

# How Abortion Affects People's Minds

By KATHY MORAN  
(Second of 2 Articles)

Legalizing abortion in Michigan seems at first glance the most efficient way of protecting the health of women who are determined to have abortions and of keeping them out of the clutches of profiteering referral agencies.

As the situation is now, women are virtually powerless when seeking to terminate their pregnancies. Those who can afford it have to be treated by strange

doctors in strange hospitals in New York. And those who can't afford it still have to resort to the back-alley practitioners.

But alongside the medical complications are the psychological and sociological problems that a number of doctors are pointing out.

BECAUSE OF the delicacy of the operation, complications can result in hemorrhaging or infections unless the woman is given proper medical care.

And even in New York where the operation is legal, the demand is such that women are admitted, operated on, and released almost immediately.

Backers of abortion reform in Michigan contend that women would have better care and attention if the reforms are made here.

But a number of gynecologists say that medical complications are only a part of the total question.

## Will abortion cheapen society's attitudes toward human life? And what does it do to the woman?

with its ultimate effect on the family and siblings.

"I DON'T think there is any physician who doesn't have this conflict in his own mind," Dr. Sherman said. The decision should rest with the mother and her physician -- not the state -- and it should be arrived at by "responsible and adequate counseling." Should abortion reform be passed in Michigan, one of the aspects that will have to be emphasized is instructing physicians to give responsible counseling, he said.

"If we have a state system that can dictate who can or who can't have an abortion, then I don't think we are far

away from a system that dictates who can marry who and who can have children," he said.

Among the arguments of opponents to abortion reform are that the fetus is living and that abortion takes responsibility away from the parents.

"WHAT DOES it do to society to be able to do away with life so readily?" asked Dr. John Malone, chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital in Detroit. "What does it do to the woman?"

"The fetus is living, according to all scientific definitions of life. It can

multiply cells, and it will develop into a human being, and not an animal or a plant," Dr. Malone said. That it depends largely on a woman's upbringing whether she considers the fetus as human or not.

"Some women think this is a part of ME," he said. "This isn't so -- not in the true sense. It is not genetically the same."

The fetus is not biologically part of the woman because it is not a normal functioning part of her body, he said. It develops independently from the mother when its heart begins to pump its own blood through the fetus.

HE SAID that even with liberalized abortion laws, women will still try to self-abort and resort to illegal abortions, and clinics will spring up to handle abortions on an assembly line basis.

Dr. Jaynes contends that Michigan's current abortion law accommodates "all abortions that are necessary." He said that abortions are performed at University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor when the mother's life is endangered and where the possibility of severe birth defects is confirmed.

But Dr. Sherman said that the ambiguous wording of Michigan's law makes it nearly impossible to determine when a legal abortion can be performed.

"The law says that abortions are permitted when the life of the mother is endangered and where continuation of the pregnancy will kill the mother."

"One has to sort of guess if it will kill the mother if that pregnancy is allowed to go on," he said.

"If it is performed, nothing happens and one can't really say whether the woman would have died or not."

"WHAT IF the chances are 50-50, should the abortion be performed? What if they are 80-20 or 95-5? Or what if there is only a one per cent chance that the woman will die? Should we risk that one per cent?"

"The law is asking doctors to guess what the chances will be," he said.

Currently, he said that all abortion cases handled at Sinai are discussed by a panel of doctors before a decision is made.

But he emphasized that the mother's physical and mental health should also be factors in the decision -- and that this is not provided for under the current law.

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DR. ALFRED SHERMAN, head of gynecology and obstetrics at Sinai Hospital in Detroit, said he backs reform of Michigan abortion laws "with good deal of hesitancy."

"Abortion on demand will cheapen the whole aspect in regards to human life," he said. "It will cheapen life in general and make us less respectful of life."

"It probably has a dehumanizing effect all the way down," he said.

"But I have to weigh it against the disregard and cheapening of a woman's life when she is forced to have a back alley abortion or when she can't afford it and the product is a battered, bruised, unwanted child."

"I think it is a bad idea (abortion reform) to some extent, but I think it is the lesser of two evils," he said.

"You have to weigh the alternative against the fate of the embryonic child and what his life will be like in the future



## OCC Student Wins Marketing Prize

A Southfield student at Oakland Community College placed first in the national competition held by the collegiate division of the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) at a conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Patrick Dohany, 20827 Midway, was awarded a trophy in the individual marketing improvement award for his project dealing with computerizing newspaper subscription collections.

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U.S. Sen. William E. Brock (R-Tenn.) will be the guest speaker at 8:30 a.m. Friday at the Pontiac Sheraton Motor Inn for the fifth annual congressional report breakfast in honor of U.S. Rep. Jack McDonald (R-Farmington).

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from the breakfast chairman Robert G. Smith, 31643 Delaware, Livonia, or at the Sheraton Inn, 1001 Woodward, on Friday.

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