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race-suicide could not be controlled by legalised abortion, nor could abortion be made easy or safe for any woman. So in 1936 Soviet Russia prohibited abortion except on medical grounds

Abortion is harmful to the nation. Purposeful production of abortions, except for medical reasons, is regarded in most countries as murder. It spells slow race-suicide. But it is also dangerous to the individual, and that is what few New Zealanders seem to realise. Intentional abortions carry the risk of sepsis and death; they also may seriously damage the health of the mother. I have mentioned how in Russia almost half the women who sought abortion had illness afterwards. That was why the State stopped it. And do not forget that skilled doctors did it! When unqualified people interfere, the risks of sepsis and trouble afterwards are increased tremendously. The commonest after-trouble is pelvic inflammation with chronic invalidism. There may be permanent sterility. When an abortion has occurred, there is a tendency to repetition, and when a family is desired later, it may not be possible. If drugs are used to procure abortions, there is a risk of serious damage to liver and kidneys from the chemicals used. These risks are increased in the unmarried, as there is the desire for concealment, and lack of appreciation of the seriousness of the symptoms until too late.

No! Abortion is a highly dangerous method of birth control!

Approximately one woman in every two adopting this dangerous practice risks ending up a chronic invalid, and may be unable to have children later if she changes her mind. The nation suffers increasingly, for the children lost by abortions would not only increase the birth-rate now, but would do so again 20 or more years later when they raised their own families.

A Challenge

This race-suicide is a call to all men and women. Men begin all the trouble. It is high time every man in New Zealand who condones this practice realised its seriousness. I am putting it bluntly—such a man is assisting in the destruction of human life. Call it what you like, but I call it murder!

Above all, intentional abortion is a challenge to our womanhood. It used to be more prevalent in unmarried girls. The significant thing about it of recent years is that the figures show it to be increasing in married women.

Women of New Zealand — you can stop this increasing abortion by organised action among yourselves. Your national organisations lately seem to think the Government has the key, to prevention. Good housing, big enough homes for families, allowances for families, economic family sufficiency—yes, you can fairly ask the Government to realise how these things affect the question of having families, and seek action on these things. But do not stop there. Discuss the question of abortion within your own organisations. Find out just how much there is within your own ranks—how many abortions to children each member has had. Then start a campaign among women, run by women, to stop race-suicide. The perpetuation of our race is the responsibility of each generation.

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