

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

Abortion's Silenced Legacy

A Story Every Generation Must See

A drama presented by Life and Liberty for Women

"Abortion's Silenced Legacy" seeks to dispel the many myths about illegal abortion, a time now considered to be ancient history by the women and men who have grown up with legal contraceptives and legal abortion. Creating an emotional bond between those generations of women and men and the way life was pre-Roe, begins with graphic pictures and language about illegal abortion that will stir up emotions inside them about desperate and determined women who self-aborted and died.

Anti-abortion pictures and baby-killing rhetoric have pushed the stories and pictures of women hurt and dead from illegal abortion out of sight and hence out of mind, leaving abortion rights supporters feeling guilty and ashamed for believing that women, not just fetuses have a right to life and liberty. Out of sight out of mind has left post-Roe generations without a reason to believe any threat to legal abortion is looming around the corner.

"Abortion's Silenced Legacy" speaks to the caring doctors and midwives who went underground and did their best with little formal training in surgical abortion to help desperate and determined women safely terminate their pregnancies. And it speaks to the police raids upon doctors doing safe but illegal abortions, the public trials, and the loss of medical confidentiality for women. And finally, this drama recognizes the courageous caring doctors who choose to provide safe abortion services for women today in spite of acts of violence by anti-abortion extremists against their clinics, despite harassment of their patients, the deaths of several of their peers and clinic staff, threats against their own lives, and the relentless protests at their homes by anti-abortion extremists.

Through our characters, "The Spirit of Abortion's Silenced Legacy", Dr. Smith

and the elderly Mrs. Jones the audience is taken back to relive the sights and sounds of illegal abortion.

Some excerpts from our script...

Introduction by Peggy Loonan

Life and Liberty for Women agrees with historian and author Rickie Solinger and believes it is time to dispel the myth about the number of women who died from so-called back alley butchers. In fact, most women who died pre-Roe, died from self-induced abortion.

While there were undoubtedly some medically unskilled men and women who tried to make a buck offering unsafe illegal abortions, including outside of the United States, and who probably killed some women, the truth is thousands upon thousands of women who sought an abortion provider rather than self-abort, found highly skilled providers whose safety records were remarkable considering the difficult circumstances secrecy and illegality presented.

The myth of so-called back alley butchers, abortionists who were loathsome predators placing women's health and life at risk, was a creation of the authorities prosecuting good caring and highly medically skilled abortion providers. Along with degrading women, destroying their medical confidentiality, sensationalizing and sexually charging the trials of illegal abortion providers, of whom most were female, it was a major component of the prosecution's strategy.

Since Roe vs. Wade, the myth of the back alley butcher has been used by the current abortion rights movement to serve the sixty-second sound bite about why abortion should remain legal and has provided the ammunition for the marginalizing of abortion providers by current day anti-abortion extremists, who harass, providers, bomb their clinics, and assassinate them.

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

Life and Liberty for Women wants everyone to know too, that making abortion illegal won't stop women from having abortions. Since the beginning of time women have risked their lives not to have a baby they can't give up for adoption or aren't prepared to raise.

Women will self-abort, have abortions in secret, without, medical care, and in dangerous circumstances. R. Schwarz, in *Septic Abortion*, 1968, "Most studies indicate that up to 1,200,000 illegal abortions are performed annually; one pregnancy in five is illegally terminated." *The American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, July 1, 1967, cites studies by Dr. L. Fox who estimated, for example, that 100,000 criminal abortions occurred per year in California alone.

Schwarz also said in 1968, "that as many as 5,000 American women die each year as a result of criminal abortion. That figure may be a minimum estimate, inasmuch as many such deaths are mislabeled or unreported. In Philadelphia, over 50 percent of the maternal deaths result from complications of abortion, 57 percent in Michigan, 33 percent at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn."

Dr. Fox said in 1967, "Induced abortion is the most common single cause of maternal deaths in California."

For too many years, anti-abortion extremists and their baby killing rhetoric and pictures of alleged aborted fetuses, have gone virtually unchallenged by the current abortion rights movement. This consistent unchallenged barrage has made women feel ashamed of their right to life and liberty that was correctly and morally balanced with that of the fetus in *Roe vs. Wade*.

