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## Letters To the Editor

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## Letter...

### Letter from New Zealand

"The most restrictive abortion law in the Western world" was how pro-abortionists described the new Contraception, Sterilization and Abortion Act which was passed by a substantial majority in Parliament on December 17, 1977, after an all-night session and a "free" (conscience) vote. The Act sets up a network of Certifying Consultants who must affirm that any proposed abortion complies with the law. Operators must show that no alternative management of the case would be possible. Fetal abnormality is excluded as an indication for abortion.

The reaction against the Act from the abortion lobby, the news media and the profession was almost unbelievable. They ranted and raved and revealed the intensity of their personal feelings in favor of abortion. This is a sexually disturbed society.

A lady very dear to me organized a nationwide campaign of rosaries during October to achieve the closure of our local abortion clinic which aborts more babies than our largest obstetric hospital delivers. It seemed an impossible task. The clinic was doing a roaring trade, it had generous TV coverage and influential support. But it is now closed! It seems incredible.

Other aspects of the Act are not too favorable. A wide range of sexual do-gooders, even doctors' secretaries, may now provide contraceptives to children under 16 without their parents' consent. Sterilization will be facilitated and will be free to all comers in public hospitals.

Meanwhile the birth rate has sunk to a record low figure (under 17/1000), the rate of natural increase is only 0.8 per cent p.a. (whatever happened to the "population explosion"?)

and the sagging economy in this dying country has led to an unprecedented emigration loss which has unexpectedly produced ZPG right here and now. I don't hear anyone cheering.

Impressed by our marital and demographic problems, I inserted an advertisement in the "Women's Weekly" showing a baby within a stylized heart outline (looking somewhat like a transverse lie within a uterus cordiformis) and the simple message: "Open Your Hearts and Your Homes to Love — Have Another Baby!" I used my own name, without "M.D.," and home address.

This innocent little 11-word text aroused apoplectic reactions of fury throughout the country, especially from abortionists and family planners. I was even reported to the Medical Association Disciplinary Committee for "unethical conduct." But innumerable humble families were given a new confidence. With due modesty I can claim it was the most successful advertisement of the year.

Now the good news. While the USA is buried under snow we are enjoying an extraordinary summer, the harbor is white with sails and the NZ ensign flutters on my flagpole. (The Stars and Stripes were up on July 4. And for variety we sometimes fly the Canadian maple leaf, the Union Jack, the Australian ensign, and other more esoteric flags.) This is a beautiful city.

— H. P. Dunn, M.D.

Auckland, New Zealand