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THE POLITICAL FIGHT AGAINST ABORTION

The Abortion Act (1967) was passed into law against the advice of all the major medical and nursing bodies. The Law Society was also opposed to the Act in its present form, as was the Medical Defence Union (a major legal body in the medical profession).

The Royal College of Obstetricians has stated in connection with the present situation: "They (the abuses) were anticipated by this College, and its representatives repeatedly gave warning of them."

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children from the outset (even at its first press conference) urged that there should be a Royal Commission which would study the whole question of abortion before any change in law was anticipated. At its first press conference S.P.U.C. warned:

1. The law if passed would prove to be "nothing more than a licence to print money for the shady end of the medical profession."
2. It would undermine respect for human life and unborn children would have less legal protection than laboratory animals. (In this connection, although there have been cases where there would appear to be gross negligence shown in aborted children who are born alive, no charges have been brought despite all our efforts.)
3. The Law would have a tremendous emotional effect of nurses.
4. Doctors would be pressured into doing more and more abortions - and ultimately it could affect the careers of those who refuse to take part on conscience grounds.
5. The numbers of abortions would spiral: some women would readily use this technique as a method of birth-control.
6. It would not overcome the problem of back street abortion or other social problems such as those related to children-in-care.

Most of these predictions have now been confirmed by experience, and factors are gradually emerging to justify the others.

Even so, S.P.U.C. was described as a scare-mongering organisation and the abortionists claimed that there was no need for a Royal Commission: the Inter-departmental Inquiry on abortion of 1938 had investigated the whole subject and had recommended changes in the law, argued the Abortion Law Reform Association. In fact, however, the Committee had recommended that case law be made statute law, permitting termination of pregnancy for genuine medical indications only. It certainly did not recommend a law anywhere as liberal as that promoted by David Steel M.P. More-over, many of the findings of the Committee were hopelessly out of date.

The Inter-departmental Committee reported soon after the Aleck Bourne case. He was a gynaecologist who, in 1938, had a young girl (a 14 year old) brought to him who had been raped by four guardsmen. He genuinely thought that the girl was going insane and terminated her pregnancy. Subsequently, he was tried and acquitted. It was on this that case law was based until the present Act came into force.

However, Aleck Bourne had been horrified by what had happened after his trial and the fact that it had opened the way for the medical racketeers to move in. For years he refused to have anything to do with the Abortion Law Reform Association, and, from his own experience, became more and more opposed to case law being made statute law. He joined S.P.U.C. at the very beginning and fought bitterly against the Act. It was to a very great extent as a result of having Aleck Bourne with us that a number of clauses were deleted from the original Bill.

On their own admission (ABORTION LAW REFORMED, by Madeleine Simms and Keith Hindell: published by Peter Owen) the pro-abortion lobby deliberately concentrated on "hard cases." However, the law did not need to be changed to allow termination in the majority of cases which they cited. The public, in general, was unaware of this. Moreover, the law was originally presented to Parliament under the somewhat innocuous title of "The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill. This title was kept until the very end, when it was changed to the ABORTION ACT (1967).

Although it was presented as a Private Members Bill, it was given very heavy backing by the Labour Government of the day. Roy Jenkins, in fact, through Dick Taverne, was the person to approach David Steel, when he won a place in the Private Members' ballot for time, to ask if he would sponsor a bill to legalise abortion. David Steel agreed.

Steel knew that he had the uncompromising backing of leading members of the Labour Party: Roy Jenkins, Home Secretary; Douglas Houghton, Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party; and Richard Crossman, Leader of the House. Added to this there was John Silkin, the Government Chief Whip, who "later came to the reformers' aid by deftly switching abortion to a Committee normally reserved for Government business." (ABORTION LAW REFORMED, by Madeleine Simms and Keith Hindell). By such means, it was ensured that there was adequate time for the Committee stages.

David Steel, of course, also had the full backing of the Abortion Law Reform Association (of which Martin Cole was a leading light): this organisation obtained £ 8,500 from the Hopkins Fund of California, U.S.A., to help put the Bill through Parliament. To this day it remains a mystery as to why an American organisation should supply funds to change a law in this country! It is also of interest that the Abortion Law Reform Association had only a membership of 1,000! (This has dropped, and the National Abortion Campaign, at its Trades Union Conference in London in November 1978, stated repeatedly that they have great difficulty in obtaining grass-roots support. Throughout the day they persistently referred to the strength of the grass-roots support and the strength of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.)

However, in 1967, with the money from America and other funds, the Abortion Law Reform Association was able to carry out a colossal publicity campaign, and abortion became a political hot potato. The Second Reading of the Bill was passed by 223 to 29. Over half the MPs of this country did not even bother to attend the House. Shortly afterwards S.P.U.C. had managed to get together sufficient Founder Members to launch in January, 1967. The Society, Literally, had not a penny to start with, but managed to work up a Campaign and sympathisers began battling with their M.P.s. The Society received also, very considerable press coverage. The result was that M.P.s who had been sitting on the fence began to fight. The Bill, in fact, was talked out - but powerful Members of the Government (Roy Jenkins and Richard Crossman) enabled it to have extra time and it's vital to note that it was the first time in history that a Private Member's Bill was given such precedence.

As a last stand MPs decided to launch a national petition calling for a Royal Commission. Half a million signatures were collected within 3 months; nonetheless the Abortion Act was allowed to come into force - despite the fact that it was the only major change in social legislation to become law in this country without an inquiry beforehand. The vote on the 3rd Reading of the Bill was 167 for the Bill and 83 against.

NORMAN ST. JOHN STEVAS AMENDING BILL, 1969.

We were told at that time that we would have to wait at least ten years before we could hope for any kind of inquiry: added to this a high proportion of our Members left, feeling that there was nothing more that we could do.

We felt that our best tactics to keep the fight alive would be to try to have amending bills put before Parliament. The vast majority of MPs felt that we should wait until after a General Election before making any attempts whatsoever. Norman St. John-Stevas, however, took the first opportunity to fight for a change when he managed to obtain time under the ten-minute rule procedure. It was a courageous step because he, like all of us, thought that he would be trounced and he knew that he might be the victim of a tremendous back-lash from those on our side as well as from our opponents. The abortionists described his attempt as "the death throes" of those fighting against abortion. At first even the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists refused support because it was felt to be too early to seek any changes.

However, a meeting was organised with the B.M.A. and R.C.O.G. who agreed to give their full support. An extensive publicity campaign was launched and representatives of both organisations spoke at press conferences which we held in the House of Commons.

The Bill, when presented, was finally far more successful than anybody had dreamed. It was presented on 15th July, 1969 and defeated by only 11 votes (210 against and 199 in favour). It was this that put the anti-abortion lobby back in the arena with full force.

GODMAN IRVINE AMENDING BILL, 1970.

A second Amending Bill was presented to Parliament by Godman-Irvine (an Anglican MP) the following year, 13th February, 1970. This was talked out.

Later that same year Norman St. John-Stevas put down an Early Day Motion calling for an independent inquiry into abortion law taking into account the legal, social, ethical, medical and moral factors involved.

Over 250 MPs signed the motion and many did so because they were forced to do their homework by constituents who kept writing, sending them facts and figure information, etc. A considerable number had, in the first place, voted for the present law, but had started to have second thoughts. Others, while still ostensibly in favour, felt there was some need for clarification of the present situation.

THE LANE COMMITTEE, 1971.

Finally, in 1971, the Conservative Government was forced to establish an inquiry, the LANE COMMITTEE. However, it completely ignored the Early Day Motion supported by so many M.P.s, in that it is related only to the working of the present law. The terms of reference of the Lane Committee stated "the principles underlying the Abortion Act 1967 are to be retained," and "the conditions for legal abortions contained in Section 1 of the Act are to remain unaltered."

Furthermore, the selection of Members of the Lane Committee was totally biased and included nobody known to be opposed to the Abortion Act. A few days after the announcement of the names of the members of the Lane Committee, Mr. Leo Abse M.P. speaking at a Rally in Birmingham (on 20th June, 1971) on behalf of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children stated:

"A Committee of worthy people, totally lacking in the type of national reputation that would give their findings the authority to deal with the widespread controversy this clumsy Act has roused, are being commanded to make a severely restricted review which under no circumstances must challenge any of the existing conditions for legal abortion The Japanese culture may find abortion on demand as a birth control technique acceptable. We find it an affront to our belief in the sanctity of life. We now need an untrammelled inquiry that will seek for a compassionate law, freed from the brutalisation this Act has brought.

"The ghoulish minority of psychopathic doctors, the manipulators of our Charity laws, the touts, and the new property developers investing in abortion clinics, are unlikely to be dealt with by this puny Government Committee, which commences its task well gagged by the Ministry bureaucrats."

Mr. Abse's words proved to be prophetic.

Many Members of Parliament consider the Lane Committee Report to be ludicrous. Mr. William Price (an M.P. who originally voted for the Abortion Act but has since changed his views) speaking at the SFUC mass rally in Hyde Park on 28th April, 1974, described the Lane Committee Report as "one of the greatest whitewashes in the history of government inquiries. It has seen what it wanted to see, ignored what it wanted to ignore and has argued what it wanted to argue."

The Lane Committee Report, for example, admits that nurses find the abortion operation a tremendous strain - but goes on to advocate that the abortion operation should form part of nurses' general training.

The Lane Committee Report admits that gynaecologists who are ethically opposed to abortion are not being given promotion within the NHS but adds "we hope this does not happen often." It also advocates that young doctors ethically opposed to liberal abortion should not enter the speciality of obstetrics and gynaecology.

The Lane Committee Report admits racketeering is taking place in the private sector but puts forward no recommendations to curb it. The Report also admits that pregnancy advisory services (in fact, abortion referral agencies) have been heavily criticised. Their only recommendation to curb abuses through these bodies is that they should be licensed.

THE GRYLIS' BILL, 1974

Subsequently, in 1974, Michael Grylls, a Conservative M.P. put forward a Bill, based on the Lane Committee Recommendations, which would have made it necessary for abortion agencies to operate under license.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children and supporting Members of Parliament fought against the Bill. In a statement to the press SFUC said: "It would do nothing more than give a respectable veneer to abortion brokers."

SFUC and M.P.s fought for tighter amendments which Mr. Grylls and pro-abortionist M.P.s supporting him opposed. Consequently the Bill did not complete its committee stages before the 1974 Parliamentary summer recess.

