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Que Ondee Sola- July 1977

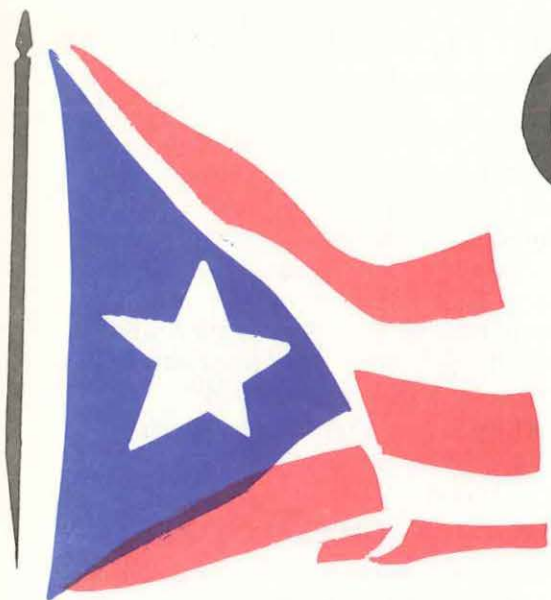
Ivan Porrata

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QUE ONDEE SOLA

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JULY, 1977

People's Tribunal

On June 25th and 26th, a Peoples' Tribunal was held to investigate the Humboldt Park Police Massacre. This Massacre resulted in the police killings of Rafael Cruz and Julio Osorio. It also meant a massive invasion of police into the West Town area, where innocent men, women and children were beaten and maimed, and the final seizure of the community by police.

The Tribunal heard testimonies from survivors of the Massacre (June 4-5) in order to get at what really happened. Organized by two people's organizations, **El Comitè Pro-Orientacion** and the **Worker's Rights Center**, the Tribunal was a response to the lies and cover-up put forth by Mayor Bilandic and Police Chief Rochford.

Their report said the following: (1) The police only entered the park as a spontaneous response to gang fighting. (2) At no time did the police step out of the line of duty in their attempts to control the "Puerto Rican Riot".

In the two days that the Tribunal heard testimony, it was able to put together an entirely different picture. As early as 1 week prior to June 4th, police concentration was already in effect. The city was already prepared to divert anywhere between 300-500 police into West Town. What was the reason for this high a number? Why at this time did city "fathers" place the highest concentration of police ever in West Town?

A police spokesman said that statistical research revealed that there might be trouble in

the Puerto Rican area. That alone cuts down the explanation of only entering the park as a response to gang fighting. The police were preparing for one week prior to June 4th. If city officials were serious about in "serving and protecting", why was it that no community people were consulted in the hopes of escaping a violent confrontation. As further evidence of deliberate police intent, eyewitnesses told the Tribunal that they saw police in full riot gear, four in a car, as early as before 10 a m the morning of June 4th. This was hours before the annual Puerto Rican Parade, hours before any large groupings of people were seen in the park.

Now, let's look at the actual afternoon of the attack. June 4th, was this year's date for the

(Continued on page 3)

INSIDE:

ISSC Delay of Grants	p. 2
Sterilization Abuse	p. 2
ERA Question	p. 4
Grateful Puerto Ricans	p. 4
Something to Think About	p. 5
Poetry	p. 7
Methods of Sterilization	p. 12

TSSC Delay of Grants

The Illinois State Scholarship Commission (ISSC) is having difficulty with their computer. Because of this, ISSC is two months behind their work which means that the students who have not yet received a reply from the commission will not be able to pay for their tuition this Fall. The students do have an alternative and that is the Basic Grant (BEOG). Those students who have received an award from BEOG will be able to use it for their tuition. All other forms of financial aid such as SEOG, NDSL and IGL will be affected by the ISSC. We urge that students check with financial aid to make sure that all problems concerning their BEOG are taken care of before bill validation.

There is a large number of students who need to have their BEOG verified. It is the purpose of the university to make sure that all grants received be corrected and processed. These students must bring in their 1976 tax return. For those on public aid, the green card. Without this verification the students will not receive BEOG checks from the university.

Those students who will use BEOG for their tuition, their money will be refunded to them when the school receives their ISSC grants. This also applies to those who decide to pay their tuition from their own pockets.

For those students we have not yet filed for the ISSC, the deadline is **October 1st**. Applications can be picked up at the financial aid office in the B wing area.

The sooner you file the better chance you will have in receiving money for '77-'78'.

Students on financial aid will have to put up a fight to survive on campus starting this Fall. From now on eligibility for financial aid will be determined by their academic hours, something similar to what we have now but this time it will be disastrous for students to drop classes they can't handle. This mandate was issued by the federal government and became effective July 1st. This mandate has not yet become public but students will soon receive letters proclaiming it. We, in Que Ondee Sola, will keep the students informed. In our next issue we will present the pros and cons of this mandate.

Again we urge students to check with financial aid concerning their awards. Students must take care of their financial situation before the 19th of August, last day for bill validation.

In our last issue we failed to give credit to those who had contributed to its outcome. We thank and compliment Chino of Salsoul Disco who lent out his pictures of the Humbolt Park incident.

Sterilization

Abuse of Women: The Facts

There are many people who are not aware of what is being done to the women of minority groups in this country and in other capitalists countries. We have decided to add information based on fact in this July issue of Que Ondee Sola concerning sterilization of women without their full knowledge and awareness of the methods used. This information was received from the Committee to End Sterilization abuse (CESA). For those who are interested in receiving more information can write to:

CESA: Committee to End Sterilization Abuse
P.O. Box A 244 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003

IS THERE A POPULATION EXPLOSION?

MYTH: Population, left unchecked will outstrip food production and use up resource reserves.

FACT: According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the "food problem" is one of surpluses. Surpluses and not scarcity have led to problems in the commodity market.

The economic system, which dominates the world's commodity market is based on profit. When a commodity (in this case, food) is overproduced and does not bring the desired price, the product is stockpiled and an artificial shortage is created. This forces the price to rise and ultimately forces people to starve.

Since the mid 1950's food production has been growing 1 1/4 times as fast as population—and this with only 1/10 of the world's total land area under cultivation.

MYTH: Overpopulation causes poverty.

FACT: In 1949, after more than a century of foreign domination, China was one of the poorest countries in the world. The population was over 400 million and people were starving.

Today, China's population has doubled to 800 million and starvation, unemployment and many epidemic diseases which have their roots in poverty, malnutrition, and social neglect have been wiped out. Obviously, population was not China's problem, but the control and distribution of wealth.

The Chinese people threw out foreign profiteers and seized control of their own economy. They plan their economy and distribute the wealth they produce to serve the needs of the people of China.

