concerned citizens to discuss the decision and what to do about it. Cashman's sentiments have been echoed by several state legislators, the heads of the Catholic Church, and heads of the Catholic hospitals in Cleveland, who say they will not perform abortions because of moral questions. And, on the day of the decision, the Lake County Mental Health Board voted 6-3 to give Birthright the go-ahead to apply for \$80,000 from the State Mental Health Board. The Lake County Health Board withdrew funds from the Lake County Free Clinic, when they learned that the clinic was doing abortion counseling. The decision was protested at the Mental Health Board meeting by members of the APC and supporters of the Lake County Free Clinic. (Lake County is near Cleveland.) In the Cleveland area, the Right to Life has gone on a major campaign to paste up anti-abortion literature on campuses, and on January 28th, Youth for Life sponsored a "mourners march and rally" in downtown Cleveland that drew almost 300 people. (the largest anti-abortion demonstration ever held in Cleveland). The Abortion Project Coalition held a picket line opposite the demonstration, where supporters held a large banner saying "64% of the U.S. and the Supreme Court agree: Abortion is A Woman's Right to Choose." The picket line received coverage on all the Cleveland television stations and a large picture of the banner appeared in the Sunday edition of the Plain Dealer.

The Cleveland Abortion Project Coalition and the Ohio Abortion Alliance, a statewide abortion rights organization, have received extensive news coverage around the recent events. Over 50 reporters attended a recent news conference held in Columbus on January 23rd, where the Ohio Abortion Alliance announced plans to launch a test case in the courts. On January 24th, a news conference called by the APC in Cleveland was covered by one television station and every major newspaper and radio station in the city. Participants in the news conference included representatives of the APC, the Case Western Re-

results of a class action suit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on February 1st, on behalf of a 23 year old woman who wants to terminate her 7 week old pregnancy. Plaintiffs in the suit are Jane Doe and Dr. Harley M. Blank, a Columbus gynecologist. The suit, if won, would strike down the present restrictive abortion law and enable doctors to perform abortions without prosecution.

The suit has been used by reactionary antiabortion forces as a springboard to launch attacks against the Supreme Court decision and the right of a woman to control her own body. The Ohio State Council of the all-male Knights of Columbus, at a news conference February 8th, offered to pay for 'complete prenatal and postnatal care of Jane Doe' if she would have the child. The Knights of Columbus also announced that they would 'assist any girl with a similar problem by guiding her to competent and qualified help she may need when facing an unwanted pregnancy.' The Knights' offer, however, does not include financial aid to these thousands of Ohio women, because 'economic reasons are not usually the reasons for an abortion.' The Knights also announced an accelerated campaign of public education and work with all the 'pro-life' groups in an effort to amend the U.S. Constitution to counter the Supreme Court ruling. Part of the 'Right to Life' forces' accelerated campaign was to get a temporary injunction against Dr. Blank, preventing him from performing an abortion on Jane Doe until March 1st. The injunction, filed on February 12th by Dr. Thomas Hughes, set

serve University Women's Center, Planned Parenthood, NOW's Cuyahoga Women's Political Caucus, the ACLU Women's Rights Project, and the Socialist Workers Campaign of Roberta Scherr for Mayor.

Although the anti-abortion forces have been very vociferous, support for the Supreme Court decision has come from a wide number of sources. The Cleveland Press, in a January 23 editorial, called it a "humane and enlightened decision" and stated that "the day of abortions in some dingy back room ought to be over now. The Ohio Legislature, taking its cue from the Supreme Court decision should rewrite the law so that it gives a woman the right to make the critical decision."

The APC is sponsoring a victory rally and women speak-out on abortion on February 21st at CWRU in Cleveland. Speakers will include Ms. Susan LaMont, national coordinator of WONAAC, Ruth Harris of Planned Parenthood, Nan Arons of the CWRU Law School, and Nancy Brown, the coordinator of the APC. The APC is also co-sponsoring a program for international women's day which will be Saturday, March 10th, at 12 noon at CWRU. Both activities will speak out against the Right to Life attacks on women's rights to abortion in Ohio and will demand the immediate invalidation of Ohio's restrictive abortion law.

new york

by Ann Glick

The Supreme Court decision on abortion is regarded as a major victory in New York. The 7-to-2 decision in favor of a woman's right to choose allows for even the present liberalized New York abortion law to be further liberalized. The decision has forced the City Health Code to be changed to allow for abortions to be performed in a doctor's office during the first three months of pregnancy. The decision will also help to alleviate some of the problems in opening up clinics in upstate New York; in the two and one half years under the New York abortion law there are only two clinics which have been established outside of New York City. In addition, the Supreme Court decision will help pave the way for total repeal of the present abortion law in New York.

The day after the decision 31 legislators, the largest number ever, from all over the state, co-sponsored a bill that would take the present abortion law out of the criminal code and make abortion simply a medical matter like every other medical procedure, to be controlled by the State Health Department. New York WONAAC supports this measure and hopes for its speedy passage.