However, it had the full backing of the DHSS who have tried repeatedly to have the same Bill re-introduced under another guise. It was claimed that it would "stop the abortion vultures." If the DHSS really wanted to curb the abortion vultures they could do so now by shutting down the clinics in which they operate. They have the powers to do so now.

In this connection, it must be remembered that private clinics work under license which has in no way curbed their activities. What made Mr. Grylls and his friends imagine that licensing abortion agencies would have any more effect - unless to qualify for a license they had first to conform to certain stipulations (as later recommended by the Select Committee).

THE WHITE BILL, 1975

In 1975, James White, Labour M.P., drew second place in the Private Members' Ballot and decided to introduce an Abortion (Amendment) Bill. By that time we had developed tremendously our support in Parliament and we knew that we had sufficient strength to get the Bill on to the Statute Book.

We were warned, however, that the Government would make a "take-over bid" in an attempt to kill the bill - but M.P.s refused to listen to us.

In this connection, one must remember that Private Members' Bills in committee stages are debated by Standing Committees. Government bills, however, are subject to Select Committees which have wider powers and (unlike Standing Committees) can be re-established in succeeding Parliamentary sessions if they do not complete their business.

On February 6, 1975, David Owen and Barbara Castle offered the sponsors of the James White Bill a Select Committee which they accepted - much against our advice. This, we were convinced, was the take-over bid about which we had been warned. However, to counter our forebodings, a promise was made on behalf of the Government by Bob Mellish (then Chief Whip) that when the Select Committee produced its main Report, the Government would either introduce a Bill based on the recommendations or would give a "fair wind" to a private member's bill. This promise was later confirmed publicly (see BENYON AMENDING BILL, 1977).

On Thursday, February 6, M.P.s began leaving the House of Commons for the week-end, thinking that as the Sponsors of the White Bill had accepted a Select Committee there would be no debate on the Second Reading, due to take place on the following day, Friday, February 7. However, SFUC branches throughout the country telegraphed M.P.s urging them to stay in the House.

Thus, the House of Commons was crammed the next day, with some Scottish M.P.s even flying back to London for the debate.

David Owens, on behalf of the Government, swore that the Select Committee was not a "delaying tactic" and with the pro-abortionists did his best to prevent a Second Reading of the Bill. He stated:

"I have said that this is not a delaying device...The truth is that it is more likely to reach the statute book more quickly through adopting the proposed procedure. Not only is a pre-legislation Select Committee a good principle, but it is a sensible way in which to proceed in a difficult area. When the Select Committee reports, it will be open to hon. Members to put forward legislation in the normal way or for the Government to consider whether they themselves should put forward legislation." (Hansard, February 7, 1975, Col . 1795)

In the same debate, when giving further assurances, he added:

"We would not expect nor would we tolerate any undue delay in the Government's implementing any urgent recommendations, the Committee might feel disposed to make to check present abuses." (February 7, 1975. Hansard, cols. 1853-4)

While the House accepted the Government's offer (Greeks bearing gifts!) of a Select Committee, a division was forced on the Second Reading which we won by 203 to 88.

This was extremely important because it meant that the Select Committee had to reflect the vote of the House. It was not a committee on which people could be chosen to sit according to the will of the DHSS.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Even so, the pro-abortionists immediately that the members were chosen, set up a tremendous clamour claiming that the Committee was biased, with more anti-abortion members than pro-abortionists. In fact, they had on it more members than they were entitled to have.

Consequently, Teddy Taylor M.P. forced a debate so that the House of Commons could ratify the composition of the Select Committee. This was a hurried tactic (as it had to be) but we still won by 167 to 156 (February 26, 1975).

In July 1965, the Select Committee produced a unanimous report putting forward fairly sound - but minor - recommendations and stating that the Select Committee should be re-established when Parliament was reconvened in the autumn.

It was then that David Owen and Barbara Castle showed how little respect they had for their original promises. Both were involved in public attempts to urge the Parliamentary Labour Party to vote against the re-establishment of the Select Committee as official policy. They failed.

They then claimed that their promise was to the House of Commons and said that re-establishment must, therefore, be voted upon.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Re-establishment of the Select Committee was ultimately debated on February 9, 1976. During the debate there were heated exchanges in which Stan Cohen and Leo Abse attacked their own Govt.

Mr. Cohen: "The Minister said:....'the Government give the commitment to the sponsors of the Bill that they will re-establish the Select Committee.'

Mr. Abse:.....On the issue of the commitment, is it not a fact that what the Minister specifically said.....'the Government give the commitment to the sponsors of the Bill that they will re-establish the Select Committee' That is a commitment which was given. Is it not more casuistry to suggest that it can now be avoided?

Mr. Cohen: Yes. That is what I said, actually.
(Hansard, February 9, 1976 Col. 134)

Again we won the vote, this time by 313 votes to 172.

However, almost immediately afterwards (despite putting their names on the Order Paper for the debate, and signing the Interim Report of the Select Committee which declared that it should be re-established) the 6 pro-abortion members of the Committee resigned from it declaring that they would not continue as it was biased in favour of anti-abortionists!! In this they literally tried to knock away one of the very corner stones of democracy. It is comparable, say, to a Conservative party leader declaring to a Labour Government that they would not participate in a Select Committee of any given bill because they did not like the Bill and did not agree with the vote of the House of Commons, anyway.

The Select Committee continued and produced its main report in July 1976.

BENYON AMENDING BILL, 1977

We then began a campaign to urge the Government to honour its promise and to introduce a Bill based on the Select Committee recommendations.

However, the Government claimed that its programme for the 1977 session was overloaded and they could do nothing.

Therefore, Bill Benyon, drawn third in the Private Members' Ballot, decided to introduce an amending bill based on the Select Committee recommendations.

We urged that the Government should honour its promise and give adequate time to the Bill so that it could reach the statute book. Benyon approached the Minister of State and officials of the DHSS: he was told that it was a matter for the Commons and that "the Department would reserve their position until the debate took place." (Hansard, February 25, 1977 Col. 1785)

However, the next thing Benyon heard was when he received a call from the Guardian during the days just before his Bill was to have its Second Reading, asking him for a comment on an open letter that the Secretary of State (David Ennals) had sent to David Steel (with copies circulated to all MPs and to the press) claiming that his Bill was totally unnecessary and that abortion figures were dropping, anyway.

It was an obvious and scurrilous attempt to pre-empt the Bill as well as a prime example of Government interference.

During the debate Dan Jones brought out the fact that the

Government had promised that a Bill based on the Select Committee recommendations would be presented to Parliament.

Mr. Dan Jones: The House will have noted that the Minister keeps referring to what his Department will do or has done. I must ask him - it is a fair question - why the promise given to the House that the Government would accept responsibility and bring in a Bill of this description, relieving a private Member of the necessity, has not been met.

Mr. Moyle: Neither my right hon. Friend, nor I has ever given such an undertaking.

Mr. Dan Jones: Certainly, yes.

Mr. Moyle: No.

Mr. Dan Jones: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The former Government Chief Whip, my right hon. Friend and Member for Bermondsey (Mr. Mellish) has given me that undertaking this week.

HANSARD February 25, 1977.
Cols 1811 - 12).

Finally, the Second Reading was carried by 170 votes to 132.

EARLY DAY MOTION, 1977

It soon became obvious that the Government had no intention of allowing adequate time for the Bill to go through its various stages to allow it to reach the statute book. They had no intention of honouring their promise.

Renee Short and Sir George Sinclair led the pro-abortionists on the Standing Committee in trying to talk the Bill out. As a result, Bill Benyon and his supporters sat through four complete night sessions and finally completed the Committee stages.

Even so, the Government refused time for the final debates and the Bill fell. In the meantime, however, Six Labour MPS had launched an Early Day Motion calling on the Government to honour its promise. This collected support from all sides of the House - but the Government did nothing.

BRAINE BILL, 1978

In Autumn 1977 we had no luck in the Private Members' ballot, so a Bill was introduced under the Ten-Minute Rule by Sir Bernard Braine. It was a three-point bill to strengthen the conscience clause, lower the upper limit for abortions to 20 weeks (excepting in serious cases); and to sever all financial links between pregnancy advisory services and private clinics.

There was almost no campaign leading up to the Bill - mainly because we were not sure precisely what Braine intended to include (I had some lengthy arguments with him). Even so, the debate was won by 181 votes to 172 against.

Nonetheless, it showed the necessity and the effect of grass-roots activities.

....end....

Legal Abortion Examined

**Facts, figures and graphs
for the United Kingdom and Europe**



A HUMAN CONCERN PUBLICATION

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Abortions according to Statutory Grounds

BY STATUTORY GROUNDS

England and Wales/Residents only

Year	TOTAL	1	2	3	4	5	6	2 with 4	3 with others
1969	49,829	1,842	35,969	2,281	1,107	14	31	742	7,843
1970	75,962	2,163	57,021	3,486	1,255	10	35	823	11,199
1971	94,570	1,882	71,443	4,140	1,327	10	10	910	14,848
1972	108,565	1,711	82,988	4,171	1,126	10	14	887	17,658
1973	110,568	1,228	84,890	3,520	1,115	7	10	904	18,894
1974	109,445	1,061	88,130	3,055	941	3	6	745	15,504
1975	106,224	1,068	87,368	2,648	834	6	2	738	13,560
1976	101,003	944	84,223	2,466	635	1	7	668	12,059
1977	102,237	828	85,275	2,367	705	3	9	745	12,305
1978	112,055	688	93,239	2,449	1,367	5	4	965	13,338

Scotland

YEAR	TOTAL	1	2	3	4	5	6	Not stated
1969	3,544	127	3,080	219	113	0	5	—
1970	5,254	115	4,700	341	87	3	2	6
1971	6,332	121	5,769	338	96	1	4	3
1972	7,600	82	7,043	353	101	1	4	16
1973	7,498	65	6,996	310	124	2	1	—
1974	7,545	67	7,013	374	89	—	2	—
1975	7,300	41	6,808	335	115	—	1	—
1976	7,183	43	6,810	248	82	—	—	—
1977	7,334	33	7,036	168	93	2	2	—
1978	7,422	27	7,050	202	143	—	—	—

N.B.—Where more than one statutory ground is given, the Scottish NHS Information Service list only the first one

Definitions of Statutory Grounds

- 1—Risk to life of woman
- 2—Risk of injury to physical or mental health of woman (it is under this ground that abortion on demand is carried out)
- 3—Risk of injury to physical or mental health of existing children
- 4—Substantial risk of child being born abnormal
- 5—In emergency to save life of mother
- 6—In emergency to prevent grave permanent injury to physical mental health of mother

Comment

It is under ground two that abortion on request is carried out. In England and Wales just over 83% of abortions on residents were carried out under this clause and in Scotland the proportion was even higher — 95%. According to the Report of the Working Party of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists on Unplanned Pregnancies, although the majority of all “terminations have been carried out under the clause relating to injury to the physical or mental health of the women concerned it is becoming increasingly recognised that there is no such danger of injury in the majority of these cases . . .”