The solution to poverty does not lie in population control, but in enough food available, full employment, quality health care, day care and education.

WHAT IS STERILIZATION?

Surgical sterilization can take several forms. For women, sterilization is the tying, obstructing or removing of the Fallopian tubes (tubal sterilization). Hysterectomy, removal of the uterus (womb), is also being used to sterilize.

WHAT ARE THE COMPLICATIONS?

(Continued on page 8)

Tribunal

(Continued from page 1)

Puerto Rican parade. This year's parade evidenced a upsurge in independentista sentiment, reflecting a growing support of the independence movement among the people. Thru the enthusiastic response to the protest contingent, (who raised not only the issue of independence for Puerto Rico, but better quality lives for Puerto Ricans living in the U.S.) people's feelings were clearly evident. Important too, is the traditional meaning of the parade day. It has always served as a day of high spirits, a day of celebration. It has always been a family day with eating, drinking, laughing, and enjoying the outdoors. Testimony after testimony, supports the impression that this year was no different.

Witness after witness went on to paint a picture of a Humboldt Park that was festive, happy, but tranquil. The bulk of testimony shows that there was no gang violence, no violence of any sort . . . until the police invaded. In the late afternoon, police entered the park in a military wedge. Is this what is considered "normal" police behavior when investigating a report of a fight? Perhaps so, if the real purpose of entering the park was a show of force for then Acting Mayor Bilandic. June 4th was only a few days before the special mayoral election that would give Bilandic a permanent position as mayor. What better way to prove himself a real "law and order" candidate, than keeping Puerto Ricans in their place, especially on the day of their parade?

Here is the scene. A park full of happy, festive families out enjoying their park, are faced with an invading wedge of police in full riot gear, ordering them all out of the park for no apparent reason. This was their day, the day of their parade. Some people began arguing with the police, defending their right to be in Humboldt Park.

Testimony went on to say that as police entered the park, their demand to leave the park was coupled with racial insults. Understandably, people resisted. When the people resisted their clear police harrassment, it was all the police needed to move. When the people of West Town stood up for their rights, the police machine of Chicago went into action. With military precision, they drove that wedge into the crowd, clubs and guns drawn. Innocent men, women and children were grabbed, beaten discriminately. When people fought back, further beatings were heaped upon them. But fight back they did. This was not going to be ignored like the day to day police beatings, killings and harrassment that are the rule in West Town. People then stood bravely to resist this seizure of their park.

This resistance brought down a mass of police so large, that its likes were never before seen in

the West Town. Hundreds of fully equipped police swarmed over all of West Town like insects. There was seemingly no escape. But people fought bravely throughout the night. Police invaded homes, dragged out, and beat old people, children, as well as ransacked their homes. Any person in West Town was a moving target. Testimony shows that all that was necessary for you to be beaten by police that night was to be Puerto Rican and breathing. One man was beaten as he walked to the drug store to buy medicine for his sick child. Without warning 4 policemen jumped him, beat him about the face, neck, and back with clubs. During this, they also yelled: "You fucking Puerto Ricans, why don't you go back where you came from?" "We wait all year for your day, so that we can have some fun."

This was no isolated incident. Testimony after testimony went on to recall brutal, deliberate physical and verbal attacks. Hundreds of people were beaten, left to care for themselves or die trying. By the end of the night, West Town had been transformed into an armed police camp. The park was closed off, and West Town's main street, Division, had been blockaded. Any people seen on the street were forced into their homes.

The next morning saw hundreds of people beaten and/or arrested. These are people with no money for medical care, or bail. The subsequent weeks would bring further hardships, with health costs, and work time lost. The homes ransacked by police have no way to recoup any of their losses. When police blocked off the area, they also refused to allow fire men into the area. Many people lost their homes completely.

On top of the enormous losses, one glares out among the rest. Two young men, Cruz and Osorio are dead, murdered by police bullets. We say murdered, because our testimony confirms that the two were talking to each other when they saw police invade the park. When running to escape the police, both were shot. To cover this blatant murder, police and city officials concocted the story of gang violence. Their lies will not wash the blood from their hands. Cruz and Osorio were not two warring gang members tearing up Humboldt Park. They were two young Puerto Rican men, who are now dead. At first, city officials tried to say that one shot the other, and that his killer was then shot by police. After the autopsy, we knew that both killing bullets were fired by police. City officials then say that it was warring gang members who brought police into the park, and the shooting was a "justifiable response to gang fighting." Bilandic and Rochford then came out with a statement supporting police behavior in this matter, and that is supposed to be the end of this whole matter.

City "fathers" have a surprise on their hands.

For all those Puerto Ricans who have to live in the armed camp called West Town, for all those beaten at police hands, for the families of Cruz and Osorio this whole matter is far from being over. Puerto Rican people want justice done. They not only want the police officer who pulled the trigger to be fired and prosecuted.

They are beginning to see the larger issues at hand. There are those rich and powerful people on top who constructed the day to day conditions of life in West Town, opening the door for such an attack as the Humboldt Park Massacre. There are also the "pets" in the mayor's office and police office, who act to "serve and protect" those same rich and powerful people. How can another Massacre be prevented? Thru fighting to control our lives on a day to day basis, socially, economically, politically. Real control, not crumbs, not tokenism. Anything less than that means that we resign ourselves to a future full of Cruzes and Osorios.

The ERA Question

The question of ERA is asked by those who are confused about the whole purpose behind its movement. The Equal Rights Amendment claims rights for women in the economic field. In other words women who are being discriminated against in employment position and status will have refuge in the amendment.

The amendment guarantees women the security of being paid equally for the same positions men have at higher pay. This would also give the women the opportunity to be able to gain higher status in employment.

Women who oppose ERA claim that it will take away the rights of the homemaker, claiming that women will be forced to go out and work or be drafted. I cannot say that those fears are not valid mainly because that's the way this country or should I say government works. The whole idea and purpose behind ERA will be twisted and mangled as in the civil rights amendment. It did not end discrimination against people of color, or of those with minority status.

Yet, it is said that ERA is not only the women's struggle but an opening of doors for all other struggles of oppressed people. For example the Gay's rights movement, student movements, national liberation movements, the workers movement etc...

But the question is how far will ERA go? Will it protect women from being sterilized without their knowledge? Will women gain their right to abortion in medicaid even though women of minority status can receive sterilization free of charge? Will men as well as women receive equal

rights on the custody of children. Will women be protected from woman-hating justice in court rooms? Will ERA solve more than just the economic status of women?

These are some of the many questions asked toward the ERA movement. In order for ERA to endorse more support nationwide those leading the movement should educate the people of ERA and bring out pamphlets to direct the confused.