We at **Life and Liberty for Women**, have chosen to challenge those images and the language with the horrific sights and sounds of illegal abortion. Our characters, Dr. Smith and Mrs. Jones, are a composite of many individuals who lived, struggled, and died before *Roe vs. Wade*.

The detailed and emotional stories they reveal to you, were taken from: • When

Abortion Was A Crime
- by Leslie J. Reagan, 1997 • *Doctors of Conscience*
- by Carol Joffe, 1995 • *The Abortionsist - A Woman Against The Law*
- by Rickie Solinger, 1994

The stories are vivid - true - and heart wrenching. The images we share with you are graphic.

It has been said that without a knowledge and understanding of the mistakes of the past, we are doomed to repeat those mistakes.

Unless post-Roe generations come to intimately know the history of illegal abortion, the havoc on women's lives it reeked - the number of women's lives it took without saving any "baby" - a history silenced by fear and intimidation, they will unwittingly allow abortion to be criminalized again and again thousands upon thousands of women will die.

That's inevitable.

So it is with a clear intent to prevent such inevitability, that we present to you "Abortion's Silenced Legacy."

Part 1 The Spirit of Abortions Silenced Legacy introduces Dr. Smith

I'm the Spirit of Abortion's Silenced Legacy. I'm your mother, your sister, your daughter, and your granddaughter.

I have existed since the beginning of time.

Embodied, entrusted, and entrapped inside of me are the silenced screams of millions of desperate women the world around determined to control their destiny who lost their lives to illegal abortion.

I share their pain, their fear, and their desperation.

I held their hand as they were forced to testify in a public trial against a caring doctor who safely terminated a pregnancy that they

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

would have terminated somehow somehow no matter the risk to their life.

I comforted them as their medical confidentiality was destroyed so their abortion provider could be convicted. I shared the humiliation they endured as their private sexual life was laid open in the public square.

I cried with them. I bled with them.

I cradled their maimed bloodied bodies in my arms as they suffered and died.

Some because they sought dark back alley opportunists – but most crumpled on their own bathroom floor or in a hospital emergency room having been desperate and determined enough to self-abort – like Gerri - a beautiful mother of two daughters who died in June of 1964 on a dirty cold and impersonal motel room floor, alone, abandoned by her boyfriend after their attempt to self-abort went terribly wrong.

I cradled her as she desperately tried to stop the bleeding – I shook with the horrible fear she felt – I became prostrate with the pain she was enduring - I was overwhelmed by her realization that she was dying.

This is the legacy of illegal abortion – having been too long silenced – but no more will I be silent. No more will others be silent.

TURN TO DR SMITH - Introduction

Before Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, hundreds of caring doctors across the country became abortion providers like Dr. Smith. Before World War II a number of abortion providers served women for twenty, thirty, forty years or more completely unimpeded by the law. In many communities their name and address, as was Dr. Smith's, was well known by both women who might need their services, police and politicians who regarded their presence as a public health asset.

But after World War II abortion providers, especially women like Dr. Smith, presumed by law enforcement to be unskilled,

untrained, and unprotected in comparison to their male-counterparts, were arrested, convicted, and sent to jail, even when there was no evidence of a botched abortion.

Dr. Smith braved the many perils of illegal abortion, just before World War II and thereafter, performing this medical procedure in secret and like some of her colleagues, endured police raids, public trials, and went to jail again and again but never wavered in her determination, as did her colleagues, to provide safe abortion services for thousands upon thousands of desperate and determined women. AND thankfully, these skilled and caring doctors never wavered in their belief that what they were doing was right and moral.

Dr. Smith is a true heroine.

Dr. Smith, like hundreds of other good caring doctors across the country, could not in good conscience stand-by and watch determined and desperate women die from self-induced abortions when they could safely terminate their pregnancies for them, albeit it in secret and albeit illegal.

Listen to her story – it's moving – it's heartbreaking – it's the reality of illegal abortion.

(Dr. Smith performs her/his script – then when Dr. Smith is finished – The Spirit of Abortion's Silenced Legacy speaks again in Part 2.)