In a victory rally and forum held on February 2nd, the Supreme Court decision and the important role that the abortion rights movement and the women's movement played in making this decision possible was explained to an audience of over 200. The meeting also highlighted the role WONAAC can play in the international struggle for abortion rights.

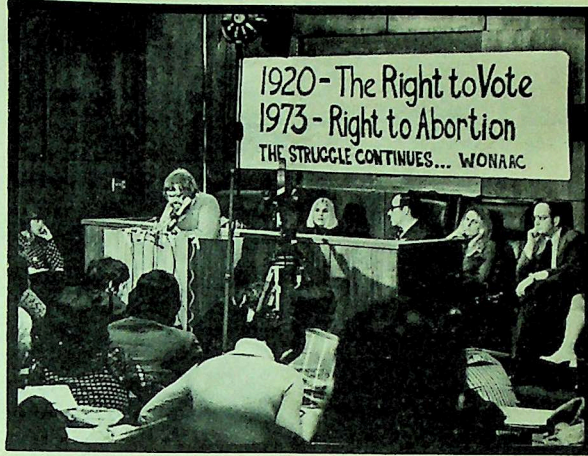
Even though the situation in New York is a good one we will have to continue to work to counteract the "Right to Life" forces who, al-

though they realize that the New York abortion law will not become an issue in the state legislature this year, will most assuredly do other things to make their position felt. Two of the most ardent foes of the present abortion law in New York had conflicting opinions of the Supreme Court decision. Senator James H. Donovan, N.Y. Senate sponsor of a bill which would revert to the previous anti-abortion law, called on Congress to amend the United States Constitution to provide "the Unborn" with equal protection under the 14th Amendment. The Assembly sponsor of the same legislation, Assemblyman Edward Crawford, Republican of Oswego, said he thought the state's present

intent and letter of the Supreme Court decision.

Right now, in New Jersey, there are only a few hospitals that are performing abortions and these in only the first trimester of pregnancy. It is now up to individual doctors and hospitals to decide what policy will be followed. However, no doctor will be prosecuted for performing abortions. Dr. Livingston, who was arrested in the fall of 1972 for performing an abortion (in spite of the fact that the New Jersey law at that time had been ruled unconstitutional), has had the charges against him dropped.

In the very near future, New Jersey will see the start of non-profit referral services opening up around the state. A big push is on to have these services open in areas that are economically deprived. This will be started as soon as possible.



New York Victory Rally/Forum, Feb. 2

abortion law would be left under the court ruling.

Senator James Buckley of New York has said that he will support measures to amend the United States Constitution to make the issue of "fetal rights" a matter for the states and not the federal government to decide.

new jersey

by Ann Glick

It was announced on January 31st, a short time after the Supreme Court decision, that the New Jersey state government would continue to appeal the federal decision that overturned the state's old anti-abortion statute in February of 1971. The old statute declared it a crime to perform an abortion in the state without 'lawful justification.' A 1967 policy statement, endorsed by the state's 21 county prosecutors and the Attorney General's office, limited this generally to abortions performed only to save the life of the woman.

The Attorney General of New Jersey, George Kugler, Jr., has said that the Supreme Court decision on abortion convinced him that the pregnant woman did not have a constitutional right to abortion on demand. The decision, Kugler said, must be concurred by her physician, 'based upon the best clinical judgment that an abortion is necessary.' This statement by the Attorney General is contrary to the Supreme Court decision, which specifically ruled on the Georgia abortion law, saying it was unconstitutional because it had a residency requirement and the need for a panel of doctors to grant an abortion, which the Court felt was an invasion of privacy. The high court specifically said that in the first three months of pregnancy an abortion is strictly a matter of a woman's right to choose, and there can be no state interference. Mr. Kugler's interpretation of the Supreme Court's decision, thus, is clearly contrary to the spirit and

In addition, a big effort is being made to educate women so that they are aware of the Supreme Court decision and its meaning for them.

massachusetts

by Rosalie Majka and Ann Marie Capuzzi

On February 5 the Attorney General of Massachusetts issued his opinion that the implications of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on abortion for Massachusetts were that abortions could be performed and are not illegal as of that day. The Assistant Attorney General said that the entire Massachusetts statute appears to be invalidated by the Supreme Court ruling and that it would be doubtful that any part of it could be used as a defense in prohibiting abortions. The Attorney General left it up to the State legislature to decide whether or not there should be any new legislation regarding abortions in Massachusetts, noting that he does not intend to file any himself. He felt that the state had a right to determine whether women on welfare can demand abortions at state expense, and that legislation should state that only qualified surgeons be allowed to perform abortions and also that abortions during the last trimester of pregnancy be permitted only when there is peril to the life or health of the woman. The Massachusetts abortion law prior to the Supreme Court ruling had been interpreted to mean that only "therapeutic abortions" were legal, i.e., abortions performed if the life or health of the woman was in danger as determined by two doctors and a psychiatrist.

