

Abortion Risks Underrated, Says Court Brief

Complications of abortion have been understated statistically, and the dangers of abortion are considerably higher than dangers of childbirth, according to a brief prepared for the U.S. Supreme Court by 220 physicians.

The physicians have asked the high court in a 79-page brief to consider the strictly medical evidence on abortion and to recognize the unborn individual as a person entitled to protection under the 5th and 14th amendments.

Dr. Richard V. Jaynes, a Garden City obstetrician, said that the high court has agreed to review the brief in two ap-

pals pending before it from rulings of U.S. District Courts in Texas and Georgia. The court will consider the data in its spring session.

MEDICAL HAZARDS of abortion include infection, hemorrhage and perforation of the uterus, according to the brief.

"The mortality statistics exclude the child, who dies in nearly 100 per cent of abortions," says Jaynes. "We physicians deplore the condition of a society which calls upon physicians to exercise their art as a tool of death for those yet unborn."

Dr. Jaynes is a member of the committee of endorsers of People Taking Action Against Abortion. Other area endorsers are the Rt. Rev. Thomas Beahan of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington; Judge Richard Hammer of Garden City; the Rev. Thomas Smith of St. John Episcopal Church, Redford Township; and the Rev. Frank Williams of Ward United Presbyterian Church, Livonia.

Dr. Jaynes says that current arguments for and against abortion have evolved around ethical, moral and sometimes religious grounds.

According to Dr. Jaynes, "The medical evidence is controlling and overriding and the medical profession can't just wait this issue out on the sidelines while philosophers and moralists wrestle with it without knowledge of the scientific data bearing on abortion."

"All medical evidence which we have currently leaves no reasonable doubt that the unborn, from conception onward, is an autonomous and separate human being."

"Its tissues are antigenically different from that of its mother; it has almost total metabolic autonomy and

possesses a complete and separate vascular system. Medicine clearly and conclusively establishes the individuality and humanity of the unborn child."

"IF THIS IS the medical fact, then the legal fact must be that the basic and fundamental right of the unborn to life takes precedence over all other considerations, except the right of the mother to her own life. A human, even though he may be intra-uterine, deserves to have his right to life protected under the 5th and 14th amendments."

Dr. Jaynes pointed out that the unborn child has always been considered as a patient by physicians and that methods of treating the unborn are getting more sophisticated with each day that passes.

"Medicine has always recognized mother and unborn child as not one patient, but two. How, then, can it be lawfully ever to permit a doctor to be the artful healer of one patient and the executioner of the other?"

"Medicine's efforts to improve treatment techniques

for the unborn have resulted in the new specialty of fetology, the study and treatment of the fetus and in the even newer specialty of perinatology which cares for its patients from conception to about one year of extra-uterine existence.

"Wouldn't it be disturbing to have several branches of medicine striving for the health of the unborn while other specialties consider the unborn as expendable?" Jaynes asks. "Are we moving toward medical schizophrenia where one doctor will recommend the destruction of another doctor's patient?"

The brief was filed with the Supreme Court by five Chicago lawyers, Dennis J. Horan, Jerome A. Frazel Jr., Thomas M. Crisbam, Dolores B. Horan and John D. Gorby.

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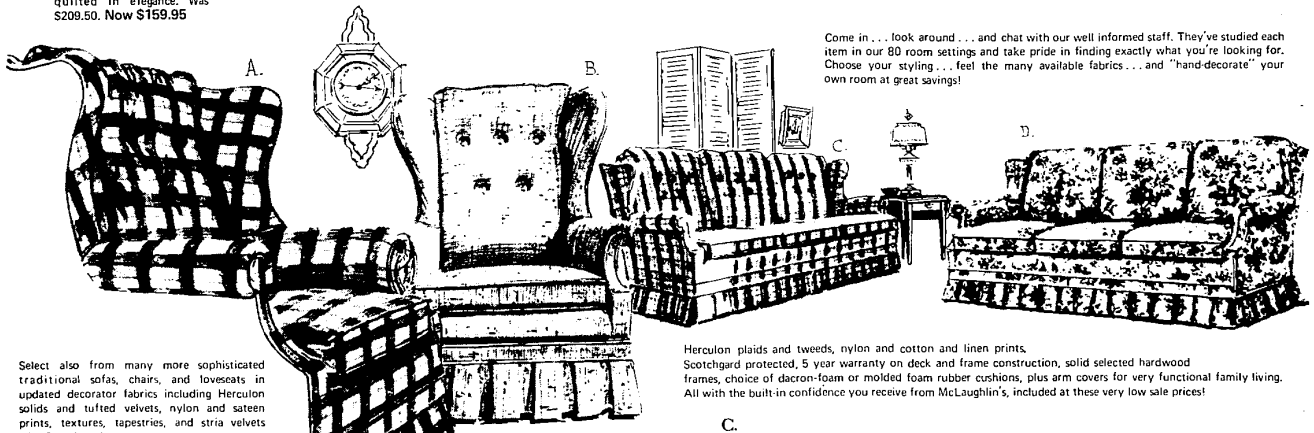


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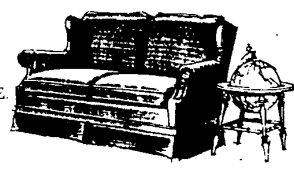
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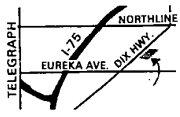
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