

### Blackman: Americans Never Will Be Able to School Children of This Nation

When Bishop Driscoll, in care of the...  
The bishop also...  
Blackman's appearance...  
The president of the university...  
A member of Bishop Driscoll's staff...

## Canadian Abortionist Plans Clinics in Defiance of Law

**TORONTO (NC)** — An abortion advocate, Dr. Henry Morgentaler, is seeking to set up abortion clinics across Canada in violation of federal law and has expressed his determination to fight all opposition, including legal action, against his expansion plans.

On May 6, he opened his second clinic in Winnipeg and has announced plans to open clinics in Toronto and in Calgary. His first clinic is in Montreal.

A clinic which performs only abortions is illegal under federal law. The Criminal Code permits legal abortions only when they are performed in an accredited or approved hospital with the approval of a therapeutic abortion committee.

The Manitoba provincial government has denied "hospital status" to the clinic in Winnipeg and the Ontario government has not made any public response to Morgentaler's request for similar status for the clinic he plans to open in Toronto.

Morgentaler has said he believes that no jury would convict him of performing illegal abortions. He was acquitted three times on similar charges in Montreal in the 1970s.

He has based his defense on section 45 of the Criminal Code, which applies to operations but does not specifically mention abortions. The section states that there is no criminal responsibility for performing a needed surgical operation if:

- The operation is performed with reasonable skill and care.
  - It is reasonable to perform the operation, having regard to the state of health of the person at the time the operation is performed and to all the circumstances of the case.
- The "defense of necessity" argument, as Morgentaler's defense has become known, has won Morgentaler freedom from further prosecution in Quebec Province (Montreal). A study by a pro-life group found that Morgentaler has performed about 15,000 abortions at his Montreal clinic.

Morgentaler has said abortions have already been performed at the Winnipeg clinic.

Pro-life groups in Winnipeg sought unsuccessfully to have the city refuse Morgentaler building and occupancy permits on the grounds that the building would be used for illegal purposes.

In addition to legal action, the pro-life groups have tried to arouse public opposition to the clinic. They gathered almost 40,000 signatures to an ad opposing abortion clinics. The ad was published

## Bill Could Force Insurance Firms Cover Abortion

**WASHINGTON (NC)** — Pending legislation "could have the disastrous effect of requiring abortion coverage in every health and disability" insurance policy, a spokesman for the U.S. Catholic bishops said.

The "limited conscience clause" in the bill does not protect insurers who may have moral objections to providing abortion coverage, and it could force all insurance buyers to buy abortion coverage despite conscientious objections, he said.

The spokesman, Father Edward M. Bryce, director of the bishops' national Office for Pro-Life Activities, said the bishops' conference "would feel compelled to ask Congress to reject the entire bill in defense of the First Amendment" unless it is amended to make it "neutral" on abortion.

Father Bryce made his comments in a statement on the Fair Insurance Practices Act (S. 372, H.R. 100). The statement was prepared for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, which are considering the bill.

Father Bryce said the bill was described as "extending benefits" of the Pregnancy Disability Act to individual

or private insurance buyers. The Pregnancy Disability Act requires elective abortion to be treated as a medical condition "related" to pregnancy that insurers are required to cover in order to avoid sex discrimination in group insurance policies.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops supported the legislation's aim of removing sex discrimination in employee benefit plans, Father Bryce said, but it opposed the inclusion of abortion-related benefits in the act and considers its "conscience clause" inadequate to protect employers who object to abortion on moral grounds.

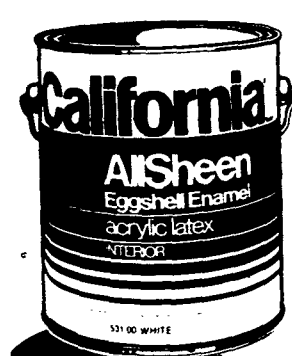
"It is sad and frightening," he said, "when in a society human life becomes cheap and expendable even for economic and social reasons."

When the Pregnancy Disability Act was passed in 1978, the bishops' conference challenged its constitutionality in federal court. The suit was dismissed on grounds that no case or controversy had arisen. "A cloud therefore exists over the constitutionality of the Pregnancy Disability Act," Father Bryce said.

He said that the proposed Fair Insurance Practices Act "as drafted" could be construed to require all insurance companies to include abortion coverage in all health and disability insurance policies they offer.

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