

# ABORTION RIGHTS -VS- TERRORISM

January 22, 1985, is the 12th anniversary of the legalization of abortion. The struggle for abortion was an important rallying point for women in the 1960's. The struggle to break out of traditional roles brought women's focus to controlling our bodies, including being able to separate sexuality from reproduction. The struggle for women's liberation was a part of and took place in an entire upsurge of social change. Movements involving men and women of all nationalities challenged much of society's traditional "rights and values"--most especially the "right" of the US government to wage wars of aggression as in Viet Nam and the "tradition" of racism toward Blacks and other people of color. The legalization of abortion was a concession to the struggle of women. And on the 12th anniversary, there is much to remember, celebrate and bring forward about that movement for the struggle of today.

January 22 is also a focus of a government-sanctioned offensive against abortion, otherwise known as the "Right to Life" movement. These forces are not concerned about the "sanctity of life". Where is their concern for the thousands of forced sterilizations done on poor and women of color? Where was their outrage over the Atlanta child and women murders? Where was their outpouring when thousands of women had spontaneous abortions and miscarriages due to the poison gas over Bhopal? In fact they are well known supporters of the Contras in Nicaragua, including their executions of women and children. Phyllis Schlafly has even called nuclear weapons a "gift from God".

The anti-abortion movement is aggressively anti-woman. Historically, women's rights have come under attack when a state is preparing for war. (And who can think of war without the winning soldiers' "right" to rape and pillage?) Who can forget Nazi Germany prior to WWII outlawing abortions as one of its first acts and going on to such things as kicking "Aryan women" out of universities to go have babies? Today, the moves against abortion are happening in the context of increasing provocation against Central America and massive nuclear build-ups in the U.S. and Soviet Union. Drawing people in to support all this has been and is the plan and purpose of the "Right to Life" movement. This was explicitly stated several years ago by Richard Viguerie, a major architect and leader of the New Right: "The abortion issue is the door through which many people come into conservative politics, but they don't stop there. Viguerie goes on to trace how the anti-abortion issue leads to, "a commitment ...to an aggressive foreign and military policy to counter the communist threat from Russia and its many surrogates".

There were 28 bombings on abortion clinics, women's health center's, etc., across the country in 1984, 4 of them over this past Christmas and New Years. The federal government has reported 150 cases of harassment and vandalism against clinics in the same period--everything from spray painting inside the clinics, smashing equipment to decapitating one woman's cat. The government has continued to claim this is not terrorism because it is not aimed at them. They claim there is no conspiracy even though the bombings have all been claimed by the Army of God. The leaders of the "Right to Life" movement, while giving a few obligatory criticisms of these acts, have lauded the bombers as "heroes". Further, as the first step in any government investigation, the bombed clinics must turn over all their files--personnel, financial, etc.- as it is assumed to be an "inside" job. From Newsweek to the N.Y. Times, the press has been consistently sympathetic to the bombers. And from the Oval Office we hear, "We should never rest until abortion is outlawed". All this adds up to being more than a few isolated fanatics.

Our rights were won through struggle and by relying on people. This issues is an important opportunity to draw together many different people in society who support abortion, the rights of women to choose and/or are disgusted by these attacks. The Clinic Defense Committee has been formed as an ongoing organization to help achieve that end. We invite you to join us today, and to join the committee. There are many different political perspectives within the group and we are pursuing multiple tactics. These include; direct action such as demonstrations, a call for security at clinics, urging the City Council to pass a resolution opposing the violence against clinics and placing a pro-choice ad in the local newspapers.

Donations are needed for all of these efforts. Further, we encourage volunteers to help secure the clinics. For more information, please contact: 444-5676.

# CLINIC DEFENSE COMMITTEE