The Attorney General's opinion, when the Supreme Court decision was first announced, was that the Massachusetts abortion law could

stand and that the state would make exceptions to it as they came up. The Boston Women's Abortion Action Coalition issued a press statement following the Attorney General's which pointed out what an absurd contradiction to reality this would be. It is known that 4,237 abortions were performed in Massachusetts hospitals in 1972 and that 14,000 Massachusetts women had abortions in New York City in 1972. Considering that probably thousands of other women also received abortions during last year, it is obvious that the state would be making thousands of exceptions to the archaic abortion law if Quinn's original opinion was carried out.

On January 29, an action for a declaratory judgement on the class action suit, *Women vs. Massachusetts*, was filed with the Federal District Court of Massachusetts. This suit, which had been pending in the court, was instituted by the Boston Women's Abortion Action Coalition, Boston Women's Law Collective and the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union in November 1971 with 200 women plaintiffs. The District Court's ruling that the state abortion law is unconstitutional is expected within days. The Attorney General had ten days in which to protest the action. It was in this period that he issued his opinion that abortion was legal in Massachusetts, one week after his first statement. The pressure from the pending court case is clear. The Attorney General was forced to concede that the archaic Massachusetts abortion law could not be used to prosecute. But this is just his opinion and a future successor could have a different opinion and make abortion illegal again. So the judgement of the court is still necessary to declare the law unconstitutional so it can be wiped from the books.

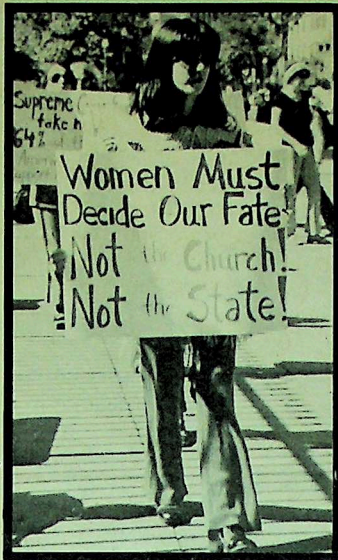
At present, women are receiving abortions in some Massachusetts hospitals without the hassle of needing the proof from two doctors and a psychiatrist that their mental or physical life would be in danger. However, since it takes 3 weeks to get an appointment in a Boston Hospital for an abortion, women who are two months pregnant are being advised to go to New York for abortions. All of the major Boston hospitals except for one have announced that they plan no expansion of their facilities for performing abortions and many hospitals, especially Catholic ones, are refusing to perform abortions. Blue Cross in Massachusetts has stated that it will not pay for "unnecessary abortions." The Crittenton Home, a 100-year old institution in Boston which has been a home for unwed mothers applied for a license to open a medical clinic in which abortions would be performed last July. Coincidentally, their application was scheduled to be decided upon on the day after the Supreme Court ruling was made. The Public Health Board which issues licenses met that day in secret, in violation of the open meeting law in Massachusetts, and postponed making a decision for thirty days.

In opposition to the Supreme Court's ruling, 200 people attended a Citizens for Life meeting in Boston a few days after the ruling was made to launch a statewide campaign to press for a ban on abortion.

(Cont. on pg. 8)

Dr. Barbara Roberts ...

Barbara Roberts demonstrating with others in Washington, D.C., as Supreme Court reheard Georgia & Texas cases in October.



SPEECH GIVEN BY DR. BARBARA ROBERTS to the February 2nd WONAAC Rally and Forum in New York City

Fifty three years, 4 months and 27 days after women won the right to vote we won the right to abortion. In both cases the victory followed long years of struggle. In both cases thousands of women had marched, demonstrated, petitioned, lobbied and fought for the right in question. In both cases frenzied opposition had predicted disaster if our cause was successful. But finally in both instances all male bodies bowing to the pressure of masses of angry women brought the feminist revolution a step closer to completion.

Anyone who questions the breadth or the power of the women's movement should read last week's Supreme Court decision. Because while not perfect it affirms what we have said repeatedly for the past several years, that a fetus is not a person and that our right to privacy includes our right to abortion. Speaking for the 7 justices who concurred, Judge Blackmun wrote: "This right of privacy whether it be founded in the 14th Amendment's concept of personal liberty and restrictions upon state action, as we feel it is, or, as the District Court determined, in the 9th Amendment's reservation of rights to the people, is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy."

They hasten to add that the woman's right is not absolute, but the implication of the decision is clear and perhaps best spelled out in Justice White's dissent. He complains "that during the period prior to the time the fetus becomes viable the constitution values the convenience, whim, or caprice of the putative mother more than the life or the potential life of the fetus."

We are delighted to hear it. I can't imagine that Justice White fully appreciates the inconvenience of being a pregnant teenager or the inconvenience of a coat hanger abortion, or the inconvenience of being disembowled by a butcher abortionist. But I'm delighted that over his dissent such inconveniences are no longer enforceable by law.