Abortions by Marital Status and by number of Previous Liveborn Children

England and Wales/Residents only

YEAR	Married	Single	Widowed	Divorced or Separated	Not Stated
1968 (April 27 - Dec 30)	10,090	10,302	231	1,632	77
1969	22,979	22,287	464	3,955	144
1970	34,314	34,492	634	6,409	113
1971	41,536	44,302	744	7,877	111
1972	46,894	51,115	722	9,755	79
1973	46,766	52,899	713	10,047	143
1974	45,102	53,321	718	10,190	114
1975	43,066	52,335	601	10,123	99
1976	40,311	50,901	604	9,727	369
			Widowed, Divorced, Separated or Not Known		
1977	39,628	51,803		11,246	
1978	42,176	56,591		13,288	

Scotland

YEAR	Married	Single	Widowed Divorced Separated	Not Stated
1969	1,858	1,289	379	18
1970	2,702	1,980	569	3
1971	3,271	2,396	664	1
1972	3,691	3,057	826	26
1973	3,357	3,224	913	4
1974	3,366	3,263	916	—
1975	3,074	3,314	910	2
1976	2,878	3,442	863	—
1977	2,900	3,543	889	2
1978	2,873	3,679	866	4

Comment

Since the abortion Act came into operation rising 1,200,000 resident women of England and Wales and of Scotland have had abortions. About half the operations were carried out on Single women and a slightly higher number had no previous liveborn children. In evidence to the Select Committee Sir John Peel, one of the most eminent gynaecologists in the world (formerly the

England and Wales/Residents only

YEAR	Women with no previous children	Women with one liveborn child	Women with two liveborn children	Women with three liveborn children	Women with four liveborn children	Women with five liveborn children	Women with six liveborn children	Women with seven or more liveborn children	Not stated
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1968 (April 27 - Dec. 30)	10,378	2,370	3,404	2,750	1,693	885	444	408	—
1969	21,389	5,345	8,200	6,514	3,874	2,100	1,043	916	448
1970	33,196	8,204	12,830	9,980	5,809	2,720	1,284	1,188	751
1971	43,413	10,383	16,307	12,092	6,506	2,813	1,327	1,129	600
1972	50,645	12,581	19,357	13,710	6,919	2,916	1,235	1,006	196
1973	52,865	12,990	20,370	13,324	6,382	2,581	1,119	767	170
1974	53,545	13,405	20,400	12,550	5,746	2,175	870	646	108
1975	52,733	13,119	19,930	11,789	5,257	1,933	737	498	228
1976	50,826	12,572	18,962	10,745	4,591	1,623	673	437	1,483
1977	52,864	12,799	19,344	10,494	4,204	1,469	575	328	600

Scotland

Year	Women with no previous children	Women with one previous child	Women with two previous children	Women with three previous children	Women with four previous children	Women with five or more previous children	Not stated
	0	1	2	3	4	5 plus	
1969	1,192	342	518	600	426	466	—
1970	1,862	471	851	856	611	624	2
1971	2,248	604	1,100	1,025	738	616	1
1972	2,826	826	1,354	1,230	714	646	4
1973	3,023	862	1,429	1,079	639	456	10
1974	3,071	881	1,514	1,100	579	393	7
1975	3,141	948	1,420	1,010	451	319	11
1976	3,348	944	1,336	861	421	267	6
1977	3,464	956	1,412	844	375	228	4
1978	3,619	1,004	1,376	854	337	231	1

Queen's gynaecologist and a past President of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists) described as "not unrealistic" the rate of 5% to 10% sterility following abortion.

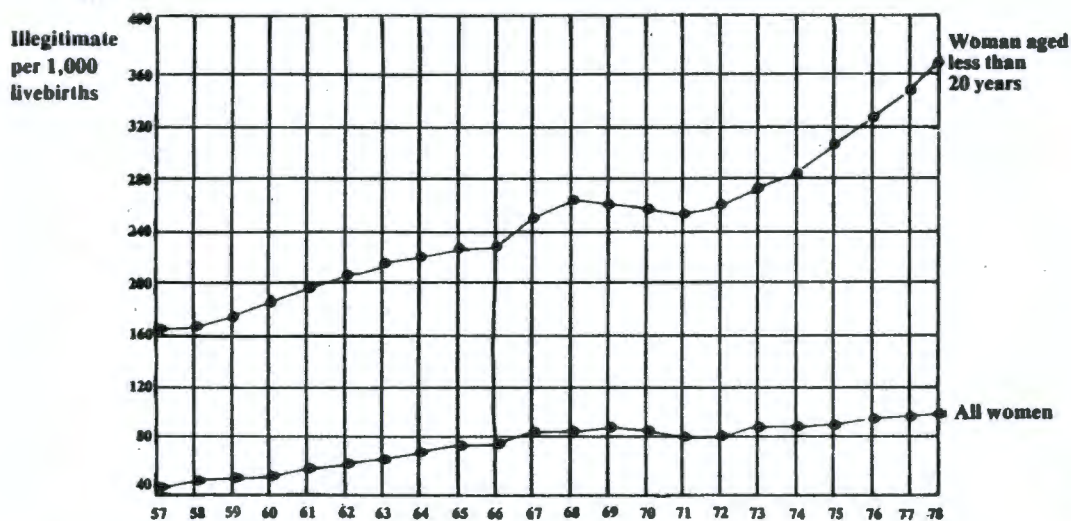
It is callous not to consider the plight of 25,000-50,000 young women who stand at high risk of being sterile following abortions during the past ten years and who may dearly want to have children.

Abortions on Girls under the age of 16 and under the age of 20

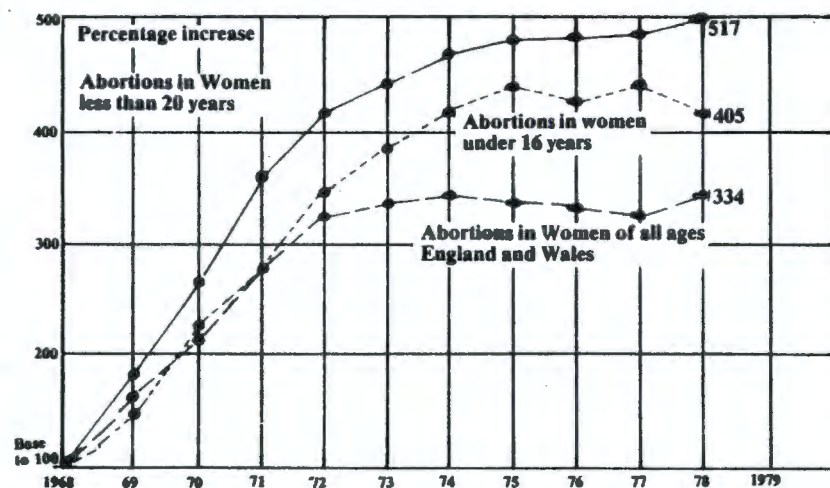
AGE		*1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
10 to 15	Total	815	1174	1732	2296	2804	3090	3335	3570	3425	3592	3298
	% Increase	100	144	214	282	344	379	409	438	420	441	405
10 to 19	Total	5742	9233	15250	20472	24590	26570	27532	27692	27388	27963	29661
	% Increase	100	161	266	357	428	453	479	482	477	487	517
All Ages	Total	33490	49829	75962	94570	108565	110568	109445	106224	101912	102237	111851
	% Increase	100	149	227	282	324	330	327	317	304	305	334

*The figures for 1968 are from April 27 onwards

Proportion of Livebirths which are illegitimate



England & Wales Abortion in the under 20s — 10-15; 10-19



Comment

By far the biggest percentage increase in abortions has taken place among girls under the age of 20. Abortions in girls under the age of sixteen have increased by 405 per cent. Abortions on girls under the age of 20 have increased by 517 per cent. Over one-quarter of all abortions are carried out on girls under the

age of 20. Even so, the rate of illegitimate livebirths continues to increase at an unprecedented pace, (see opposite). The drop in abortions among girls under sixteen in 1978 coincides with the drop in girls coming into that age group.

Ratio of Abortions to Livebirths and illegitimate Livebirths

England and Wales/Residents only

YEAR	All Livebirths	Illegitimate Livebirths	Illegitimate Livebirths as % of all Livebirths	All Abortions	Number of Livebirths to each Abortion
1967	832,164	69,928	8.4%	—	—
1969	797,538	67,041	8.4%	49,829	16 to 1
1977	569,100	55,400	9.7%	102,677	5.5 to 1
UNDER 20					
1969	81,659	21,626	26.5%	9,233	8.8 to 1
1977	54,477	20,051	36.8%	28,216	1.9 to 1
20-24					
1969	289,012	23,135	8.0%	12,914	22.4 to 1
1977	174,544	17,376	10.0%	24,026	7.3 to 1
25-29					
1969	238,381	11,144	4.7%	9,001	26.5 to 1
1977	207,916	9,758	4.7%	18,270	11.4 to 1
30 plus					
1969	188,486	11,136	5.9%	17,505	10.8 to 1
1977	132,322	8,194	6.2%	30,510	4.3 to 1

N.B.: Abortions where no ages have been given have been excluded from the age groups.

Comment

England and Wales

Despite the tremendous increase in abortions the illegitimacy rate is now highest since records were kept. It is particularly high among women under the age of 20 with the proportion of illegitimate livebirths reaching over one-third among girls in that age group. Even so, more than one in three pregnancies to girls under twenty are terminated.