Part 1 Dr. Smith's Story

I don't think I ever believed I would become an abortion provider. In the early 1960's I was a Dr. in the last stages of my hospital training when I first encountered the horrible and unspeakable aftermath of illegal abortion. Day in and day out, I saw women in the emergency room of my hospital that had gone to unbelievable lengths to terminate their unintended and unwanted pregnancies. They were the very young, the women nearing menopause, the married, the unmarried, the wealthy, and the poor all unique, all scared & all desperate.

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

Whatever their reasons, whatever their circumstances, they were determined. The most difficult were the women who did very dangerous things to themselves to terminate a pregnancy. The women who attempted self-abortion were scared, very scared. But they were more afraid of **not** terminating their pregnancies – whatever ended up happening – and no matter if their actions were illegal.

No doctor of conscience could witness on a daily basis what I did and not conclude that illegal abortion is wrong and immoral.

Many people, my own peers even, have asked me what was the final straw, what pushed me into becoming an abortion provider and taking on all the personal risk and risk to my family. If only they had been there on October 19, 1961. I was 26. It was my first 24-hour day in the emergency room and one I will never forget.

I had been there for about 3 hours when a woman was brought into the ER – it was a very busy day. Everyone running here and there...it was a hot day. I helplessly watched in disbelief. A woman had tried to abort her pregnancy at home. She had gotten some hollow tubing into her cervix and – and she had put turpentine down the tube into her uterus. It – It had literally cooked the lining of her uterus. She was in and out of consciousness, in and out of screaming in horrible pain. **Screams I still hear.** They took her to surgery right away and they removed her uterus. I had never seen anything like that – had never heard of anything so brutal.

My shift was nearly over and I had convinced myself that I wouldn't see another woman that day suffer from an illegal abortion, but I was sadly mistaken. I was only 10 minutes away from finishing my shift that day, when a doctor visited Dr. Buckley, my supervising doctor.

They talked quickly & called me. We went outside with this other doctor to deal with a trauma case. **Nothing I had ever seen, even under the most adverse conditions prepared me for what I was about to see.**

It was beyond my experience. In this doctor's car was a woman, almost unconscious and bleeding profusely. When Dr. Buckley and I lifted her onto the gurney, her dress pushed up above her hips. **I'll never forget what I saw. She had a loop of bowel hanging out of her vagina. It was wrapped in newspaper.**

The doctor who had brought her in had perforated her uterus while he was doing the abortion; he had pulled out the bowel with his instrument. **She had over 30 inches of bowel hanging out of her vagina.** To this day I don't know how I helped Dr. Buckley get her into surgery. Dr. Buckley did a bowel resection; he pulled the dirty bowel out of the uterus and vagina. **We worked to save her but our efforts were unsuccessful.** I stayed with her body for an hour afterward, unable to comprehend so much tragedy in one night.

After abortion was made legal, I experienced the hypocrisy with anti-abortion protesters. Over the years since the legalization of abortion, both my house and my clinic have been under siege by anti-abortion extremists. They harass me, my family, my medical staff, and my patients.

Three years ago I had a woman who had been harassing me at my clinic as well as my home for years, come into my clinic, disguised, because she needed an abortion. She was 48 and thought she was in menopause. Despite what she yelled outside my clinic and home about me, **she new she would receive safe medical care - a safe termination of her pregnancy and she knew we would keep her secret.**

She told me she could not go through a 7th pregnancy. She cried when she told me her youngest child was in college. She cried when she said she could not carry the baby to term and give it up for adoption. She said she'd always encouraged, even begged other women to consider adoption, but now, this was her and her child and even if her child were to be placed with a loving family, she was terrified that her child would never understand or forgive her for giving him or her away and might even suffer irreparable emotional scars over being given away. She

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

admitted those were consequences of adoption that she had never before thought about.

She cried when she said she could not tell her husband because he would force her to have the baby. She had thought long and hard over this choice, which is why, she was about 18 weeks when she came to see me. I felt for her, as I would have for any woman. **How** could I not?? Reality clashed with her idealism and she realized that for her to follow her anti-abortion beliefs in this situation would not have been in her best interest and in the best interest of the potential life she carried. I did her abortion.

