

# Texas House Considers Abortion Question

AUSTIN (AP) — When puppy love ends in pregnancy, should the legislature share the blame because girls under 21 can't get contraceptives without parental consent?

Should a physician fear a lawsuit if he sterilizes a man or woman without the spouse's consent?

Who should decide whether a woman or girl will receive an abortion?

These three questions tied up the House Human Resources Committee for most of Tuesday, with witnesses on both sides of the emotionally laden issues.

The committee heard three bills by Rep. Sarah Weddington, D-Austin, that would:

- Give any woman 16 or older the right to decide for herself whether to have an abortion.
- Require a physician to get a parent's consent, unless they were married. Physicians who perform abortions would be exempt from criminal or civil penalties, except for negligence.
- Allow minors to be examined for pregnancy and receive pre-natal care without parental consent. They also could be examined for and receive contraceptive pills and devices without their parent's knowledge.
- Make physicians immune from lawsuits for sterilizing a man or woman without the consent of his or her spouse.

Virtually all the "pro" testimony was on the last two bills, while the "anti" testimony concentrated on the abortion bill.

Two women social workers who have counseled pregnant teenagers played down promiscuity as a cause of young people's pregnancies or as a possible result of Ms. Weddington's bills.

"Most thought they were involved in a meaningful relationship with one person. . . . But it was superficial, and they discovered it was superficial after they were three months pregnant," said Barbara Cambridge,

linked together," she said, "we must turn around and face the world, that other half of the world which is men. . . . We must extend a hand for them to come toward us. . . . We are strong enough."

Ms. Friedan was a founder of NOW seven years ago. She advised the more than 2,000 women at the sixth annual convention to bring men into some of their work, such as ratification of the equal rights amendment, and also start dialogues "on what it really means to be equal."

In a day-long plenary session, NOW delegates debated proposals from the workshop on matters such as sexual choices, prostitution, women's progress in labor unions, discrimination against older women, credit discrimination and unfair rape laws.

Lesbians were voted down in their attempt to win approval for establishing separate "special interest" NOW chapters.

director of social services of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

Rep. John Whitmire, D-Houston, asked another witness whether allowing teen-age girls to obtain contraceptives from physicians would "increase peer pressure on 13-, 14- and 15-year-old girls" to have intercourse.

"Possibly — but most of the girls we see think they are very much in love," replied Mrs. Rosalind Gruber of San Antonio, a psychiatric social worker.

Dr. Jack A. Pritchard, professor of obstetrics at Southwestern, said it was vital for single women under 21 to be able to get pre-natal examinations and care without parental involvement.

"An unwanted, uncared-for pregnancy may well be considered a venereal disease. Certainly the complications for the woman and the potential for complications for society imposed on an unwanted uncared-for pregnancy are in many ways more grave than are the complications from syphilis or gonorrhea," Pritchard said.

Many young women under 21 work and live away from their parents, he said. And often, he added, the problem is not a girl's fear of talking with her parents about contraception or pregnancy but "lack of initiative by parents to appear at a clinic."

Dr. Paul Trickett, director of the University of Texas at Austin's student health center, said he had documented "just under 700" unwanted pregnancies to single coeds in the year that ended Aug. 31, 1970.

At that time, he said, his daughter was a senior in high school, and based on those statistics, "I estimated that if she went to the University and spent four years there, her chances of getting pregnant were one in four."

The student health center prescribes birth control pills for coeds but not for those under 21

without their parents' approval he said.

He added that the birth control clinic at UT-Austin was "so crowded that a girl might have to wait a week or 10 days before she can get an appointment."

"We beseech you to look on this as a public health problem and do something so we can treat it in a better light," he said.

Dr. Joseph Witherspoon, a University of Texas law professor, led the opposition to the abortion bill and attacked the recent U. S. Supreme Court decision that Texas' abortion law violated the constitutional right to privacy.

Ms. Weddington represented one of the plaintiffs in the case that resulted in the Supreme Court decision.

"My frank judgment as a scholar . . . is that it is a tragically wrong decision."

## Female Health Care To Be Investigated

Health care for female students in the University Hospital is to be an issue of concern for the Women's Awareness Workshop.

"There is an extremely part-time gynecologist at the hospital," said Gillian Parker, co-chairwoman for the organization. "There is no family planning advice or birth control devices offered."

In order to see the gynecologist one must first see one of the general practitioners on duty, according to Judi Wooten, co-chairwoman. If he feels it necessary he will advise one to see the gynecologist and then one must make an appointment to do so.

"In talking with the dean of women about the problem," said Parker, "I was told A&M girls don't get pregnant."

Other discussion in the Tues-

day meeting centered around the National Organization for Women's Convention in Houston last weekend.

"We left the convention saying all things men said about women getting together and running a meeting were true," said Wooten. "But we really feel as if a lot of things were accomplished."

The convention was mainly to encourage all women to get involved in politics. Workshops concerned such things as women's credit establishments and sexual privacy.

It was decided there would be a non-voting male membership at the national level. This issue lost by seven-twentieths of a vote at the convention. In direct conflict with this issue, it was established that there would be voting male members on a local level.

The Women's Awareness Workshop is in the preliminary stages of applying for university acceptance. There is a five dollar membership fee.

## NOW Works To Liberate Men

WASHINGTON (AP) — Betty Friedan, whose book on the "feminine mystique" sparked a liberation movement a decade ago, appealed to feminists Monday to help men shed what she called stifling sex-role stereotypes.

Women must begin to help society see men "not as instruments, not as sex objects, not as breadwinners — but as human beings, our brothers," Ms. Friedan told the National Organization for Women convention.

She said when her book was ready for publication 10 years ago she wondered if anybody would even read it.