The influence of the women's movement is seen in other parts of the decision. Justice Blackmun takes note in passing of new medical techniques, among them menstrual extraction, the practice that feminists introduced and popularized.

Abele vs. Markle, better known to us as Women vs. Connecticut, is cited repeatedly and perhaps most telling on the first page of the decision Judge Blackmun acknowledges their "awareness of the sensitive and emotional nature of the abortion controversy, of the vigorous opposing views, of the deep and seemingly absolute convictions that the subject inspires." We tend to forget that before the women's movement there was no controversy about abortion. There was private anguish. There was hidden torment. There were blasted lives but there was no public controversy. Abortions were illegal. Men had declared them so and millions of women accepted this unconstitutional infringement of their rights without question. Before the women's movement the Texas and Georgia suits would not have been brought, and had they been, no court no matter how liberal would have returned this decision. How then was the victory won? What lessons can we draw from the Supreme Court decision?

The first is that no political body makes decisions in a vacuum. Legislators, judges, governors, all are influenced by public opinion. All the quiet behind the scenes lobbying that had been going on for years in the so-called abortion reform movement did nothing to change public opinion. Public opinion on abortion was changed only when feminist women stood up in public and said abortion is our right. When they stood up by the thousands in the streets and the legislatures and in the courts.

The Supreme Court decision specifically mentions that other Federal and State courts have considered abortion law challenges and have reached the same conclusion. The first case they cite is Abele vs. Markle or Women vs. Connecticut. I was fortunate to be involved in organizing Women vs. Connecticut which in reality was much more than a lawsuit. First, it was a consciously feminist effort brought, organized, and argued solely by women. We saw it as more than an effort of a few women to win a court case. We sought to involve as many women as possible from all over the state in challenging the law we found intolerable. We weren't interested in reforming the law, but in abolishing it. We spoke to women's groups, to nurse's organizations, to campus groups, medical societies, to church groups, in fact wherever we could get an invitation urging women to be plaintiffs and presenting the feminist perspective on the abortion struggle.

We held demonstrations, we testified before the legislature. We had press conferences, rallies, and dances. We won not only in Connecticut, but it's clear from the Texas and Georgia cases that the arguments raised in our suit had a profound influence on the Supreme Court.

Many of you know that WONAAC was formed out of the campaign around Women vs. Connecticut to give a national focus to the many state-wide fights that were being waged. We formed in the spring of 1971, very conscious that the Supreme Court would be hearing the Texas and Georgia cases in the fall. One of the first things WONAAC did was to file an amicus brief to these cases. In the fall, just before the Supreme Court heard the initial arguments, we held demonstrations in Washington DC and San Francisco demanding the repeal of all abortion laws, publicizing our slogan Abortion is a Woman's Right to Choose. We have held speakouts, debates, marches, hearings, and conferences to keep the issue of abortion in the public consciousness and each successive poll showed the impact of our campaign. This victory was not won working quietly behind the scenes. It wasn't won by refusing to confront our enemies. It wasn't won because a few influential people agreed with us, but because we convinced millions of people that we were right including 7 Supreme Court justices. Judge Blackmun again on the first page of the decision notes that "One's experiences, one's exposure to the raw edges of human existence color one's thinking and conclusions about abortion." For too many years we acquiesced to our own oppression. For too many years we hid the raw edges of being female in a patriarchal society. For too many years we suffered in silence and in isolation a degradation of colossal proportions. We women took up a battle in our own behalf when we thought the unthinkable and said the unspeakable; then and only then would murderous laws crumble before the force of an idea whose time has come.

I wish I could reassure you that our work is over, that the right to abortion is a reality, that we can pack up our podium and go home. Unfortunately having been raised a Catholic I don't expect the fetusfetishists to pack up their rosaries and go home. (Senile old cardinals never die, but we're hoping they'll fade away.) So for a little while longer, we're going to have to be vigilant, we're going to have to make sure that our right to abortion is implemented in all parts of the country. But the major battles are over. For years the threat of unwanted pregnancy hung like a sword over the heads of millions of women. At last we have removed that sword. We have freed our sisters. We have freed ourselves.

ARA CONTINUES

by Judith Lambert

The Supreme Court ruling on abortion leaves the door open for repeal legislation. For this reason Congresswoman Bella Abzug has reintroduced her bill, the Abortion Rights Act of 1973 (H.R. 254). Abzug said at a news conference in New York City on January 27, her bill would "eliminate any state laws of any nature concerning the regulation of abortion." Therefore, the ARA petition campaign carried on by WONAAC will continue.

Public interest around a woman's right to abortion has been elevated in light of the Supreme Court decision. As we speak to groups and individuals on WONAAC's role in the victory we should bring up the petition campaign and encourage people to take on the responsibility of collecting signatures.

We now have over 60 thousand signatures. It is interesting to note that among the top ten states on the scoreboard are New York and California. These states, up until the Supreme Court decision, had the most liberal abortion law in the country. However, people saw the necessity to sign the petition calling for total repeal.