Scotland

YEAR	All Livebirths	Illegitimate Livebirths	Illegitimate Livebirths as a % of all Livebirths	All Abortions	Number of Livebirths to each Abortion
1969	90,290	6,733	7.5%	3,544	26 to 1
1977	62,342	5,968	9.6%	7,283	9 to 1
Under 20					
1969	8,931	1,884	21.0%	600	15 to 1
1977	6,977	2,181	31.0%	2,120	3 to 1
20-24					
1969	31,386	2,445	7.7%	762	41 to 1
1977	20,559	2,042	9.9%	1,801	11 to 1
25-29					
1969	26,974	1,182	4.3%	585	46 to 1
1977	21,567	939	4.3%	1,227	18 to 1
30 plus					
1969	22,983	1,218	5.2%	1,519	15 to 1
1977	13,070	776	5.9%	2,135	6 to 1

Scotland

In Scotland the figures are little better with one in four pregnancies being terminated among girls under twenty and an illegitimacy rate of 31% in that age group.

In a memorandum to the Select Committee on Abortion, Sir John Peel referred to the rising number of pregnancies in the young and very young, under 16, stating: "Termination of first pregnancies in this group . . . carries . . . the greatest risk of complications . . . The availability of easy abortion has undoubtedly been one of the many factors which has led to this steady rise . . . Some restriction on the availability of abortion might slowly influence public opinion and lead to a more responsible pattern of behaviour . . ."

Abortions according to Gestation

England and Wales/Residents only

Year	Under 9 weeks	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17-19	20-23	24 plus	Not stated
1969	6,644	5,660	6,702	7,014	6,176	4,826	3,422	2,517	1,880	2,984	998	174	832
1970	10,029	9,327	11,553	11,889	9,697	6,980	4,627	3,071	2,327	3,199	796	157	2,310
1971	15,700	13,117	15,224	14,804	11,602	7,750	4,707	3,078	2,100	2,948	733	114	2,693
1972	19,844	16,803	18,392	17,012	12,421	8,213	4,930	3,113	1,972	2,566	709	137	2,453
1973	24,053	18,171	18,419	15,899	11,682	7,331	4,339	2,632	1,828	2,383	833	142	2,856
1974	25,172	18,106	18,310	15,378	10,997	6,724	3,937	2,686	1,753	2,261	775	128	3,218
1975	25,028	17,614	17,546	14,276	10,179	6,292	3,864	2,494	1,734	2,430	847	124	3,796
1976	25,236	17,179	16,514	13,513	9,663	5,739	3,514	2,282	1,516	2,221	811	164	3,560
1977	25,227	17,431	16,639	13,921	9,513	5,699	3,486	2,201	1,529	2,284	912	183	3,652

Scotland

Year	Under 10 weeks	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	20-24	25 weeks +	Not stated
1969	948	874	580	454	335	168	97	7	81
1970	1,498	1,426	963	539	422	198	98	4	106
1971	1,865	1,790	1,135	596	481	218	89	4	154
1972	2,535	2,282	1,262	601	500	207	88	—	125
1973	2,749	2,265	1,177	591	409	183	90	2	32
1974	2,849	2,427	1,162	544	339	156	67	1	—
1975	2,742	2,301	1,155	497	342	169	89	5	—
1976	2,825	2,209	1,086	491	338	147	82	4	1
			10-13		14-17				
1977	3,003		3,320		773	133	96	5	4
1978	3,078		3,431		698	130	74	3	8

Comment

The claim by pro-abortionists that less than 1 per cent of abortions are carried out between the 20th and 28th week of pregnancy rather obscures the facts.

The numbers amount to 23 per week in England, Scotland and Wales — more than 3 babies each day, 365 days per year.

Analysis of Abortions carried out at 20 weeks Gestation-plus in 1977

England and Wales/Residents only

Numbers and percentages relating to abortions carried out at 20-weeks gestation plus by category of premises, statutory grounds and by age of mother.

	Gestation weeks			
	20-23		24 and over	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
TOTAL	912	100	183	100
Category of premises:				
NHS premises	412	45.17	97	53.00
Approved places (private clinics, etc.)	500	54.82	86	46.99
Age of woman				
Under 15	27	2.96	6	3.27
15	43	4.71	4	2.18
16-19	287	31.46	44	24.04
20-24	226	24.78	56	30.60
25-29	143	15.67	28	15.30
30-34	78	8.55	19	10.38
35-39	40	4.38	12	6.55
40-44	37	4.05	6	3.27
45 and over	11	1.20	6	3.27

	Gestation weeks			
	20-23		24 and over	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Statutory grounds	912	100	183	100
1 (with other)	7	0.76	6	3.27
2	698	76.50	132	72.13
3	89	9.75	21	11.47
4	116	12.71	23	12.56
5 and 6	2	0.21	1	0.54

Definitions of Statutory Grounds

- 1—Risk to life of woman
- 2—Risk of injury to physical or mental health of woman (it is under this ground that abortion on demand is carried out)
- 3—Risk of injury to physical or mental health of existing children
- 4—Substantial risk of child being born abnormal
- 5—In emergency to save life of mother
- 6—In emergency to prevent grave permanent injury to physical mental health of mother

Comment

Over half of abortions carried out at 20 weeks plus are performed in the private sector for fees. The pro-abortionists' claim that these late operations tend to be on girls under the age of 16 or older women who mistakenly believe that they have reached the menopause and do not realise that they are pregnant. In 1977, of 1,095 late abortions 80 were carried out on girls under the age of sixteen although it is highly probable that the

trauma of such late abortions would have been far more damaging than allowing the baby to go to full term.

The majority of abortions in this category were carried out on girls in their older teens and twenties — with 75 per cent being performed under clause 2 relating vaguely "to the physical or mental health" of the mother.

Deaths from all causes in women in their main childbearing years in England, Scotland and Wales

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
England and Wales	9,181	9,044	8,695	8,340	8,128	8,365	7,936	7,782	7,757	7,659	7,394	7,444	7,274	7,0
Scotland	1,138	1,197	1,161	1,021	1,033	1,010	1,044	930	982	999	993	969	959	96

Comment

The main ploy of pro-abortionists in opposing much-needed reforms is to make gross exaggerations regarding back-street abortion numbers which they claim were carried out before the passing of the Abortion Act, stating that the law has stopped such illegal practices. A Report of the Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. 1—Legalised Abortion: Report by the Council of the R.C.O.G. published in the British Medical Journal, April 2, 1966, state that based on hospital admissions and deaths, the number of women going to illegal operators (including those in the medical profession) or interfering with themselves was in the region of 14,000 and stated "... any other conclusion means that the results of criminal abortionists and of women interfering with themselves are better than those which can be produced by specialist gynaecologists terminating early pregnancies in the best hospital conditions."

Abortionists claim, however, that "back-street deaths" were camouflaged and did not appear in the statistics. However, if women were dying from illegal abortion their deaths must have been recorded in the statistics under some heading or another and, this being so, one would have expected an untoward drop in total deaths from all causes among women in their main childbearing years following the passing of the present law.

However, the above table shows that, in fact, the reverse

happened and that whereas deaths in women in their main childbearing years (15-44) were dropping by about 300 per annum, in 1969 (the first full year of the operation of the Abortion Act) the number of deaths actually ROSE. In Scotland, too, there was no drop in total deaths from all causes among women in their main childbearing years and in 1968 the figures rose, since when they have fluctuated.

Graphs and tables on Pages 10, 11, 12 and 13 show that abortion deaths throughout Europe have declined dramatically regardless of the laws of the land. For example; in the decade 1955-1965 the UK and Hungary and Czechoslovakia shared in common a decline of over 50% in abortion deaths despite widely differing abortion laws — the Communist countries allowing abortion on demand and the UK having stricter laws at the time.

Even more significant is that Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Poland all restricted their laws around 1973. Far from an increase in deaths through women "turning to the back-streets" the mortality rate in these countries has continued to decline and is now the lowest ever.

Note: The one exception where there has been an increase in deaths has been Rumania, where back-street abortion was a marked feature of their society even when their abortion laws were so liberal that they finally had four legal abortions for every one livebirth — the highest rate in the world.

Septic abortions and maternal deaths analysed

England and Wales

YEAR	Discharges from hospital following diagnosis of septic abortion*
1966	2560
1967	2530
1968	3110
1969	2080
1970	2020
1971	1600
1972	970
1973	930
1974	540
1975	610
1976	N/A

*Estimates from Hospital In-Patient Inquiry figures

YEAR	DEATHS Total Maternal causes other than abortion	Criminal with sepsis	Without mention of sepsis	ABORTION Other with sepsis	Without mention of sepsis	Total abortion deaths	Total maternal deaths (including
1950	517	25	21	39	18	103	620
1951	419	33	26	34	14	107	526
1952	373	19	28	26	15	90	463
1953	419	17	24	22	13	76	495
1954	370	10	25	22	19	76	446
1955	339	17	15	19	15	66	405
1956	302	20	16	20	16	72	374
1957	272	15	15	18	13	61	333
1958	265	8	12	27	16	63	326
1959	243	13	10	16	8	47	200
1960	248	12	18	21	11	62	310
1961	220	8	15	24	7	54	274
1963	242	11	18	17	11	57	298
1961	194	15	6	17	11	49	313
1964	177	13	11	16	10	50	227
1965	169	8	13	21	10	52	221
1966	170	12	10	17	6	53	223
1967	138	8	9	7	10	34	372
1968	150	10	12	16	12	50	300
1969	120	8	7	10	10	35	156
1970	144	4	7	17	4	32	140
1971	107	1	5	8	13	27	134
1972	86	3	4	10	9	26	112
1973	76	2	2	4	4	12	88
1974	70	1	1	3	6	11	81
1975	69	—	1	1	6	8	77
1976	71	1	—	3	4	7	78
1977	68	1	—	3	k2	6	74