To grateful Puerto Ricans

Yes, they have allowed us to enter the U.S. with complete freedom. Yes, they have granted us U.S. citizenship. Yes, they have allowed us to serve in their armed forces. Yes, they have given us a representative in their U.S. Congress. Yes, we are exempt from paying their federal income taxes. Yes, they have taught us their language in our schools. Yes, they have built luxurious hotels in our country. Yes, they have sold us their cars, their television sets, their refrigerators and their washing machines. Yes, they have shared their hot dogs, their hamburgers, their pizzas, and their coca-cola with us. Yes, they have allowed us to work in their factories and to attend their schools. Yes, they have allowed us to be eligible for their welfare payments. Yes, they have shared their flag and their heroes with us. Yes, they have allowed us to be eligible for scholarships to their universities. Yes, they have shared their Supreme Court, their Congress, and their President with us. Yes, they have allowed us to be a part of the fight against "gooks" in Viet Nam and "Niggers" in America.

These are some examples of what U.S.A. has done for Puerto Ricans. These favors should be examined carefully by those who claim that Puerto Ricans owe so much to the United States of America. It should be examined also be stated that these "acts of generosity" were not requested by the Puerto Rican people. They were imposed on us by the United States Government.

United States Citizenship means that Puerto Ricans are forced to serve in the Armed Forces of a Foreign army. We are also forced to fly and honor the U.S. flag in our country. We have been denaturalized by the "democratic" government of the U.S. We did not ask for these indignities and we want them to end, NOW!

Our, so-called, representative is a joke. He is allowed to speak on issues that would affect Puerto Rico and that is all. He is not to vote on any issue, even when it would directly affect Puerto Rico. Little would be gained with the right to vote, but without that right it is even more

(Continued on page 5)

*To the Northeastern Puerto Rican Freshmen***POESIAS**

rare life
 style
 of borinquen sounds
 undulating
 like the uneven yet tempered
 african rhythms
 vibrating
 in your nerves, you now will be
 the butt
 of the white & western standard
 of beauty, you now will be
 "ugly," joked over
 & sniffed at through laughter & it will be
 a jealous envy, all

marvelous
 & pure things
 by these people are bruised
 & skimmed over
 as insignificant i am reminded of the child,
 george che lester guevara jackson,
 & attica state prison were you there when they
 crucified
 my lords of poetry? it is

an envious jealousy
 a definite lack
 they must make one feel as they themselves,
 diluted,
 white, inferior to heat & a colorless flack, there
 across from you
 sits an innocuous smiling
 & divorced from spirit patty cake nixon, there

across from you
 sits an order mongering
 churchgoing (their Godfearing)
 no conscience reagan, there

across from you
 sitting
 staring (empty as space, strict as stupid) the
 answer
 to its own question
 is a richard milhaus conserving
 the space
 of your slow
 death as status quo

sweet breaths without
 body odor after such likes & wonders as woe &
 michael, there
 is more going on here than the traffic
 of dope. keep

one lookout eye open
 all the time
 even while sleeping, for aside

from the few devilles
 the tall red suran roses
 the mortons
 & mcreerys, you, disarming,
 brownly beautiful, necessary & nightly emeralds
 are the only light found
 here
 shabazz

**What Poets should never
write about**

A real poet should never write about
 palm trees swaying in the wind or an island
 where you can pull a mango off a tree;
 an island that is only remembered through
 our parents eyes;

or tales they once heard.

Don't write about that island cause that
 island doesn't exist any longer.

That island has been raped by American
 tourists and thousands of army boots belonging
 to sadists and racists;

But a real poet would write about the dream
 not the world thats killing you and me.

Yes, he would write about the warm white dream
 that we inject into our veins.

If I was a poet I would write about the white
 pig who was afraid to look me in the eye 6 months
 ago;

But now laughs when he sees me coming cause;
 he knows the man inside me is dead and the
 woman inside you is dying.

I would write about those blond haired blue-eyed
 commercials which torment my brownness;
 which in turn causes us to doubt our manhood,
 kill each other,

and then pollute our souls with whitey.

I would tell a tale about two spiks who
 thought they were cooking shit and ended up
 being cooked by the shit instead;

and if I didn't write about that I would
 write about our women who slave in their
 tombs for \$ 100.00 a week and then return
 home to cockroach ridden, rat infested graves
 that go for \$ 125.00 a month.

Someday I would write a poem about the saint
 of oppressed people everywhere.

Lolita Lebron who knew revolution was not a
 thing to be talked about but rather a thing
 to be carried out.

Yes, someday I'll write a beautiful poem
 about Los Ninos, and another one to whitey
 telling him to stay out of our lives;

But I'll never ever write a poem about
 a tree or mango swaying in the breeze;
 cause a palm tree will never grow on
 125st and Harlem.

by S.G.

Pablo Pa'Lante

(Continued from page 4)

humiliating. This is the kind of "representation" we have in the U.S. Congress. This is also the kind of disrespect the U.S. shows to "American Citizens."

We are exempt from paying federal income taxes but, we give the U.S. government something more valuable, bodies for their wars. We have a right to be exempt from federal taxes because we are not allowed to vote for the congressman who introduce bills that affect our country. Nor are we allowed to vote in presidential elections where the man elected has the power of life and death as far as our young men are concerned. Why should any people be obligated to pay taxes to a foreign country?

An attempt was made to destroy our national language and substitute it with the English. For more than thirty years it was forbidden to teach Puerto Rican children in their native language. The teachers who dared to defy their ridiculous policy were removed even if they were competent educators. Today, English is still a required subject and most of the textbooks in Puerto Rican schools are written in English. This makes it much harder for Puerto Rican children to learn their subject.

The welfare benefits that they let us "enjoy" are totally inadequate and yet, we're supposed to be grateful. Our people barely get enough to eat and we're supposed to be grateful. It's about time we realized that welfare is a right that all people are entitled to. It's not a gift.

The U.S. flag has been flying over our Puerto Rico for 72 years. For 72 years Puerto Rican children have been taught to love and honor that symbol of oppression and hypocrisy. The purpose is to supplant love of Puerto Rico with love of a foreign country. The purpose is to destroy the character of the Puerto Rican people. The purpose is to shame us into becoming yanquis.