The ARA petition campaign takes on added significance as an activity to educate around. As we petition we will have the opportunity to explain to people that women have the right to control our own bodies and our right to abortion should be unrestricted by legislation.

Two new states have been added to the scoreboard since the last WONAAC NEWSLETTER, Wyoming and New Hampshire. Most states have continued to build their

totals. In cases where petitioning has fallen off the reason may be as simple as a lack of petitions. The WONAAC National Office is having petitions reprinted with the title Abortion Rights Act of 1973 (H.R. 254). We will be filling all orders. Keep in mind that we have to charge 2 cents per petition over 25 to cover printing and postage. Also, the petitions are easy to electrostencil and duplicate. This should be done whenever possible.

ARA PETITION SCOREBOARD

New York	14,051
Georgia	7,855
Massachusetts	6,505
Illinois	5,713
Washington, D.C.	5,394
California	3,029
Minnesota	2,941
Ohio	2,344
Pennsylvania	2,062
Wisconsin	1,954
Texas	1,907
Indiana	1,229
Michigan	1,024
Washington	926
Colorado	714
New Jersey	589
Oregon	325
Connecticut	315
Arizona	255
Kentucky	218
Vermont	172
North Carolina	159
Maryland	147
New Mexico	120
Rhode Island	100
Wyoming	80
Iowa	40
Maine	37
Florida	33
Oklahoma	20
South Carolina	20
New Hampshire	13
Virginia	8
Delaware	5

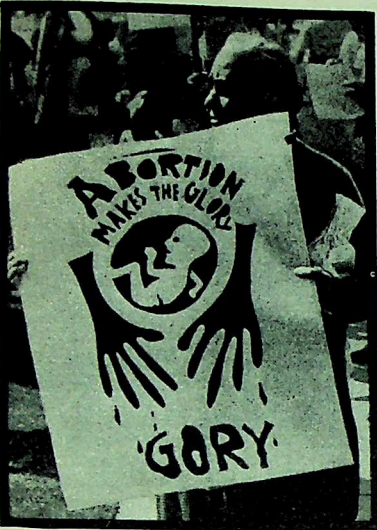
TOTAL

60,304 !

RIGHT TO LIFE RESPONDS

by Ann Verdon

(Ann was recruited to New York WONAAC from a Long Island "Right-to-Life" group.)



("Meaning" cont. from pg. 3)

Thus, the thirty states which had laws similar to Texas', and the thirteen states which had laws similar to Georgia's, have all been invalidated. The statutes in Alabama and the District of Columbia which permitted abortion for reasons of the life and health of the woman have been struck down, and the states which had the most liberal abortion laws - Alaska, Hawaii, New York, and Washington - must change those aspects of their laws which do not comply with the decision. However, if there is resistance to implementing the Supreme Court decision, as there has been in some states, the laws may have to be struck down separately.

Minors

The Supreme Court decision makes no reference to the age at which a woman may obtain an abortion. Some states allow a woman of any age to be treated for pregnancy without parental consent, and in California, the courts have interpreted this to include abortion. Also, in 49 states, minors can obtain treatment for venereal disease without parental consent. It is extremely important that all women, no matter what their age, have access to abortion, without having to obtain parents' (or husband's) consent. It is most likely, however, until this is tested in the courts, that age regulations applying to other medical procedures will apply to abortion.

(The New York abortion law has been liberally interpreted with regard to age throughout the nearly two years of its existence. However, the abortion rights movement should press for equal right to minors in this area. Unless these rights exist explicitly for minors, there will continue to be obstacles for young women, and may be used in some states to prevent young women from obtaining abortions.)

The anti-abortion forces, led by the Catholic Church hierarchy, reacted with shock and dismay to the January 22 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion up to the first six months of pregnancy. Cardinal Cooke of New York, when interviewed by the New York Times, called the decision a "severe setback," and added that it was a "shocking development." Anti-abortion groups all over the country were temporarily disoriented, especially in New York, where they had been gearing up for a legislative battle which looked like it had possibilities of success.

This temporary paralysis, however, appears to be ended. Recognizing that the only way to overturn the Supreme Court's decision would be through the adoption of a Constitutional amendment, "Right to Life"

groups throughout the country are trying to pull together a campaign in this direction. According to the L.I. Catholic, the paper of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, "A national organization will be needed for this effort, one which can direct activities in all of the states, and in Washington." They are projecting lobbying, demonstrations, "educational", and whatever else is necessary to push this amendment through the state legislature and Congress.

Apparently, however, there is some confusion on what type of amendment it would be best for them to project. There are two versions up for consideration: one which would declare the fetus a human being, and therefore entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and one which would make it the decision of the individual states

whether or not to permit abortion. Each has its advantages; while the first would totally preclude all abortion legislation, the second might stand a better chance of being adopted. A nationwide focus is being held off on until the anti-abortionists decide which of the two is better to propose.