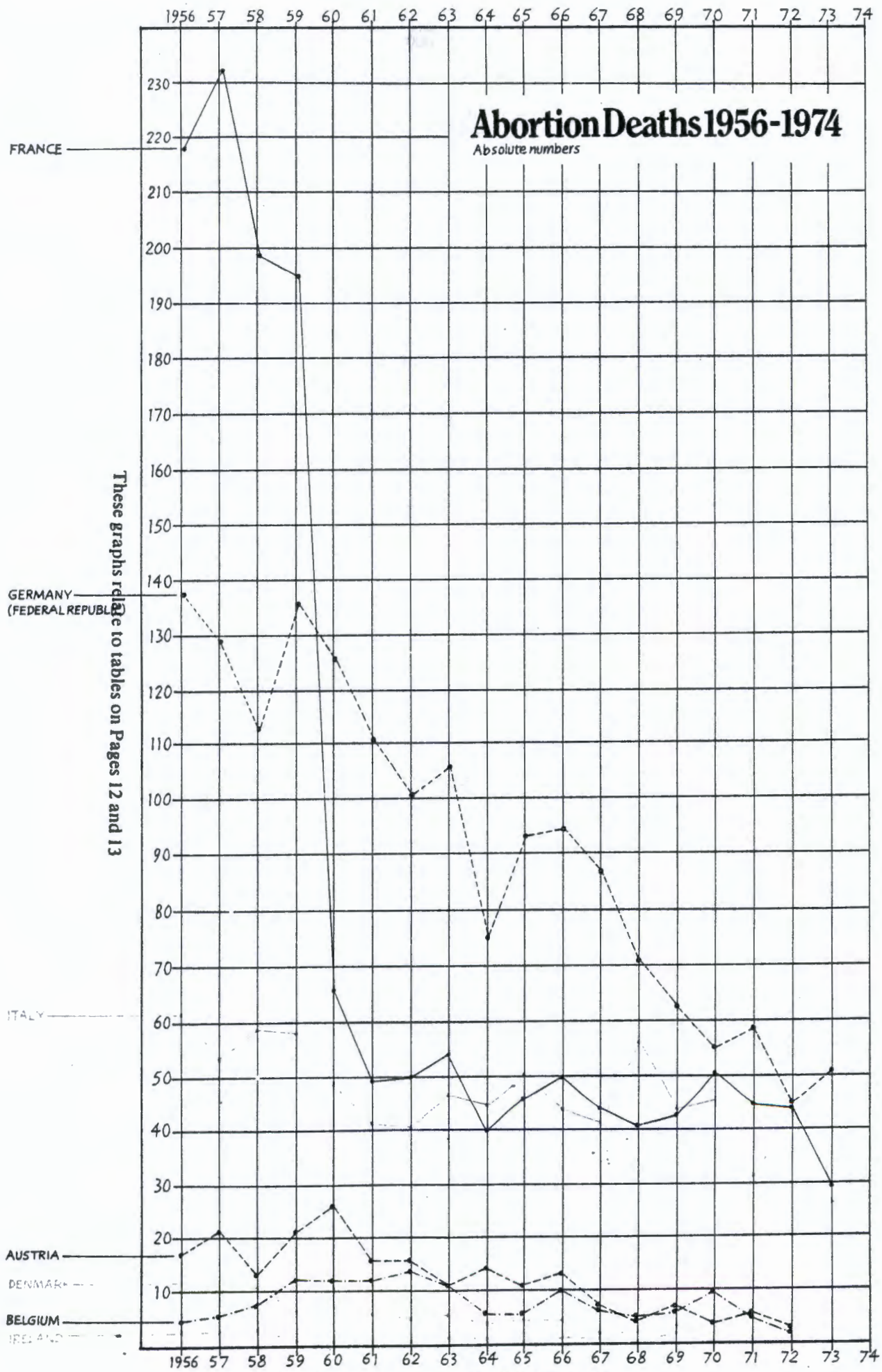
OPCS Maternal Deaths 1977: Table 18

Comment

For many years prior to the Abortion Act hospital admission for the septic abortion declined steadily. There was, however, a sudden increase immediately after the Act came into operation, the numbers actually exceeding those for 1960 (BMJ. November 30, 1974). Since 1968, however, the number of discharges has continued to decline as before the Act (see left hand table above). The right hand table shows the tremendous decline in all maternal deaths (including abortions) since 1950. Since the Abortion Act came into operation the decline has continued — but contrary to the claims of abortionists, has been not more dramatic than the drop before the Act came into operation.

Warning

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service produced a document, entitled "Abortion Today" which quoted figures for hospital discharges following diagnosis of septic abortions from 1968 only — thus giving an entirely misleading interpretation of the drop in figures. In the same publication, figures for the London Emergency Bed Service were also quoted erroneously — BPAS classifying hospital admissions in connection with all abnormalities relating to pregnancy and the puerperium as well as admissions for childbirth as "female admission in connection with abortion" giving a totally distorted picture.



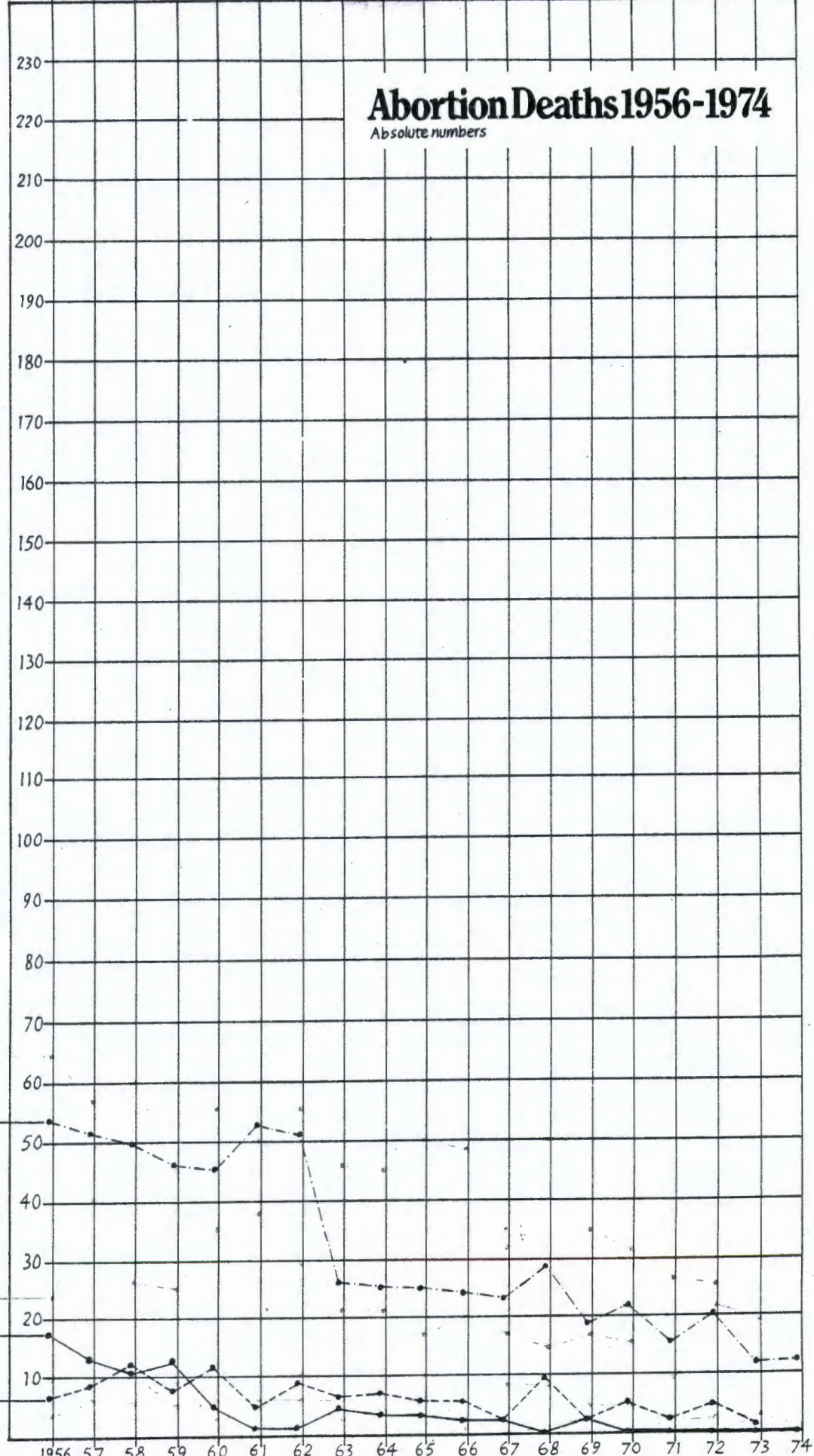
Source: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION Statistics Report / Volume 30, No. 4, 1977

Abortion Deaths 1956-1974

Absolute numbers

These graphs relate to tables on Pages 12 and 13

ENGLAND & WALES
 PORTUGAL
 SPAIN
 SWEDEN
 NETHERLANDS
 SWITZERLAND
 BELGIUM



Source: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION Statistics Report / Volume 30, No. 4, 1977

Maternal Deaths: Abortion and Non-Abortion

United Kingdom and a cross-section of European countries

Name of country	Year	1955	1965	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	
ENGLAND & WALES				10	10	12	10	4	6	6	1	legal abortion deaths
				25	22	15	16	8	5	2	6	unspecified abortion deaths
		65	50	35	32	27	26	12	11	8	7	all abortion deaths*
		374	171	120	114	106	86	76	70	69	71	non-abortion maternal deaths
SCOTLAND				0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	legal abortion deaths
			3	0	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	unspecified abortion deaths
		5	7	3	0	2	3	2	2	0	0	all abortion deaths*
		38	31	10	17	12	10	14	14	6	10	non-abortion maternal deaths
NORTHERN IRELAND				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	legal abortion deaths
				1	0	1	1	0	0	0	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		3	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	N/A	all abortion deaths*
		21	9	4	0	5	2	5	6	1	N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths
AUSTRIA				0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	legal abortion deaths
				7	2	5	3	12	1	1	4	unspecified abortion deaths
		19	10	7	3	5	3	12	1	1	4	all abortion deaths*
		96	45	33	26	28	23	10	18	15	15	non-abortion maternal deaths
BELGIUM				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	legal abortion deaths
				6	9	4	2	2	4	4	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		11	5	6	9	4	2	2	4	4	N/A	all abortion deaths*
		109	31	23	20	25	16	14	17	11	N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths
BULGARIA		N/A	1	0	N/A	0	1	1	0	0	1	legal abortion deaths
				12	N/A	11	13	21	14	16	8	unspecified abortion deaths
		N/A	18	12	18	11	14	22	14	16	9	all abortion deaths*
		N/A	57	37	44	35	25	26	30	24	25	non-abortion maternal deaths
CZECHOSLOVAKIA				1	0	1	0	0	3	N/A	N/A	legal abortion deaths
				3	3	3	6	3	2	N/A	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		37	10	4	3	4	6	3	5	N/A	N/A	all abortion deaths*
		144	70	42	47	38	38	35	39	N/A	N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths
DENMARK				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	legal abortion deaths
				3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	unspecified abortion deaths
		3	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	all abortion deaths*
		30	8	9	6	4	3	2	4	4	1	non-abortion maternal deaths
FRANCE				1	2	2	0	0	1	N/A	N/A	legal abortion deaths
				41	48	42	43	29	25	N/A	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		236	45	42	50	44	43	29	26	N/A	N/A	all abortion deaths*
		431	234	168	189	151	179	177	151	N/A	N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths
WEST GERMANY				0	3	3	7	1	1	0	N/A	legal abortion deaths
				63	52	55	38	50	22	29	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		155	93	63	55	58	45	51	23	29	N/A	all abortion deaths*
		1,075	631	417	365	335	255	241	190	209	N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths
HUNGARY				1	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	legal abortion deaths
				19	12	9	11	7	3	9	3	unspecified abortion deaths
		69	25	20	13	9	13	8	5	9	3	all abortion deaths*
		128	64	63	51	44	53	51	67	43	34	non-abortion maternal deaths