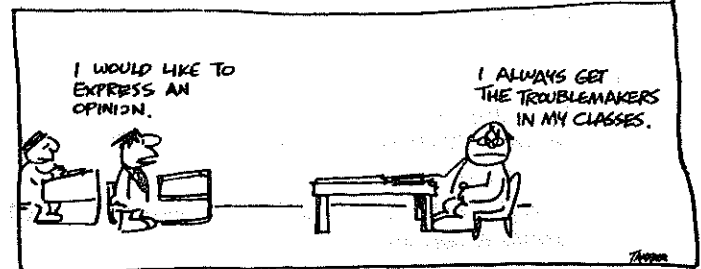
Many scholarships are now available for Puerto Ricans and other minorities of this country. The purpose of this is to continue brainwashing the youth. This way they will be trained to fit in their racist society. Fortunately, many students are becoming aware of the realities of the country's character. The awareness of the students in Puerto Rico will bring about change in that colony of the U.S.

The three branches of the federal government of the U.S. has the final word in matters that affect Puerto Rico. This is an insult to the intelligence of the Puerto Rican people. This means that the U.S. does anything it wants in our country. They refuse to let us decide what is best for our country.

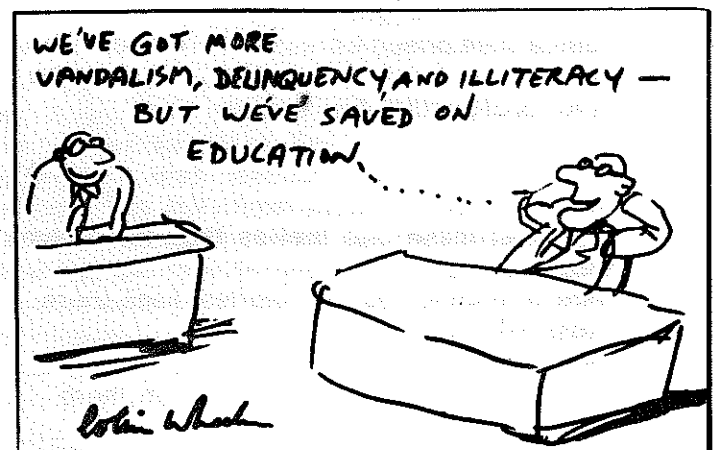
The ugliest thing about the U.S. is its racism. From the days of the first settlements up to the

present, the U.S. has been vicious in its relationships to Third World people. Rape, lynching, and war are crimes that the U.S. has perpetrated against our people. Puerto Ricans have been used to fight their wars and to perpetuate the racism. "Gooks" and "Niggers" are words that were invented by Americans.

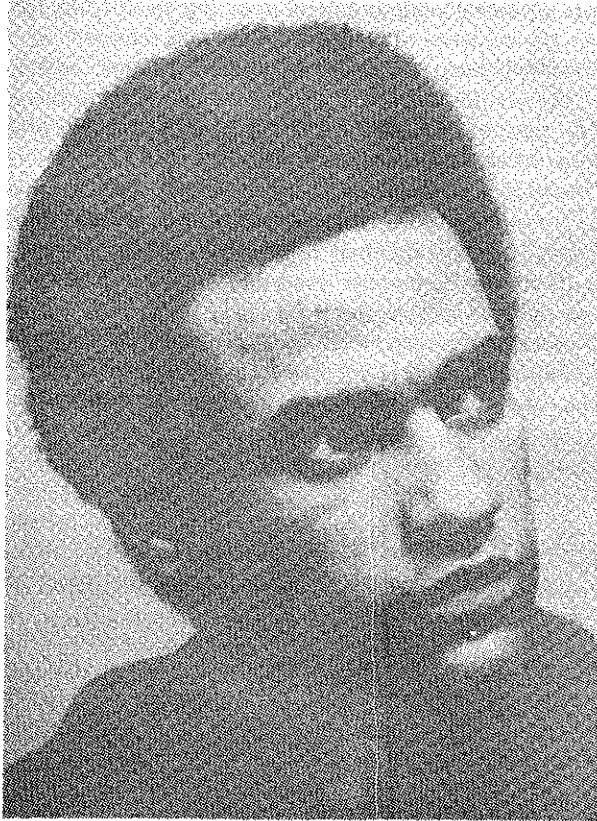
Hector Crespo



Something to Think About...