Even though these threats are still only distant rumblings of what could develop, anti-abortion activity has far from ceased. Three hundred "Right to Lifers" demonstrated in Cleveland shortly after the decision was announced, and on February 3, in Chicago, a demonstration of 5,000 was held in opposition to the Supreme Court ruling. The speakers at the rally, which was composed mostly of parochial school children and their families, voiced support for an anti-abortion constitutional amendment, and vowed to push for stringent restrictions on abortion after the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Pending Cases

There are a number of abortion cases pending in lower courts, and the Supreme Court decision affects them all. Any test case challenging the performance of abortion as outlined in the decision will "no doubt be disposed of summarily," says Ms. Pilpel, since, "all state and federal courts, are, of course, bound by the decisions of the United States Supreme Court."

Convicted Doctors

As to what happens to doctors who are convicted of performing abortions and/or have served prison sentences, Pilpel explains that legal precedents have established the trend to wipe out convictions for violations of laws that have subsequently been ruled unconstitutional. "With reference to criminal proceedings in which time to appeal has not expired, a simple motion to dismiss the prosecution on the basis of the Supreme Court decisions should be sufficient," says Pilpel. Already, charges against Dr. Jane Hodgson of Minnesota have been dropped.

The Role of the Abortion Rights Movement

Justice Blackmun's opinion refers to the "sensitive and emotional nature of the abortion controversy... to the vigorous opposing views." It is important to remember that, until several years ago, there was no "abortion controversy." There was only the private ordeal, the shame and secrecy that each woman had to suffer through along. During the last decade, many aspects of society have begun to be questioned, including prevailing attitudes toward sex and sexual behavior and relationships. In this growing atmosphere of change, the abortion rights and women's movement made abortion a major social and political issue in American life.

During the past 13 months that the Supreme Court has been weighing its decision, they have witnessed teach-ins, picket lines, demonstrations, speak-outs, class action suits, and the introduction of the Abortion Rights Act into Congress. They have seen a whole number of courageous doctors put their professions and lives on the line by openly challenging the anti-abortion laws. They have seen many major religious denominations declare for abortion rights. They watched the abortion question become a major issue at the Democratic Party convention, for the first time. They have seen public opinion on this issue swing

faster than on any other issue in recent years, until 64% of the population including a majority of Roman Catholics, say they support a woman's right to choose. They even saw Nixon's own Commission come out in favor of liberalizing the U.S. abortion laws. It was becoming very clear that growing number of women would continue to confront this government if it did not grant our right to abortion.

The Women's National Abortion Action Coalition, with its affiliates throughout the country, has been in the forefront of the fight which resulted in the Supreme Court's decision. And sometimes this has been quite a dangerous place to be. We have been attacked by "Right to Lifers," we have been attacked by the less blatant, but equally insidious opponents of "Women's Lib." President Nixon and the laws of forty-nine states were against us, backed by years of entrenched prejudice. Against these great odds, we set out a year and a half ago to organize a national campaign to win for all women the right to choose. We said that we wouldn't be silent about this issue any longer, and rejected the "quiet, behind the scenes" strategy advocated by some. By working to build a visible and forceful movement of women fighting for their rights, WONAAC helped bring the abortion issue to the fore and gave expression to the anger women felt against those institutions, laws, and prejudices which denied us control over our bodies. WONAAC also said that the abortion issue was not simply a local issue, to be fought out state by state, but that it was a national issue, involving basic constitutional rights, and that a national campaign for the right to choose had to be organized. WONAAC's activities have been many and varied, from filing an amicus curiae brief to the Texas and Georgia suits to organizing the first national abortion rights demonstrations on November 20, 1971, in Washington D.C. and San Francisco. Above all, we were confident that women had the power, if they organized, to win this fight. And WONAAC, along with all the other organizations, groups and individuals fighting for the right to choose, were right.

Although our victory is sweeping and decisive, the job of winning total control over our reproductive lives is not yet completed. On the front page of the February 4th National Catholic Register was the following headline: "Destruction of

fetus up to time of birth enabled by rulings." Through such hysterical alerts and calls to action the "Right to Life" forces are attempting to lay the basis for a nationwide right-wing protest of the Supreme Court decision. One bill proposing a constitutional amendment declaring fetuses human beings with full constitutional rights from the moment of conception has already been introduced into Congress. Another, more sophisticated approach is that of New York Senator James Buckley, Conservative party member, who says he will support efforts to get a constitutional amendment passed allowing the states to legislate in this area again. Also, there have been several "Right to Life" demonstrations, including one of 5,000 which occurred in Chicago on Feb. 3rd.

In addition to these efforts to directly overturn the Supreme Court decision, some state legislatures, state attorney generals, hospitals, etc. will almost certainly try to impede the implementation of the Supreme Court decision. The area reports in this issue of the Newsletter indicate some of the attempts that are being made along these lines.