Please see note on inside cover

Maternal Deaths: Abortion and Non-Abortion

United Kingdom and a cross-section of European countries

Name of country	Year	1955	1965	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	
IRELAND				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	legal abortion deaths
				2	0	1	1	2	1	0	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		3	0	2	0	1	1	2	1	0	N/A	all abortion deaths*
	67	18	18	20	16	27	6	14	5		N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths
ITALY				0	0	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	legal abortion deaths
				43	45	30	43	26	20	N/A	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		91	50	43	45	31	43	26	20	N/A	N/A	all abortion deaths*
	1,068	714	522	446	436	366	346	239		N/A	N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths
MALTA				0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	legal abortion deaths
				0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	unspecified abortion deaths
		N/A	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	all abortion deaths*
	N/A	4	0	0	1	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	non-abortion maternal deaths
NETHERLANDS				0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	legal abortion deaths
				4	4	1	0	3	0	0	0	unspecified abortion deaths
		7	3	4	4	1	0	3	1	0	0	all abortion deaths*
	133	63	44	28	29	23	17	25	19	9		non-abortion maternal deaths
NORWAY				0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	legal abortion deaths
				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	unspecified abortion deaths
		5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	all abortion deaths*
	38	12	10	7	12	4	2	4	4	6		non-abortion maternal deaths
POLAND				N/A	3	0	0	0	0	1	N/A	legal abortion deaths
				N/A	11	6	5	12	3	2	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		N/A	16	141	14	6	5	12	3	3	N/A	all abortion deaths*
	N/A	189	160	147	120	98	102	105	92		N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths
PORTUGAL				N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0	1	N/A	legal abortion deaths
				N/A	N/A	15	20	12	13	9	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		64	25	18	22	15	20	12	13	10	N/A	all abortion deaths*
	261	153	132	105	88	76	90	69	67		N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths
SPAIN				0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	legal abortion deaths
				17	15	9	22	19	23	N/A	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		36	17	17	15	9	22	19	23	N/A	N/A	all abortion deaths*
	467	341	204	202	190	193	161	158		N/A	N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths
SWEDEN				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	legal abortion deaths
				2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	unspecified abortion deaths
		16	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	all abortion deaths*
	44	14	9	11	9	8	3	8	2	3		non-abortion maternal deaths
SWITZERLAND				0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	legal abortion deaths
				2	4	3	5	1	0	1	2	unspecified abortion deaths
		12	5	2	5	3	5	2	1	2	2	all abortion deaths*
	77	37	28	20	23	15	14	9	8	4		non-abortion maternal deaths
YUGOSLAVIA				2	2	0	0	0	1	2	N/A	legal abortion deaths
				89	77	66	54	33	41	29	N/A	unspecified abortion deaths
		N/A	152	91	79	66	54	33	42	31	N/A	all abortion deaths*
	N/A	332	192	128	119	87	92	82	82		N/A	non-abortion maternal deaths

* = legal plus unspecified deaths
N/A = not available

ALL STATISTICS ARE FROM WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION Unless otherwise stated, all statistics are from the World Health Annual Statistics: Volume 1 (Vital Statistics and Causes of Death) for the years 1955, 1956, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978.

Influence of legislation on illegal abortions: Denmark compared to England and Wales

DENMARK

YEAR	Livebirths	Legally-induced abortions	Remaining hospital-treated
1925	71,897	50	3,500
1930	66,303	195	3,500
1935	65,223	409	
1940	70,121	522	4,945
1945	95,062	1,577	10,903
1950	79,558	4,101	12,219
1955	76,845	5,434	
1960	76,077	3,918	10,885
1965	85,791	5,188	11,098
1966	88,332	5,726	10,643
1967	81,410	6,324	8,884
1968	74,543	6,429	8,016
1969	71,298	7,427	7,812
1970	70,802	10,072	7,875
1971	75,395	11,496	8,047
1972	76,505	13,600	8,087
1973	71,895	16,536	8,416
1974	71,327	24,868	8,090
1975	72,071	27,884	7,800
1976	65,267	26,842	
1977		25,662	
1978			

ENGLAND & WALES

Year	Absolute Livebirths	As percentage of Stillbirths	Total	Discharges from Hospital after Abortion not legally induced	
				Numbers	As percentage of total births
1966	849,823	13,243	863,066	72,100	8.35
1967	832,164	12,528	844,692	69,900	8.27
1968	819,272	11,848	831,120	69,390	8.34
1969	797,538	10,654	808,192	67,360	8.33
1970	784,486	10,345	794,831	70,930	8.92
1971	783,155	9,899	793,054	65,000	8.19
1972	725,440	8,799	734,239	62,520	8.51
1973	675,953	7,936	683,889	60,860	8.89
1974	639,885	7,175	647,060	56,670	8.75
1975	603,445	6,295	609,740	55,960	9.17
1976	584,270	5,708	589,979	N/A	N/A

Comment

Before the legalisation of abortion on request in Denmark claims were made that the increase in legal abortions would result in an equally large decline in illegal abortions, so that the total number of induced abortions would remain the same. "... by enumeration of small patients groups it has been shown for the interval 1971-1972 that illegal abortions constitute around 5% of . . . hospital treated abortions." These values are recorded in the third column of the above table (left); "from and including 1967 the number has remained almost constant with small variations of around 8,100. This indicates that there cannot have taken place any large decline in the number of illegal abortions . . . liberalisation by the . . .

abortion laws has evoked a vast increase in legal abortions, without a simultaneous decrease in illegal abortions . . . These laws have created an environment in which women who previously would have carried their pregnancies to term allow them now to be interrupted prematurely." JOURNAL OF THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION July/August, 1979. Abortion Situation in Denmark by Dr Olaf Nogaard. The table on the right shows a similar situation which has developed in Britain. Far from falling, the rate of hospital discharges following abortion not legally induced has increased in comparison with the birthrate and now stands at 9.17 per cent of total births.

Influence of legislation on illegal abortions: Denmark compared to England and Wales

DENMARK

YEAR	Livebirths	Legally-induced abortions	Remaining hospital-treated
1925	71,897	50	3,500
1930	66,303	195	3,500
1935	65,223	409	
1940	70,121	522	4,945
1945	95,062	1,577	10,903
1950	79,558	4,101	12,219
1955	76,845	5,434	
1960	76,077	3,918	10,885
1965	85,791	5,188	11,098
1966	88,332	5,726	10,643
1967	81,410	6,324	8,884
1968	74,543	6,429	8,016
1969	71,298	7,427	7,812
1970	70,802	10,072	7,875
1971	75,395	11,496	8,047
1972	76,505	13,600	8,087
1973	71,895	16,536	8,416
1974	71,327	24,868	8,090
1975	72,071	27,884	7,800
1976	65,267	26,842	
1977		25,662	
1978			

ENGLAND & WALES

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1973	675,953	7,936	683,889	60,860	8.89
1974	639,885	7,175	647,060	56,670	8.75
1975	603,445	6,295	609,740	55,960	9.17
1976	584,270	5,708	589,979	N/A	N/A

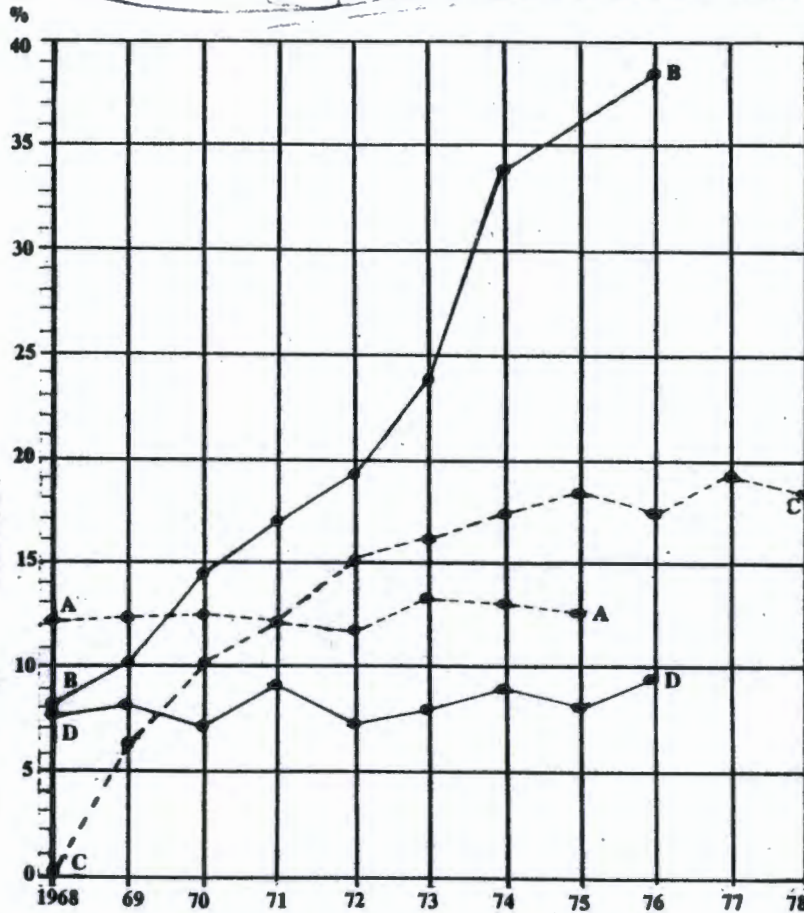
Comment

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Illegal Abortion figures analysed

ABORTION FIGURES FOR DENMARK AND ENGLAND & WALES



DENMARK: Compiled from figures published in *World Medical Journal*, Vol. 26, No. 4, July/August 1979, by Dr Olaf Nugaard

ENGLAND: Compiled from figures given in the JR of World Medical Association, July/August, 1979

Comment

The graphs, based on the tables on Page 14, show no decrease in the rate of "unspecified" abortions in Denmark and in England and Wales — despite spiralling legal abortion figures (graphs provided by the World Federation of Doctors with Respect for Human Life).