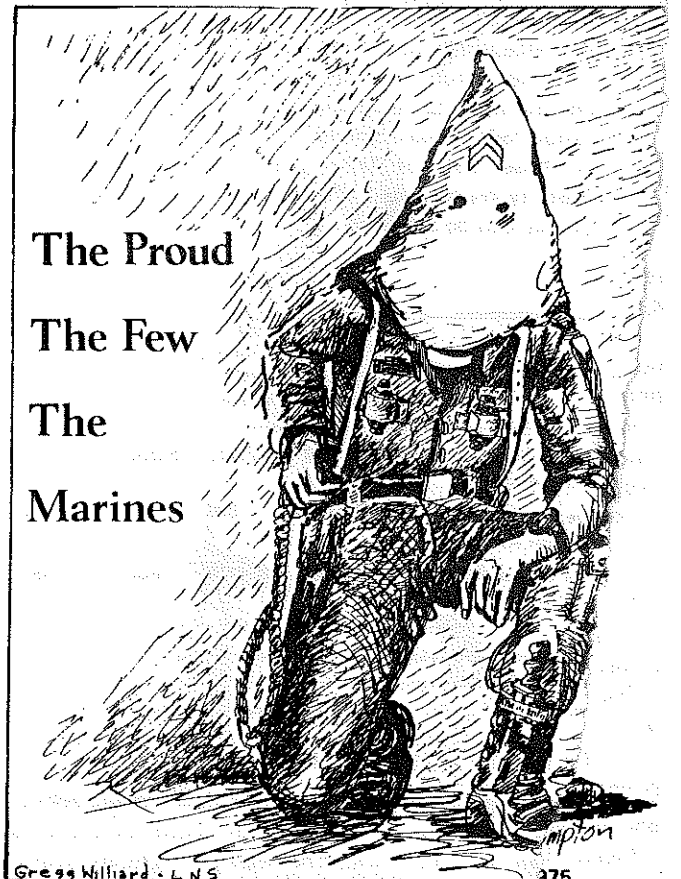
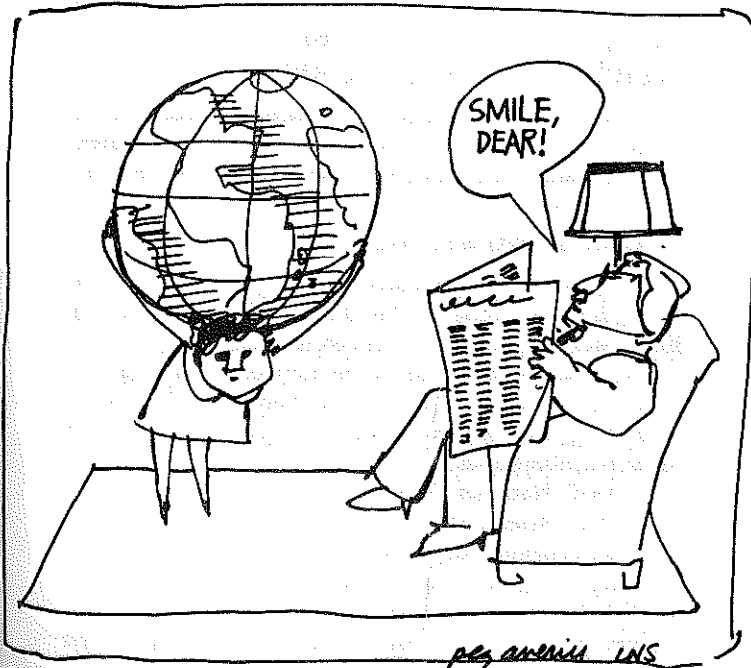
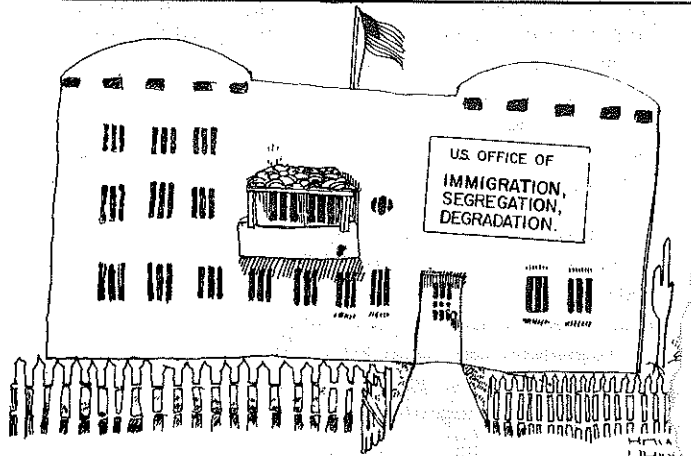
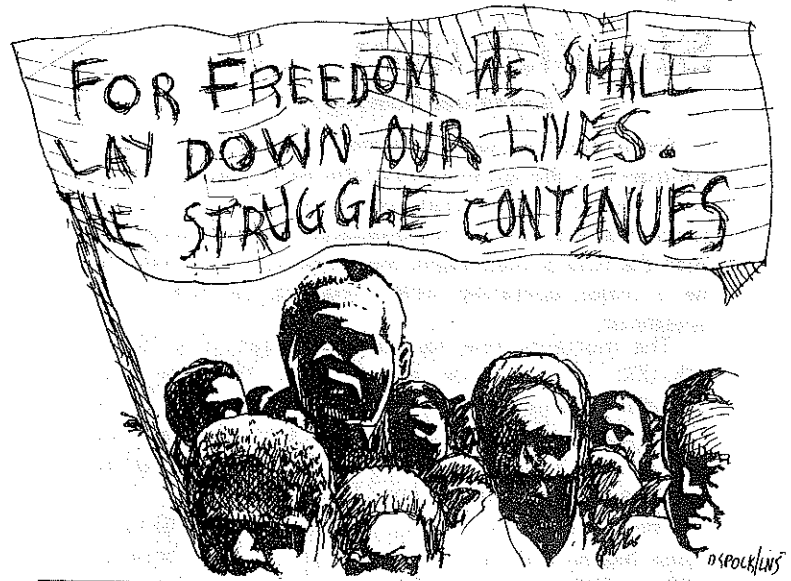
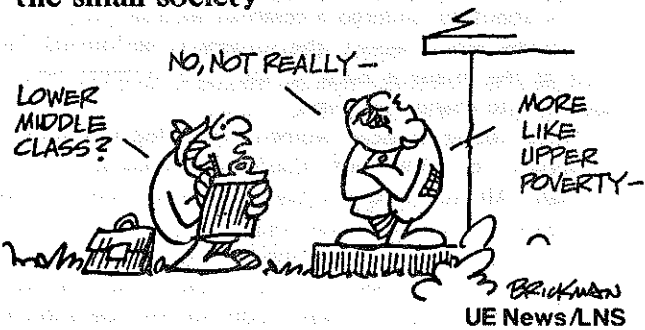


... SAVE US FROM ANITA BRYANT!
Bulbul/LNS



Huey P. Newton, Black Panther Party founder and leader, who returned to the U.S. July 3, 1977.

the small society



Sterilization

(Continued from page 2)

Sterilization is not a problem-free method of birth control—it is the termination of the ability to reproduce. It is not any safer than the continued use of oral contraceptives, and it is considerably more dangerous than the IUD or diaphragm. Sterilization is considered to be a major operation which requires the use of an anesthetic.

The mortality rate for tubal sterilization is 25 per 100,000 women. Side effects after this operation include: bleeding, uterine perforation, accidental burning or bowel trauma (between 1 to 2% of cases); abdominal pain or pain during menstruation (20 to 30%); an increase in menstrual bleeding (10 to 40%).

The complication rate for a hysterectomy is 10 to 20 times higher than for tubal sterilization, with between 300 to 500 deaths per 100,000 operations. Recovery from a hysterectomy usually requires at least 6 weeks.

Psychological complications after sterilization operations are common. According to a 1973 study, one fourth of the women who have been sterilized regret their decision, and in certain instances, a regret rate of 32% has been documented.

IS STERILIZATION 100% EFFECTIVE?

As can be seen from the chart below, hysterectomy is 100% effective. However, more women become pregnant after tubal sterilizations than those who use the pill.

Pregnancies can result after tubal sterilization operations because of surgical failure and recanalization (the tubes grow back together).

IS STERILIZATION REVERSIBLE?

Sterilization is NOT reversible.

Misconceptions about the reversibility of tubal sterilizations stem from the fact that there is an operation which attempts to reconnect the tubes. However, this operation fails approximately 75% of the time.

In those 25% of the cases where the tubes are successfully reconnected, there is *very little* chance that pregnancy can be achieved.

	Hysterectomy	Tubal Sterilization	Pill	IUD
Pregnancy Rate per million women	0	10,000	5,000	30,900
Deaths per million women	3,000-5,000	250	31	9
Major Complications per million women	150,000	15,000	600	400

These figures were taken from the *Health Research Group Study of Surgical Sterilization*, Oct. 1973.

WHAT IS STERILIZATION ABUSE?

Population control is official U.S. government policy. The U.S. is the only country in the world where sterilization is used for population control. The health services are instru-

ments of social policy, and it is in the health services where the evidence of sterilization abuse is rampant.