The abortion rights movement must remain vigilant and prepared to meet any efforts to turn back this decision or to impede its implementation with equal and greater force and determination. We must, with the momentum of this victory, press for the broadest interpretation and implementation of the Supreme Court decision in every state, including support of total repeal efforts. It is also vital to continue our support of the abortion rights movement internationally and to work to extend our victory to every area of the world. Already, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States has given an impetus to the struggle in other countries and solidarity activities, such as those in defense of Dr. Willy Peers of Belgium, are extremely important.

With the Supreme Court decision on abortion, women in the United States have taken a major step toward gaining control of our bodies and lives. We have much work that remains to be done, but our victory this winter of 1973 should give us the confidence and prove to all that we have the power to go much further.

GREETINGS FROM Canada

To WONAAC:

Congratulations on Supreme Court decision liberalizing U.S. Abortion laws - a tremendous victory for all women brought about by the determined and united action of women. We salute WONAAC for its leadership role in the winning of this victory. Forward to the day when all restrictions on a woman's right to choose are dropped. In Canada we call upon the Canadian government to follow suit and immediately repeal its abortion law from the criminal code.

In solidarity,

Canadian Women's Coalition
Coalition to Repeal the Abortion
Law

Simone de Beauvoir

For WONAAC

I am happy at your victory -- I wish I could be with you for the celebration.

Let us continue the fight.

In sisterhood,

Simone de Beauvoir

(Mass., cont. from pg. 5)

tion. They intend to set up groups in all towns throughout the state and announced that they would do anything including mass demonstrations, civil disobedience and legal actions to reverse the decision and win rights for fetuses. They intend to direct an educational campaign to women to explain the "reality of abortion" and encourage women not to have abortions. Already, these opposition groups are forming in towns around Massachusetts and major spokespeople of the Value of Life Committee and the Citizens for Life Committee are holding public meetings wherever they can.

BOWAAC is fighting for the implementation of the legal victory won by women with an intensive educational campaign and various activities and actions--interviews and editorial time on radio and TV, speakers at regional abortion meetings and local campuses, and a literature campaign to answer anti-abortion opposition. We had a Regional Abortion Conference on February 10 with a panel and workshops which discussed the Supreme Court ruling, the current situation in Massachusetts, and what women can do to make sure this victory becomes a reality for all women. Featured speakers were: Dr. Barbara Roberts, Dr. Freda Reblsky, a psychologist at Boston University, Kathee Allen, an attorney with Women vs. Massachusetts, and Phyllis Cosand the director of the Crittenton Home. Constituency workshops discussed how each would organize for the educational campaign and the pickets projected. Boston women will be picketing at the Belgian consulate on February 24 in solidarity with the Belgium demonstration in defense of Dr. Willie Peers and demanding an extension of the victory we have won here to women in Belgium and elsewhere. Boston women will also be picketing on March 5 when the State Judiciary Committee is holding public hearings on right to life legislation which has been submitted to the legislature.

\$ STILL NEEDED

WONAAC has, for a long period of time, played a major role in the abortion rights movement. We have all devoted a lot of time, energy, and money toward making a WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE a reality. WONAAC is now prepared to meet any attack on the right to abortion, and to back efforts to win the unconditional right to abortion by supporting Bella Abzug's Abortion Rights Act and any state repeal efforts.

The rumblings of a counter-attack are already coming from the right-to-life. To remain mobilized, to build the kind of International Abortion Rights Meeting on March 10th that will help secure our victory and be a boost to the international struggle, and to step up our educational efforts, we need money.

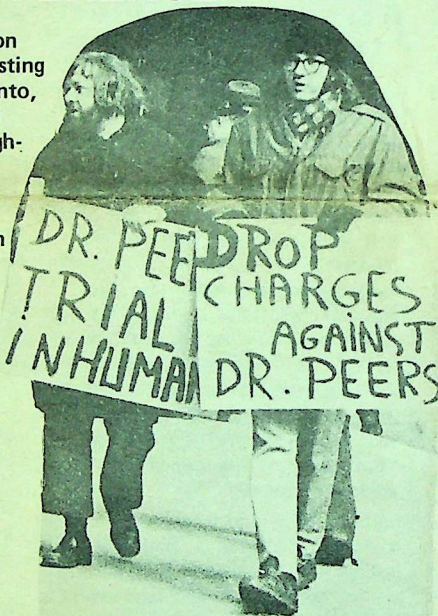
We must continue to contribute our time, our thinking and our money to this movement. Please clip the coupon in this issue of the Newsletter and send it in today, to help see this victory through.

This issue has been brought to you by Carol Eaton, Ann Glick, Susan LaMont, Ginny McGrath, Barbara Mutnick, Evelyn Smith & Karen Stamm.

CANADIAN CONFERENCE

The Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws is hosting a cross-Canada conference in Toronto, March 16-18. This conference will bring together women from throughout Canada to protest Canada's restrictive abortion laws and to plan further activities to press for repeal of these laws. Women from the United States' abortion rights movement are invited to attend and participate in the conference, where one of the topics of discussion will be the effect of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling for the Canadian abortion rights movement.

