

Abortion conference evolves to moral debate



Ms. E.A. Binger . . . abortion is "contrary to God's law".

A symposium on the pros and cons of abortion evolved into a heated debate on the morality of terminating pregnancy this weekend in Lincoln.

The Saturday conference was to include both pro and con speakers on the issue, however Birthright and Right to Life, two anti-abortion organizations, officially boycotted the symposium. But their followers did not.

Before the argument broke out, the Rev. Howard Moody, a New York City minister and founder of the Clergy Consultation Service for Problem Pregnancies, told the 80 persons at the symposium that anti-abortion statutes should be liberalized. He said most states' anti-abortion laws are based on religious doctrine and therefore subject citizens to religion.

"We have to realize," he said, "the United States' Constitution not only guarantees freedom of religion, but also freedom from religion."

He said forcing women to bare child against their will is "legislative rape." He also said anti-abortion laws interfere with the medical profession by saying the state knows better than a doctor whether or not a pregnancy should be terminated.

He said many believe anti-abortion

statutes originally were written not to guard the unborn, but to protect pregnant women who might seek abortions from unskilled practitioners.

When he asked for questions, Mrs. E.A. Binger of Wakefield, said abortion is "contrary to God's law". She said legalizing the operation would increase promiscuity and premarital sex, and said both are sinful.

She was joined in her criticisms by S.H. Brauer an outspoken opponent of sex education in the public schools. He said abortion is a "rejection of all things spiritual and of the elevation of man."

He urged the group to turn back to an earlier morality and called abortion "legalized murder."

Moody countered by saying the question is not whether an abortion is homicide, but whether a group has the right to impose its religious beliefs on others through law.

He said abortion is necessary as a means of birth control. Even if all American women capable of childbearing were engaging in sexual intercourse and taking birth control pills, he said, at least 220,000 would become pregnant because "the pill" is fallible.



S.H. Brauer . . . termed abortion "legalized murder".

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