Teaching hospitals are pushing sterilizations, especially hysterectomies, to train residents. Almost every major teaching hospital in the U.S. has doubled the number of elective tubal sterilizations since 1971.

In 1973 a resident of Los Angeles County hospital told the new interns, "I want you to ask every one of the girls if they want their tubes tied, regardless of how old they are. Remember everyone you get to get her tubes tied means two tubes for some resident or intern..." Another resident, this time at Boston City Hospital, has been quoted, "... We like to do a hysterectomy, it's more of a challenge... you know a well-trained chimpanzee can do a tubal ligation... and it's good experience for the junior resident... good training."

Deceptive labels are being given various sterilization procedures in order to make them more readily accepted. Names like "bandaid surgery" and "a stitch" are misleading and tend to make sterilization easier to "sell".

There is ample evidence that people are not being informed of the most basic fact about surgical sterilization—its irreversibility. In 1973, a report by the Health Research Group charged that of the 2 million people sterilized each year, *several hundred thousand* are not informed of either the irreversibility, the risks or the alternative methods of family planning.

Sterilizations are also being solicited and performed concurrently with abortions. A consent form for sterilization is often thrust in front of a woman in labor or who is about to undergo a cesarean section. According to a Nader group report, the surgery is performed "as soon as the infant is born so she [the mother] won't have time to change her mind."

Three young Mexican women have filed suit against University of Southern California Medical Center officials. All three women say that permission for the sterilization operations was sought while they were in pain and under heavy sedation during caesarian childbirth. One woman, Melvina Hernandez, was not even aware she had given her permission for the operation at all. She wore an IUD unnecessarily for two years until learning that she had been sterilized.

STERILIZATION ON THE RISE

Since 1970 there has been a three-fold increase in the incidence of female sterilization in the United States. Approximately one million female sterilizations are performed each year.

WHO IS BEING STERILIZED?

The overwhelming majority of people who are victims of sterilization abuse in the U.S. are Native American, Black, Mexican, and Puerto Rican women.

There was a 180% rise in the number of sterilizations performed between 1972-1973 in New York City municipal hospitals which service predominantly Puerto Rican neighborhoods.

A 1970 National Fertility Study by the Office of Population Research of Princeton University found that 43% of the women sterilized in federally financed family planning programs were Black, while Black women represent only one third of the patient population. Twenty percent of married Black women in the United

States have been sterilized. One third as many white women have been sterilized.

The acting director of OB/GYN at a municipal hospital in New York City reporting that it is common practice to use elective hysterectomies to train residents, states: "At least 10% of gynecological surgery in New York City is done on this basis, and 99% of this is done on Black and Puerto Rican women."

"... We like to do a hysterectomy ... a well-trained chimpanzee can do a tubal ligation ... and it's good experience ... good training."

Representatives of the Mohawk Nation are charging that the U.S. Public Health Service has been conducting numerous sterilizations on young Indian mothers without informing them of the exact nature of the surgeries. The Indian Health Service Hospital in Claremont, Oklahoma surgically sterilized 132 Indian women in 1973. One hundred of these operations were non-therapeutic. In other words, the sole purpose of the surgery was to render the women incapable of having children.

There is a definite trend towards sterilizing younger women. In 1973 the median age of women sterilized in federally financed family planning programs was 28. Less than half of these women were over 30, and four of every 100 were under 25 years.

A study at a large hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota recently revealed that 19.7% of the women sterilized in 1968-1969 were under 25. In 1971 this percentage had risen to 29.7%.

On Oct. 11, 1973 the *Washington Star News* reported that "Among a dozen women sterilized at Baltimore City Hospital ... seven were teenagers ... all but one were under 30."

WHO FUNDS STERILIZATION?

The United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) supplies most of the funds for sterilization in the U.S. HEW has been funding sterilizations for poor women since 1966.

HEW also funds child care facilities, Head Start, and community health programs. But between 1969-1974 funds for these services were cut while the family planning budget increased from \$51 million to over \$250 million.

Recently, HEW announced which "family planning services" would qualify for increased federal aid. The decision was that HEW would fund 90 percent of the cost of sterilization for the poor, but would only match state funds for abortion. This gives federal incentive to clinics and hospitals to promote sterilizations—the most irreversible method of birth control and the one most susceptible to abuse.

The Rockefeller and Ford Foundations, among others have poured millions into private agencies and research organizations in an effort to "curb population growth" around the world.

STERILIZATION ABUSE—WORLDWIDE

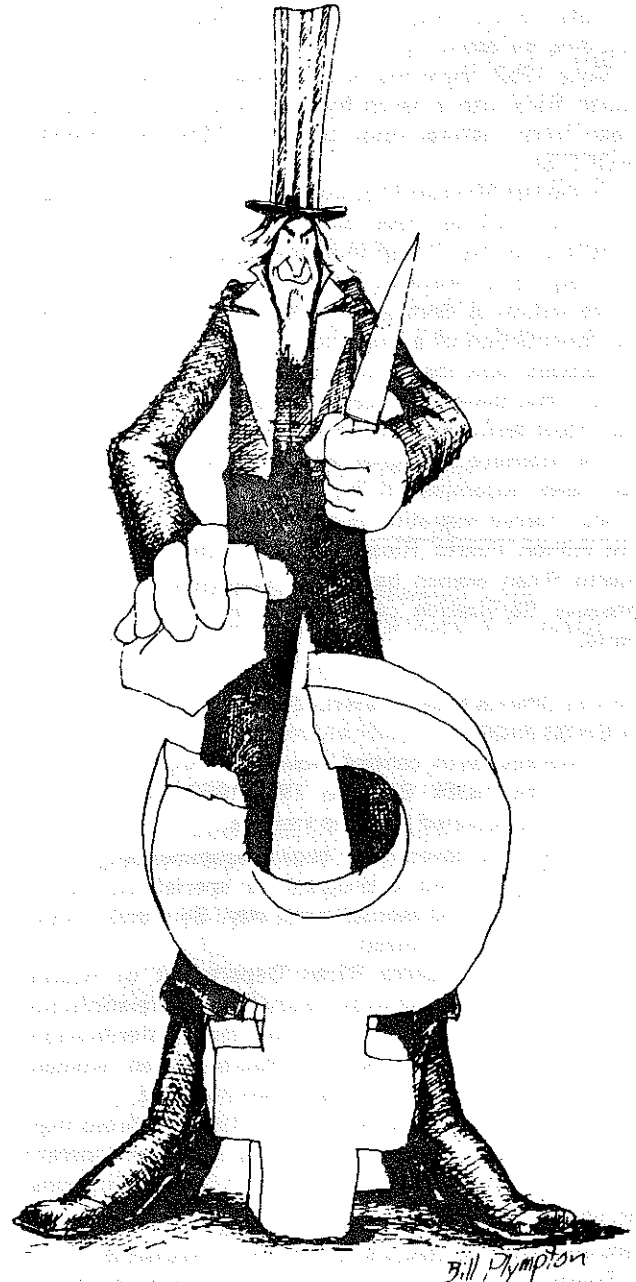
United States corporations are multinational and so is U.S. population policy. Through the Agency for International Development (AID), the Peace Corps, and various

private foundations and religious organizations, population control is carried out in countries all over the world.