For further information about the conference, the location, schedule, etc., contact the Canadian Women's Coalition, Box 5673, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



N.Y. picket line at Belgian Consulate sponsored by Ad Hoc Artists' Movement for Freedom & N.Y. WONAAC photo/ Joanne Stamerra

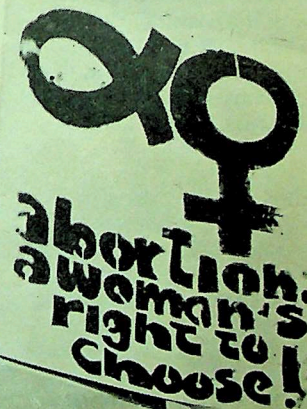
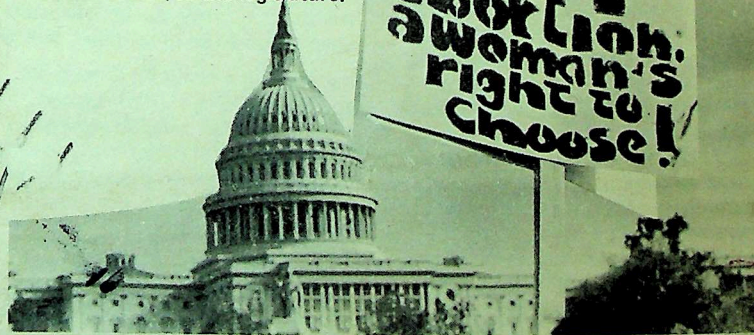
wonaac
150 5th ave.
new york, n.y 10011



Mariarosa Dalla Costa
Via B. Cristoforo 35
Padova Italy 35100



First Class Mail



clip & mail to Women's National Abortion Action Coalition/150 Fifth Ave., Suite 437, New York, New York 10011 (phone: 212-675-9150.

- Please keep me informed of WONAAC activities.
- I plan to attend the meeting on "The International Struggle for Abortion Rights" in NYC on March 10.
- Enclosed is a donation of \$_____ to help implement the Supreme Court decision and win the right to abortion for all women.

Name Address

City State Zip Phone

School/Organization



Women's National Abortion Action Coalition
Box 685, Old Chelsea, New York,
NY 10011 212-675-9150

Over 1,000 women came together July 16, 17 & 18, in New York City to plan a national abortion law repeal campaign. We came from 29 states, Washington, D.C., Canada, Sweden, France and Germany. We were from over 250 organizations and from all walks of life.

After three full days of discussion, the overwhelming majority of women voted to launch a nationally coordinated campaign to repeal all abortion laws. We want to share with you a summary of the conference results and ask for your support and endorsement.

Support Shirley Wheeler

For us, Shirley Wheeler symbolizes the seriousness and importance of repealing all abortion laws. Shirley Wheeler had an abortion in Florida. As in most states, in Florida abortions are illegal. The authorities found out about Shirley's "crime." They arrested her, tried her and convicted her of manslaughter. She is now awaiting sentencing, facing a possible 20 year term.

Shirley Wheeler's only crime is a crime that millions of women contemplate and tens of thousands carry out every year. Shirley Wheeler exercised her constitutional right to control her own body, to decide whether or not she would bear a child. This is why we have launched this campaign.

National Action November 20 in Washington, D.C. & San Francisco

The conference called for a nationally coordinated abortion law repeal campaign including legislation, legal actions, women's speak-outs, etc. and demonstrations on November 20 in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco for the repeal of all abortion laws, against forced sterilization and for the repeal of all restrictive contraception laws. Abortion: A woman's right to choose.

Legislative Action

We voted to establish a national information coordination service to keep constituent groups informed of legislative developments on a state and federal level, to establish a legal committee to investigate the possibility of a national bill to repeal all abortion laws, to support efforts to repeal the Washington, D.C. abortion law which has to be voted on by Congress, and to support a bill introduced by Bella Abzug that would guarantee military women and dependents of military personnel the right to abortion on demand in military hospitals.

Litigation

We voted to encourage women to develop class action suits where not already in progress, to sponsor a massive amicus curiae brief in support of the Texas and Georgia briefs to be heard by the Supreme Court this fall, and to organize contingents of plaintiffs of class action suits around the country in the November 20 demonstrations, and to develop a national information clearing house on class action suits.

Additional motions were passed concerning building participation of Black, Chicana, Latina, Puerto Rican, Native American, and Asian American women, gay, church and working women in this campaign to repeal all abortion laws. All proposals and workshop reports are available from the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition office.

Please fill out the coupon below. Support and endorse and build the National Abortion Law Repeal Campaign!

Clip & Mail to: WONAAC, 137A West 14th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, New York, 10011 212-924-0894

- I (we) support the National Abortion Law Repeal Campaign outlined above.
- I (my organization) endorses the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition.
- Please send more information on the campaign to repeal all abortion laws.
- Enclosed is my contribution to help this campaign. FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED.

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Organization/School/Occupation _____