Analysis of offences for procuring illegal abortions compared with cases treated in hospital with main diagnosis of illegal abortion

YEAR	Offences recorded as known to the police	Persons proceeded against in Magistrates Court	Persons found guilty	Cases treated 1* in hospital with main diagnosis of illegal abortion
1966				170
1967	314	61	65	270
1968	247	75	60	520
1969	257	57	52	670
1970	212	52	41	750
1971	80	34	36	770
1972	62	26	26	320
1973	36	11	8	520
1974	21	8	11	370
1975	14	1	1	180
1976	9	3	4	N/A
1977	11	5	2	N/A

Comment

In 1966 a Report of the Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists predicted that the "legalisation of abortion alters the climate of opinion among the public and even the Courts of Law. The result is that criminal abortion becomes less abhorrent, and those guilty of the offence, receive punishments so light as not to discourage them and others in their activities." 2* It was also suggested by eminent doctors that as abortion became more acceptable people became less inclined to report illegal operators to the police.

Certainly, the drop in cases known to the police (shown above in column 1), the drop in the numbers of persons proceeded against (column 2), or those found guilty (column 3) are brought to ridicule when compared with the figures for cases treated in hospital with main diagnosis of illegal abortion. Furthermore, despite racketeering in licensed clinics operating under the Abortion Act, the lack of cases in which there have been police proceedings have brought the law into ridicule.

*1 Estimates from Hospital In-Patient Inquiry Figures

*2 Legalised Abortion: Report by the Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, published in the *British Medical Journal*, April 2, 1966

Abortions according to Premises in England and Wales

Residents and Non-Residents

Year	All Abortions	NHS	% of Total Abortions in National Health Service
1968 (from April 27)	23,600	14,600	62
1969	54,800	33,700	61
1970	86,600	47,700	55
1971	126,800	53,700	42
1972	159,900	57,100	36
1973	167,100	55,600	33
1974	162,900	55,300	35
1975	139,700	51,100	37
1976	127,900	50,000	39
1977	133,000	52,700	40
1978	142,300	55,600	39

Comment

Well over half of abortions are carried out in the private sector with the charities — The British Pregnancy Advisory Service and the London-based, Pregnancy Advisory Service — claiming a major share. Whereas most people imagine that the charities

Analysis of Abortions carried out in Private Sector (Approved places)

Year	Total Abortions in private sector	Abortions through major Charities				As % of Abortions in private sector	Abortions in "Co mercial" Clinics a other approved pla
		BPAS	PAS	Total			
1970	38,900	8,900	3,500	12,400	31.88	26,500	
1971	73,100	15,300	6,600	21,900	29.96	51,200	
1972	102,800	20,200	11,500	31,700	30.84	71,100	
1973	111,500	23,100	13,300	36,400	32.65	75,100	
1974	106,600	24,500	13,200	37,700	35.37	68,900	
1975	88,600	22,700	12,600	35,300	39.84	35,300	
1976	77,900	21,700	11,800	33,500	43.00	44,400	
1977	80,300	22,000	10,000	32,000	39.85	48,300	
1978	86,800						

provide abortions more cheaply than the "commercial clinics" this is by no means always the case. Some commercial clinics charge considerably less for abortions than the charities (see opposite).

Comparative Costs of Abortions in Charity Sector and Commercial Sector

British Pregnancy Advisory Service Income for 1978

Total Income	Salaries & Fees	Salaries & Fees as % of total Income	Grants to Patients	Grants to Patients as % of total Income
£2,103,474	£1,355,893	64.45	£16,518	0.78

Note: PAS does not show any grants to patients in its accounts. Both BPAS and PAS allow clients to have abortions on deferred payments which they refer to as "loans".

Pregnancy Advisory Service income for 1977

(the latest year for which accounts have
been submitted to the Charity
Commissioners)

Total Income	Salaries & Fees	Salaries & Fees as % of Total Income
£115,305	£95,680	£82.98

Fees charged in Charity Sector BPAS & PAS (Incomes as above)

Fee for Counselling	Fee for Abortion	Total
£16	£72	£88

Fees charged in Commercial Profit-making Sector

P & G Services (Pregnancy & Gynaecological Services)			Raleigh Nursing Home	Robert Nursing Home
Fee for Counselling	Fee for Abortion	Total	Fee inclusive of Counselling and Abortion	Fee inclusive of Counselling and Abortion
£10	£70	£80	£70	£75

Comment

Despite the privileges they receive as registered charities (relief of rates and taxes) both the British Pregnancy Advisory Service and the Pregnancy Advisory Service charge considerably more than some clinics and agencies in the commercial sector. One particularly surprising example is that of the P & G pregnancy advisory service, a commercial concern, which as shown above charges a total of £80 for counselling and abortion — which is £8 cheaper than the total charges of the charity Pregnancy

Advisory Service. Yet, the clinics to which P & G refer patients (Buckhurst Hill and Leigham Court, Streatham) are the same clinics used by the charitable Pregnancy Advisory Service for many years. It might almost be a price war! One must presume that the standard of care in the commercial sector must be equal to that in the charitable clinics — otherwise the Secretary of State for Social Security would surely have withdrawn approval from the clinics.

The influence of abortion legislation on attitudes to children

Children in care under the age of 18 England and Wales (thousands)

1951	1956	1959	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
62.7	62.3	61.6	62.2	63.6	64.8	66.3	67.1	69.2	69.3	69.4	70.7	71.2	87.4	90.6	93.2	95.9	99.1	100.6	101.1

Figures from HM Government Publications: "Social Trends" and "Health and Personal Social Services Statistics"

Note: The figures for 1977 are estimated and include 1976 figures for England and Wales

Comment

One of the most common techniques of pro-abortionists is to claim that abortion stops unwanted children and to assert that tightening the law would result in an increase in child-battering and those who have to be taken into care. Not only is there no evidence whatsoever to support the above claims — but all reliable evidence from Britain and elsewhere suggests that perhaps we should establish thorough research programmes to see whether liberal abortion undermines a sense of responsibility towards children.

The table above shows that since the Abortion Act came into operation there has been an unprecedented increase in the numbers of children taken into care in England and Wales. In the sixteen years before the passing of the Act (1951 to 1967) annual statistics showed an increase of 6,600 children in care. However, since the Act came into operation the annual statistics have shown an increase of 31,700 children in care — despite the tremendous decline in the birthrate.

It is also worth noting that two areas with high abortion rates also have exceptionally high rates of children in care. Newcastle-on-Tyne, which is always presented as a "model" by the DHSS and pro-abortionists because of its high abortion rate, also has one of the highest rates of children in care (15.7 per 1,000 of estimated population under the age of 18) in the country. The West Midlands, which now has the highest rate of abortions in the country (apart from London and the Home Counties), is also faced with increasing child tragedies and Birmingham now has 3,500 children in care — 24% higher than the average for all Metropolitan districts and the Social Services Committee for the City recently complained of the increase in schoolgirl mothers despite contraceptive and abortion programme (*Daily Mail*, January 14, 1980).

The following tables on homicidal deaths among young people under the age of 18 give no indication that such tragedies decline as a result of abortion on demand. Indeed, the Iron Curtain countries (with

abortion on demand) have very high rates of homicidal deaths in the young — particularly in comparison with countries such as Ireland, Malta, Spain and Portugal, which have no abortions law. Restrictions in Iron Curtain country legislation do not appear to have led to an increase in child death due to injury deliberately inflicted by others.

In evidence to the Select Committee on Abortion Sir John Peel (then President of the BMA: a former President of the RCOG and the Queen's gynaecologist), suggested that in his view abortion had encouraged irresponsible attitudes in sexual behaviour. He felt that restrictions in the law — equally — could lead to more responsible attitude.

Note: Rumania has been excluded from tables in this booklet because there is no analysis of deaths the young between those resulting from accidents (e.g. road accidents) and those deliberately perpetrated by others. All countries in the following tables can be compared with those in the tables on pages 10 and 11 showing maternal deaths.