For example: 40,000 women were sterilized in Colombia between 1963-65 by Rockefeller funded programs. These women were coaxed by gifts of lipstick and artificial pearls, by small payments of money, and by promises of free medical care. A million women were sterilized in Brazil between 1965-1971. In India, men are being given transistor radios if they agree to a vasectomy. In Bolivia, a U.S.-imposed population control program administered by the Peace Corps sterilized Quechua Indian women without their knowledge or consent.

The U.S. funds population control in foreign countries through the Agency for International Development. AID spends more money on population control—\$125 million in 1973—than it spends on programs like agricultural and rural development.

When the U.S. gives a country aid it doesn't really "give" anything away. "Strings" are attached so that the



countries are forced to become more dependent on the U.S. and its corporations, and they are forced to implement the population policies dictated by the U.S. An important factor in determining how much foreign aid a country qualifies for is how much consideration that country gives to population control.

AID also contributes to a wide range of private clinics, foundations and organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, which research and carry out population control in both foreign countries and in the U.S. Many of the directors of these private agencies have close ties with U.S. corporations and with the U.S. government.

STERILIZATION ABUSE IS IMPERIALISM IN PRACTICE

Puerto Rico is a key example of how population policy is used by U.S. imperialism to maintain control over another country.

Puerto Rico has been a colony of the United States since it was invaded in 1898. The U.S. government has absolute control over all aspects of Puerto Rican life, including the economy.

Since 1952, there has been a conscious effort to turn Puerto Rico into a haven for U.S. corporations seeking cheap labor, natural resources and 100% TAX FREE PROFITS!

In the last 10 years U.S.-owned oil refining and petrochemical industries have taken over one third of the island's economy. These industries are highly polluting and require a relatively small work force. Proposed future industrial development for Puerto Rico includes the construction of a 'superport' to accommodate huge oil tankers, and the strip-mining of copper. Ecologists predict that these developments would bring with them the virtual destruction of the island.

The intensive industrial development of Puerto Rico has been accompanied by U.S. population control policy. Forced migration resulted in the displacement of two million Puerto Ricans to the United States. And Puerto Rican women have been subjected to the most intensive sterilization campaign of any country in the world.

DEVELOPMENT OF STERILIZATION IN PUERTO RICO

A low-key birth control movement began in Puerto Rico in the 1930s. Between 1940-1950 many private clinics were operated solely to sterilize.

In 1949 the government began recommending sterilization and created a program of specialized clinics which sterilized 50 women each day. By 1950, 7,000 women had been sterilized.

In 1965 the Puerto Rican Department of Health carried out an island-wide study on the relationship between cancer of the uterus and female sterilization and discovered that 34% of Puerto Rican women between the ages of 20-49 years were sterilized.

The *New York Times*, on Nov. 4, 1974, reported that 19 free sterilization clinics opened up that year "operating a top capacity program of about 1,000 sterilizations per month."

35% OF PUERTO RICAN WOMEN STERILIZED

Puerto Rico has the highest incidence of sterilizations in the world. A study done by Puerto Rican demog-

rapher Dr. Jose Vasquez Calzada in 1968 demonstrated that 35.3% of Puerto Rican women of childbearing age have been sterilized.

92% UNDER 35 YEARS

Studies by Columbia University demographer Harriet Presser show that Puerto Rican women are the youngest in the world to be sterilized. Almost two-thirds of the women are between the age of 20-49 years, with 92% under 35.

OVER 80% FUNDED BY HEW

The key agency carrying out sterilizations in Puerto Rico is the Family Planning Association of Puerto Rico. It was established in 1954 and presently receives \$750,000 of its \$900,000 budget from the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

STERILIZATION ABUSE—ATTACK ON WORKERS

Unemployment in Puerto Rico is officially 22%, unofficially 30% (May, 1975). A 1973 Commonwealth Government document entitled, *Opportunities for Employment, Education and Training*, concludes that in order to reduce unemployment it is necessary to "reduce the growth of the working sector."

A study by the Population Studies Department of the University of Puerto Rico found that the highest rate of sterilization (43.8%) occurred among the \$4,000-\$5,000 per year income bracket.

The official emphasis on reducing unemployment does not stem from any real concern for the needs of the Puerto Rican people—if it did there would be an emphasis on providing jobs, not reducing the population.

Unemployment and poverty oppress and oppression breeds discontent. The struggle of the Puerto Rican people for national liberation and self-determination has a long history. Today it has grown into a widespread movement which is threatening U.S. hegemony. The right of Puerto Rico to independence from the U.S. has been recognized by the United Nations and by countries all over the world.

For the U.S., controlling the population of Puerto Rico is an attempt to divide the Puerto Rican nation and limit political unrest so that superprofits for U.S. corporations will not be threatened.

Opportunities for Employment, Education and Training maps out the strategy: one million more Puerto Ricans are to be forced to migrate to the U.S.; today's sterilization campaign is being aimed at all Puerto Rican women of child bearing age not yet sterilized.

U.S. IMPERIALISM—OUR COMMON ENEMY

As a colony, Puerto Rico experiences the same social and economic problems we face in the U.S., only magnified. It is often used as the testing ground for social and economic policy destined to be instituted within the United States and elsewhere in the world.

In 1974 the editors of the official publication of HEW's National Center for Family Planning Services, *Family Planning Digest*, wrote: "As U.S. professional attitudes change, it is possible that we may see sterilization become as important in family planning in the fifty states as it already is in Puerto Rico."

In giving our concrete support to the Puerto Rican people in their demand for independence, we are joining forces with them against U.S. imperialism—our common enemy.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND STERILIZATION ABUSE

Because of its irreversibility, sterilization effectively terminates a woman's control over her reproductive ability, an important body function. Her right to informed consent must be guarded as well as her right to be sterilized. Incomplete and false information, overt and covert coercion, preferential funding and hysterical propaganda about "overpopulation" are being used to obtain "consent" and even "demand" for sterilization. This is a flagrant violation of women's rights to control over their own bodies and their own lives.