After that she came out to protest me only when her husband insisted & she appeared to be less vocal than before. **We both understood her situation.**

We are again in a tenuous situation. If abortion becomes illegal again, there will be many consequences. Realize that women of influence and means, even those who claim to be anti-abortion – will – as they did in the days before Roe vs. Wade – get safe – albeit illegal abortions.

The young teenage girls and poor women will be left to self-abort, or secure unsafe, illegal abortions. That inequality isn't right or moral.

As a Doctor of Conscience, I cannot go back. I cannot face those women dying, one after another. I think of all the women's lives I saved...but all the women who senselessly lost their lives to illegal abortion haunt me. We are moving ever so close to losing the few rights we have.

**We cannot be silent anymore.
We must take to the streets and be heard.
I cannot do this alone.**

Part 2 The Spirit of Abortions Silenced Legacy introduces Mrs. Jones

*After Dr. Smith Speaks
Turning to Mrs. Jones*

Mrs. Jones, one woman in whose face and story you can see every woman who faced ending an intended unwanted pregnancy before Roe vs. Wade legalized abortion.

The fear, the desperation and the determination to control if, when, and how many children they would have, led women like Mrs. Jones to risk their health and life by attempting to self-induce an abortion or led them to seek underground and most often than not, a caring and skilled abortion provider providing safe but illegal abortions in secret.

Mrs. Jones and thousands upon thousands of women like her were forced to risk being arrested in raids upon those abortion providers, coerced into testifying against their provider, and being subjected to an outrageous violation of their medical confidentiality.

Women like Mrs. Jones risked being forced into degrading and humiliating exams for evidence against their abortion provider and risked exposure of their private sexual life in probing questions by male police officers and district attorneys in a public trial in a packed courtroom.

Threatened and intimidated by powerful men holding their future in their hands and determined to reaffirm their patriarchal power over women, their bodies, and their rights, women like Mrs. Jones were exposed to public trials in sexually charged courtrooms where elicited testimony was elicited for its erotic effect not its evidentiary contribution.

Mrs. Jones is a very brave woman. She's a very moral and righteous person. She made a morally correct decision; best for the potential life she was responsible for and best for herself when she made the decision to terminate her unintended pregnancy.

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

What happened to Mrs. Jones was unconscionable. She was desperate and determined to control her destiny.

Mrs. Jones and I were born into a country in which illegal abortion has never killed a man and the souls of women who have died from illegal abortion have been silenced. That's wrong. That's immoral.

Listen to her story. It too is the reality of **illegal** abortion.

(When Mrs. Jones is finished performing her script the Spirit of Abortion's Silenced Legacy speaks again in Part 3.)

Part 2

Mrs. Jones tells her story

I'm 71 years old. I was born in 1930 in Chicago, in the middle of a bad winter. I was next to the youngest in a family of 9. My mother was 46 when I was born and almost 48 when my youngest brother was born. My mother finished high school one month before she married my father. She was barely 18. In 30 years my mother gave birth to 9 children, miscarried five times fairly early on in the pregnancies and she experienced 2 later miscarriages, when she was 6 and then 5 months along. The last miscarriage was about 7 months before I was conceived.

Before my mother died she also told me about 2 abortions she had, abortions my father never knew about, the second one a year after her ninth child was born.

In 1953, the day after college graduation, I was married. My husband and I both were about to begin our teaching careers, I was a going to teach 3rd grade and my husband was going to teach high school history and science. We were still newlyweds and we could not afford a baby yet. We had used a condom but we hadn't used it correctly. We got better at it but suffice it to say, we had a problem.

It was several weeks before Jack, my husband, found a doctor through someone who knew someone who knew someone at

the State University we'd attended. Jack was assured that though this man obviously operated in secret, he was not what is referred to today as a back alley butcher but we both worried about whether that was really true. We were both very scared.

I traveled a long way by myself, precisely following the instructions on how I was to get there. I took three different taxis and then a bus into the rural countryside to this Doctor's home. My husband wanted to go with me but the doctor had said just I was allowed to come so my husband stayed at home and didn't expect me back home till late in the evening.