Homicide and Injury purposely inflicted by other persons: Legal Intervention

United Kingdom and the same cross-section of European countries

as for the Abortion death figures on pages 12 and 13

Name of country	Total Rate 1965	Total Rate 1969	Total Rate 1970	Total Rate 1971	Total Rate 1972	Total Rate 1973	Total Rate 1974	Total Rate 1975	Total Rate 1976	Total Rate 1977	Total Rate 1978	Age group in years
United Kingdom												
ENGLAND & WALES	33 3.8	35 4.4	42 5.4	38 4.9	37 5.1	40 5.9	35 5.5	33 5.5	36 6.2	18 3.2	31 5.5	0
	25 0.8	42 1.3	34 1.0	30 1.0	43 1.4	34 1.1	40 1.4	30 1.1	26 1.0	33 1.3	28 1.2	1 - 4
	20 0.3	13 0.2	15 0.2	29 0.4	25 0.3	28 0.4	31 0.4	23 0.3	23 0.3	27 0.3	28 0.3	5 - 14
	78	90	91	97	105	102	106	86	85	78	87	Total
SCOTLAND	4 4.0	9 10.0	4 4.6	2 2.3	8 10.2	6 8.1	2 2.9	2 2.9	5 7.7	4 6.4	N/A	0
	6 1.5	1 0.3	4 1.1	3 0.8	7 2.0	5 1.5	1 0.3	1 0.3	1 0.3	1 0.4	N/A	1 - 4
	2 0.2	5 0.6	0 0.0	4 0.4	3 0.3	4 0.4	3 0.3	4 0.4	7 0.8	4 0.5	N/A	5 - 14
												Total
NORTHERN IRELAND	1 3.0	2 6.2	0 —	0 —	1 3.3	1 3.4	0 —	1 3.8	1 3.8	3 12.5	N/A	0
	0 —	0 —	1 0.8	0 —	1 0.8	2 1.7	3 2.6	1 0.9	1 0.9	0 —	N/A	1 - 4
	0 —	0 —	0 —	0 —	0 —	3 1.0	5 1.6	4 1.3	5 1.6	4 1.3	N/A	5 - 14
												Total
Austria	8 6.2	10 8.2	12 10.7	6 5.5	9 8.7	8 8.2	8 8.2	10 10.7	5 5.7	4 4.7		0
	5 1.0	7 1.4	3 0.6	5 1.0	3 0.6	3 0.7	3 0.7	2 0.5	2 0.5	1 0.3		1 - 4
	7 0.7	8 0.7	9 0.7	3 0.2	3 0.2	6 0.5	3 0.2	7 0.6	3 0.2	8 0.7		5 - 14
	20	25	24	14	15	17	14	19	10	13		Total
Belgium	5 3.2	0 —	3 2.1	9 6.4	0 —	2 1.5	2 1.7	2 1.7	0 —	N/A	N/A	0
	3 0.5	4 0.7	3 0.5	3 0.5	3 0.5	3 0.5	2 0.4	2 0.4	3 0.6	N/A	N/A	1 - 4
	3 0.2	5 0.3	2 0.1	0 —	5 0.3	0 —	9 0.6	6 0.4	4 0.3	N/A	N/A	5 - 14
	11	9	8	12	8	5	13	10	7			Total
Bulgaria	4 3.2	5 3.5	N/A	5 3.7	2 1.5	4 2.9	4 2.7	4 2.8	4 2.8	2 1.4	N/A	0
	1 0.2	5 1.0	N/A	5 1.0	5 0.9	4 0.8	0 —	0 —	3 0.6	3 0.5	N/A	1 - 4
	6 0.5	5 0.4	N/A	6 0.5	10 0.8	7 0.6	3 0.2	1 0.1	0 —	0 —	N/A	5 - 14
	11	15		16	17	15	7	5	7	5		Total
Czechoslovakia	22 9.5	18 8.1	16 7.0	24 10.1	15 6.0	19 6.9	22 7.6	24 8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	7 0.8	6 0.7	18 2.1	7 0.8	10 1.1	9 1.0	4 0.4	8 0.8	N/A	N/A		1 - 4
	8 0.3	15 0.7	12 0.5	10 0.5	13 0.6	6 0.3	11 0.5	7 0.3				5 - 14
	37	39	46	41	38	34	37	39				Total
Denmark	2 2.3	0 —	0 —	2 2.7	0 —	4 5.6	0 —	1 1.4	1 1.5	1 1.6	N/A	0
	2 0.6	1 0.3	4 1.3	0 —	3 1.0	4 1.4	1 0.3	0 —	4 1.4	1 0.4	N/A	1 - 4
	5 0.7	8 1.1	2 0.3	7 0.9	6 0.8	6 0.8	4 0.5	4 0.5	4 0.5	4 0.5	N/A	5 - 14
	9	9	6	9	9	14	5	5	9	6		Total
France	26 3.0	12 1.4	13 1.5	11 1.3	18 2.1	13 1.5	15 1.9	8 1.1	18 2.5	N/A	N/A	
	16 0.5	13 0.4	8 0.2	9 0.3	15 0.4	15 0.4	20 0.6	11 0.3	9 0.3	N/A	N/A	1 - 4
	14 0.2	18 0.2	11 0.1	17 0.2	22 0.3	7 0.1	22 0.3	19 0.2	11 0.1	N/A	N/A	5 - 14
	56	43	32	37	55	35	57	38	38			Total

Name of country	Total Rate 1965	Total Rate 1969	Total Rate 1970	Total Rate 1971	Total Rate 1972	Total Rate 1973	Total Rate 1974	Total Rate 1975	Total Rate 1976	Total Rate 1977	Total Rate 1978	Age groups in years										
West Germany	63	6.0	59	6.5	48	5.9	47	6.0	45	6.4	42	6.6	36	6.0	37	6.2	31	5.1	21	3.6	N/A	0
	41	1.0	44	1.1	47	1.2	40	1.1	35	1.0	41	1.3	30	1.0	23	0.8	33	1.3	25	1.0	N/A	1 - 4
	52	0.6	47	0.5	67	0.7	43	0.4	51	0.5	51	0.5	49	0.5	39	0.4	61	0.6	58	0.6	N/A	5 - 14
	156		150		162		30		131		134		115		99		125		104		N/A	Total
Hungary	11	8.3	27	17.5	13	8.6	20	13.3	37	24.1	22	14.1	21	11.3	19	9.8	26	14.0	17	9.6	N/A	0
	3	0.6	5	0.9	9	1.6	9	1.6	8	1.4	7	1.2	3	0.5	4	0.7	10	1.6	4	0.6	N/A	1 - 4
	11	0.6	6	0.4	6	0.4	8	0.6	5	0.4	7	0.5	4	0.3	1	0.1	6	0.4	3	0.2	N/A	5 - 14
	25		38		28		37		50		36		28		24		42		24		N/A	Total
Ireland	1	1.6	1	1.6	3	4.7	3	4.4	1	1.6	1	1.5	0	—	7	10.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Under 1
	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	2	0.8	0	—	0	—	2	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 - 4
	0	—	0	—	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5 - 14
	1		1		4		4		4		2		1		9						N/A	Total
Italy	7	0.7	8	0.9	9	1.0	13	1.4	10	1.1	4	0.5	11	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	6	0.2	10	0.3	7	0.2	14	0.4	9	0.3	9	0.3	6	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 - 4
	22	0.3	14	0.2	25	0.3	21	0.2	17	0.2	26	0.3	12	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5 - 14
	35		32		41		48		36		39		29		N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	Total
Malta	There have been no recorded deaths due to homicide or injury purposely inflicted among children under the age of 14 for the years 1965-1977 in Malta																					
Netherlands	4	1.6	5	2.0	4	1.7	5	2.2	2	0.9	4	2.1	2	1.1	4	2.2	6	3.4	5	2.9	N/A	0
	2	0.2	9	0.9	1	0.1	3	0.3	4	0.4	2	0.2	2	0.2	2	0.2	2	0.3	10	1.3	N/A	1 - 4
	1	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.1	3	0.1	6	0.3	1	0.0	9	0.4	4	0.2	3	0.1	6	0.2	N/A	5 - 14
	7		15		8		11		12		7		13		10		11		21		N/A	Total
Norway	3	4.5	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	2	3.3	0	—	1	1.8	2	3.7	0	—	N/A	0
	2	0.8	0	—	3	1.1	1	0.4	1	0.4	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	N/A	1 - 4
	2	0.3	3	0.5	2	0.3	2	0.3	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.3	2	0.3	N/A	5 - 14
	7		3		5		3		2		3		1		2		4		2		N/A	Total
Poland	13	2.4	6	1.1	19	3.5	30	5.3	17	3.0	22	3.7	30	4.8	14	2.2	18	2.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	6	0.3	7	0.3	5	0.2	6	0.3	2	0.1	3	0.1	6	0.3	10	0.4	6	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 - 4
	11	0.2	18	0.3	11	0.2	8	0.1	7	0.1	7	0.1	9	0.2	13	0.2	7	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	5 - 14
	30		31		35		44		26		32		45		37		31		N/A		N/A	Total
Portugal	4	1.9	3	1.6	2	1.2	4	2.1	3	1.7	2	1.2	1	0.6	2	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	1	0.1	0	—	2	0.3	1	0.1	2	0.3	0	—	0	—	1	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 - 4
	2	0.1	2	0.1	2	0.1	3	0.2	3	0.2	2	0.1	5	0.3	2	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5 - 14
	7		5		6		8		8		4		6		5		N/A		N/A		N/A	Total
Spain	N/A		7	1.1	5	0.8	5	0.8	4	0.6	2	0.3	3	0.4	7	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
	N/A		1	0.0	2	0.1	3	0.1	2	0.1	1	0.0	1	0.0	7	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 - 4
	N/A		1	0.0	4	0.1	5	0.1	3	0.0	0	—	7	0.1	13	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5 - 14
	N/A		9		11		13		9		3		11		27		N/A		N/A		N/A	Total
Sweden	3	2.4	2	1.9	2	1.8	0	—	6	5.3	0	—	0	—	1	1.0	1	1.0	0	—	N/A	0
	1	0.2	10	2.1	6	1.3	3	0.7	4	0.9	5	1.1	4	0.9	3	0.7	2	0.5	3	0.7	N/A	1 - 4
	7	2.7	2	0.2	6	0.5	11	1.0	3	0.3	5	0.4	4	0.4	5	0.4	3	0.3	4	0.3	N/A	5 - 14
	11		14		14		14		13		10		8		9		6		7		N/A	Total
Switzerland	5	4.5	4	3.9	9	9.1	4	4.2	5	5.5	4	4.6	4	4.7	3	3.8	1	1.3	5	6.8	N/A	0
	2	0.5	1	0.2	3	0.7	2	0.5	6	1.5	0	—	3	0.8	3	0.9	4	1.2	3	1.0	N/A	1 - 4
	6	0.7	0	—	1	0.1	3	0.3	8	0.8	4	0.4	5	0.5	3	0.3	8	0.8	5	0.5	N/A	5 - 14
	13		5		13		9		19		8		12		9		13		13		N/A	Total

Please see note on inside cover

Note: Between 1956 and 1960 Iron Curtain countries including Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, liberalised their abortion laws, establishing abortion on demand. They tightened their laws in the early '70s, since when there has been no increase in abortion deaths. In the case of Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland maternal deaths due to abortion are now the lowest in their history:
Bulgaria April 1973 abortion law restricted. Czechoslovakia May 1973 abortion law restricted. Hungary January 1, 1974, abortion law restricted. Poland 1974 abortion law restricted. None of these countries show any increase in infanticide since changing the law.

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