Birth control as an individual right must not be confused with population control as a social manipulation.

Sterilization operations are being "sold" by the health services which function as businesses selling commodities and which have no concern for the women they serve. Dehumanizing health care encourages sterilization abuse and is a violation of women's democratic rights.

In order for women to have free choice, demands for birth control, abortion, and sterilization must be made within the context of total health care and along with demands for other basic necessities of life—enough food available, quality health care, day care, education, and full employment.

THE LEGAL RIGHT TO INFORMED CONSENT

In February of 1974 the Federal Government produced guidelines to be followed by all hospitals and other health care institutions which receive federal funds for sterilization operations. These guidelines require that a woman must give voluntary informed consent to sterilization operations. This requirement provides several patient rights.

The first is the freedom from pressure, coercion or intimidation by doctors or other health workers. There is an *absolute* and *unconditional* right to refuse to have the operation. This means that a threat that you may lose or be denied any other social services, housing or health care benefits because of your refusal to have a sterilization operation is illegal.

A second right is the right to change your mind after signing the consent form or to delay the operation for as long as you wish.

As a procedure to protect these rights the federal guidelines require a 3 day waiting period between the giving of informed consent and the actual operation. In addition, sterilization of any woman under 18 is illegal.

Another important part of informed consent is the right to be fully informed and to know about such things as:

- 1) The dangers and risks of the operation, which is major surgery, compared to other means of birth control;
- 2) That the operation is permanent, you can never again become pregnant; and,
- 3) That alternate means of birth control are available, what they are, and what their dangers and effectiveness are compared to sterilization.

Before signing a consent form a health worker is required to provide and explain all of this information. It is also very important to take home and read carefully the consent form before signing it.

If you feel that you have been denied any of these rights, or if you know someone who has, please contact CESA.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT STERILIZATION ABUSE?

Sterilization abuse will continue to victimize many more people unless we organize and struggle to stop it. The women and men of CESA: Committee to End Sterilization Abuse, are working:

- 1) to educate and publicize the issues raised by sterilization abuse—namely, the uses that population control programs serve and the implementation of racism, sexism and the oppression of working people within the health care system;
- 2) to demand that families and all women of child-bearing age have free access to methods of birth control within high quality, comprehensive health care;
- 3) to see that guidelines on sterilization are established for New York City hospitals which insure that women give consent for sterilization only after being truly informed and counselled, are not coerced, and are permitted a waiting period of at least 30 days between consent and the actual operation.
- 4) to initiate legal actions against those who abuse patients' rights by whatever means.

CESA is unaffiliated and seeks support from individuals and organizations to develop the program to end sterilization abuse.

to be continued in the following issue

to: CESA: Committee to End Sterilization Abuse
Box A244, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003

- I/my organization would like to sponsor CESA.
- Enclosed find my/our contribution.
- Yes, I/we would like to work with CESA. Get in touch with me/us.
- I/we would like more information about CESA.
- I/we would like more information about sterilization abuse.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Methods of Sterilization Information & Sterilization

Female sterilization is accomplished by severing and tying, closing with a metal clip, or sealing by cauterization the fallopian tubes, or by hysterectomy, the removal of the uterus. Both procedures are possible in association with childbirth, with induced abortion or independently as an interval procedure. Tubal sterilization can be performed as follows:

Laparotomy consists of cutting through the abdominal wall to reach the fallopian tubes which then become readily accessible to the surgeon.

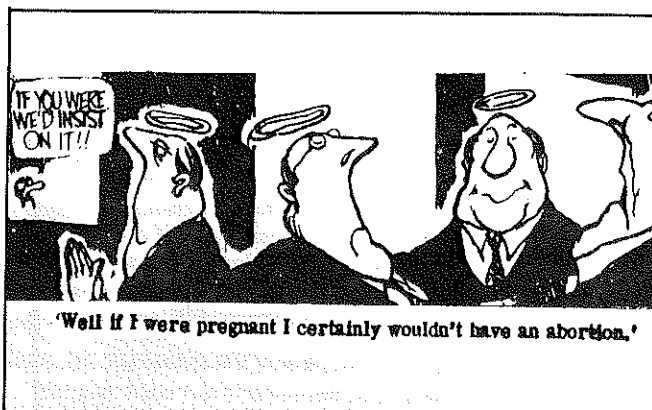
Colpotomy involves cutting through the vagina, which permits the surgeon to pull each tube through the incision so he can sever and tie it.

Laparoscopy is an endoscopic technique which permits visualization of the organs through a fiberoptic instrument inserted through a tiny incision in the abdominal wall. Using a special instrument inserted either into the laparoscope or through a second incision, the surgeon is able to close the tubes either by electrocoagulation or by applying special clips. He accomplishes this without major surgery.

Culdoscopy is another endoscopic technique in which the route to the fallopian tubes is via the vagina. A minute incision is made into the vaginal vault through which the surgeon inserts the culdoscope, visualizes the tubes, draws each through the incision, and closes them.

Hysteroscopy is an experimental endoscopic technique in which the surgical instrument, attached to a fiberoptic device, is inserted into the uterus through the pelvic canal and then into the tubes -- without any incision. The surgical tool is then used to sever the tubes in the same ways as in laparoscopy. (Hysteroscopic sterilization is not performed concurrently with abortion.)

From:
Family Planning Perspectives
Vol. 5, No. 3, Summer 1973
"Sterilization Associated with
Induced Abortion: JSPA Findings"
(Joint Program for the Study of Abortion)



The right of a woman to bear children is as basic as her right not to bear them. Thus the recent complaint by the Illinois Welfare Rights Organization that hundreds of poor Illinois women are being sterilized each year without understanding the operations is particularly ominous.

It deserves prompt, thorough attention by both the U.S. Health, Education and Welfare Department and the Illinois Department of Public Aid.

Lawyers for the welfare group say that while federal law requires that women undergoing sterilizations be told that the operations are almost always irreversible, some women are operated on without fully understanding the consequences. The reason, the lawyers say, is that the required consent forms, which explain the operations, are not available in Spanish, even though a significant percentage of the women who are sterilized are Spanish-speaking.

For hysterectomies, no such "informed consent" forms are available at all, in English or Spanish.

If those charges are accurate, they constitute a medical emergency requiring appropriate treatment. Even as the complaint is being looked into, Spanish-language explanations of sterilization operations ought to be made available to all who need them. Consent forms should be made available in both Spanish and English.

In short, sterilizations should be treated with caution and women treated with care and respect.

(Taken from Chgo. Sun Times 6-77)

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