Now, she said, she realizes her trepidations and lack of confidence were "part of a massive social and political problem. . . . We had the strength to do something about it and we have shaken the world."

"Now, with our hands still

linked together," she said, "we must turn around and face the world, that other half of the world which is men. . . . We must extend a hand for them to come toward us. . . . We are strong enough."

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## Non-Stick Pots Aid Cleaning

Scraping, scrubbing, soaking and scouring have virtually been eliminated with non-stick finishes on cookware and appliances.

"Two types of non-stick finishes are available — heavy-duty and regular," Lillian Cochran, home management specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, reported.

"The heavy type is more scratch and abrasion resistant. Smooth-edged metal spoons and spatulas may be used—if they're not dug into the finish.

"However, knives, forks and rotary beaters can mar the finish," she cautioned.

"With the regular finish, use only rubber, wooden or plastic utensils.

"Also, read all labels and instructions furnished with the item to determine its finish and properties.

"Before using the item for the first time, wash it in hot sudsy water to remove any dust or manufacturing oils," the specialist suggested.

"Then condition the cooking surface by lightly rubbing with cooking oil on a paper towel or waxed paper. This insures non-stick cooking if repeated from time to time.

"Reconditioning is especially important for griddles and skillets," Miss Cochran added.

After each use, clean the item thoroughly with hot sudsy water. Remove any residue settled into the porous finish with a plastic pad. Otherwise, residue could damage the non-stick properties.

"Sometimes discoloration may occur from improper cleaning. As a result of this grease build-up, effectiveness of the finish is reduced."

A commercial cleaner is available for removing stains. If directions are closely followed, it is safe and effective, Miss Cochran noted.

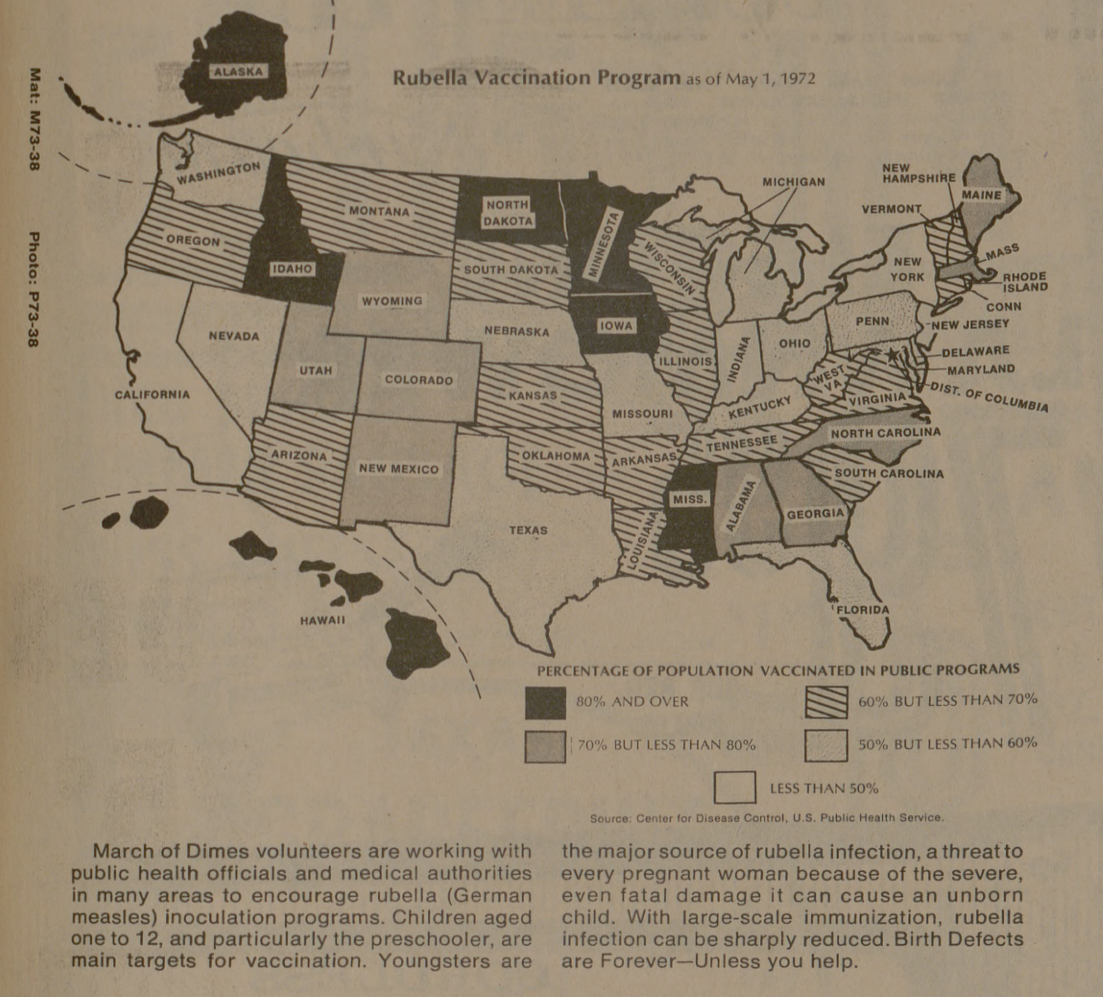
## Alpha Lambda Hosts Supper

Alpha Lambda will have an informal get-together on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting will be at the University Lutheran Student Center at 315 N. Main St.

Supper will be served to all members and new initiates are invited to attend. A brief business meeting will be conducted following the meal.

Alpha Lambda members who need a ride to the meeting are asked to sign-up in Patricia Self's office, Room 103 of the Academic Building.



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