When I walked into the parlor of Dr. Townsend's home, it smelled of spices not sterile alcohol as one might have thought, and it felt very homey with a definite country farm look...

We went into what had been a bedroom and I was asked to undress and put on a sterile gown and climb upon the table. The table was a large homemade dining room table that had been converted into a medical table with a thin mattress placed on top and homemade wooden stirrups nailed onto one end. I was surprised **and** comforted by the sterile gown. As I lay upon the table in that sterile gown, Mrs. Townsend was taking a last look around to be sure everything was just the way it should be, I took another deep breath and suddenly felt like I was safe, in the hands of a caring doctor and all **would** be alright.

Dr. Townsend entered the room...as he began to scrape my uterus; a commotion erupted out in his parlor room. It was the police.

In spite of protests and pleadings by Dr. Townsend to finish my abortion, they pushed him aside and handcuffed him. They forced me off the table, bleeding profusely. They allowed me, in the presence of a policewoman, to get dressed and put on several pads to soak up the blood. Five other women were in the house, two that were resting after their abortions and three who were waiting to have an abortion performed. We were all taken away out of

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

the house in handcuffs. Doctor Townsend and his wife were arrested and their 5 year-old son was taken into custody by the social services department.

Outside there were newspaper photographers; their flashes blinded me as we were pulled to the cars. I was terrified. I had seen pictures in the paper of the same thing happening to other women. I knew I was being treated so horribly to force me into telling the police anything they wanted to know. To warn other women who saw the pictures to reconsider if they were thinking about having an abortion.

I hid my face in my coat, tripping on the stairs and scratching up my knees, forcing the police to practically carry me, leaving a trail of blood flowing from between my knees, but no one got a clear picture of me. No reporter, no newspaper got a picture of me, I made sure of that.

I was bleeding bad and was in pain. I was taken to County Hospital. There I along with the other two women who had already had their abortions were told we didn't have to submit to a gynecological exam but if we did our husbands, boyfriends, and parents names wouldn't have to be released to the press, they wouldn't have to be publicly embarrassed. I didn't have a choice. Not just because of the police's threats but because my abortion needed to be completed before I bled to death...

Three months later we were in a courtroom.

When I testified I tried to look at Dr. Townsend but I couldn't. I felt so guilty. He'd been good to me. He was a capable abortion provider and he hadn't hurt me. But I had no choice.

I was humiliated and degraded by a prosecutor trying to make a name for himself, trying to make examples of me and the other patients of Dr. Townsend, and it seemed, trying to give the courtroom and the press an X rated sex show. Neither my husband nor I were prepared for what happened in that courtroom that day – what happened to me - to us - something no woman or family should ever have to endure

nor something any doctor should have to endure for simply helping women safely terminate a pregnancy they wanted to terminate.

The district attorney asked me embarrassing and unnecessary questions... And representatives of the press taking down every word because they knew this would sell more of their newspapers tomorrow than had been sold today....

I was on the stand for several hours. ...

He asked me to describe exactly how I undressed in Dr. Townsend's office, describing every piece of clothing including how I took off my underwear. I had to describe how I got upon the table. He asked me how I was positioned on the table, "Were your legs raised and your knees spread wide apart?" I choked out an answer. "Louder for the jury!" he demanded. I looked over at the judge but his stern face, penetrating eyes, and his affirmative nod told me there would be no empathy from him and no mercy, so I repeated my answer louder.

He asked me, "When Dr. Townsend began you said he inserted a rubber tube into your vagina and up through your cervix into your uterus – now I don't mean to be unpleasant about it but I want to know if he inserted his hand or finger into your vagina to do this?" I said his fingers. The district attorney approached me. "His fingers what? What did he do with his fingers?"

I wanted to scream, I wanted to run away, and I nearly vomited all over myself. I struggled to hold it back. I answered that he'd put his finger in my private part..."

"Somebody may not know what you mean when you say your privates. What do you mean when you say your privates. Which of your privates was it that he injected his fingers and his instruments into?"

I hesitated; it was so humiliating, my heart was pounding I felt cold and flushed - I thought I was going to die. **This**, I thought, is what it must feel like to be raped.

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

He yelled at me, "Well if you can't say, can you point?" And he crossed the room and unveiled a crude and graphic picture of the female genitals upon a chalkboard and stood there waiting for me to cross the room to the chalkboard. It was the longest few feet I've ever walked. Once there, he glared at me. "Now point to which of your private parts Dr. Townsend inserted his fingers and his instruments." I pointed to the vagina drawn on the chalkboard. "Now tell the jury what you pointed to." **No one stood up to object that I was being badgered or humiliated and degraded. No One. Not a single soul.**

I said "I don't know how to say it to you."

The judge then spoke. "Well," he snapped impatiently and loudly, "Was it between your fingers?" I couldn't stop crying. "No. Between my legs" I SCREAMED. **"Well, what part of your body did Dr. Townsend insert his fingers, that is between your legs?"**

My dignity was in shreds now. They weren't going to relent and no one was going to stand up for me and make them. I lowered my head, "He inserted his fingers and instruments into my vagina." I finally said. I went back to the witness chair, never once looking up....

My feelings of guilt and anger grew as the hours dragged on. This, I kept thinking should never happen to another woman, to another family. How can this be happening in a country like ours?....

Doctor Townsend...went to jail for several years and then I never knew what happened to him after that.

He went to jail just because he was helping women safely terminate a pregnancy they would have terminated somehow, somehow, somewhere no matter the law and no matter how dangerous it would have been to their health or life, why couldn't they understand that? Why?

I've never gotten over that experience, the unfairness of it, the threats to publicly humiliate our families and send me to jail. I've also never forgiven myself for sacrificing

Doctor Townsend for myself. But what else could I have done?

For my husband and I, not having a baby at that time in our lives was the right decision - then **and** now. We have no regrets about the abortion - not even one regret....

Our years of activism are coming to an end - we have been there - seen the horror of illegal abortion and tried to make you understand. We have to pass the baton to you now, **please** - take as good care of it as we have.

Part 3 The Spirit of Abortions Silenced Legacy concludes the story

Turn to face Dr. Smith

Dr. Smith isn't a baby killer. She's a good moral being and a caring doctor who understands that a desperate and determined need for all women to decide for themselves if, when, and how many children they will have will lead them to circumvent a law that criminalizes abortion with dangerous and deadly consequences to themselves and their families.

Dr. Smith knows there are things in life she has the power to change and affect and things she cannot and she has the wisdom to know the difference.

She knows she can save women's lives by helping them safely terminate their unintended unwanted pregnancies and she tries to help women plan their families and help them prevent unintended pregnancies.

Despite great peril to herself and her family, Dr. Smith does what she knows is the only right and moral thing to do. She is indeed a heroine.

Turn to face Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Jones is one woman and she is all women. She's every woman who has and every woman who will struggle to be in control of their own fertility, no matter the risks. It is that vital to her very being and to

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

her struggle for equality. She is brave, she is scared, and she too is a good moral being who will make the best decision possible for herself, her family, and the potential life she is responsible for – a law against such be damned.

In me, the Spirit of Abortion's Silenced Legacy, is all women who faced illegal abortion.

If I have to – if you need me one day soon to be with you when you face an **illegal** abortion, alone on your bathroom floor or in the care of someone like Dr. Smith, I will be there for you. I will be there to share your pain, fear, and desperation. I will hold your hand in a public trial, share your humiliation at the exposure of your most intimate sexual self, cry with you, bleed with you and cradle your maimed bloodied bodies in my arms as you suffer and die.

Part 3 Final Words from Peggy Loonan

Abortion's Silenced Legacy - is powerful – it is sad and it is compelling. But it is about history.

Today many of those who have grown up since Roe vs. Wade, with safe **and** legal abortion and a wide range of contraceptives, cannot fathom anyone ever taking this right away from them - that such could ever happen in their lifetime...

The pain and tragedy suffered and endured by these women, men, families and doctors from our past, who went to jail and were maimed and died before Roe, paved the way for Roe vs. Wade. Without their bravery, sacrifices, outcries, and their willingness to wage the fight on a day-to-day basis, we would not have won the battle for safe and legal abortion and contraceptives.

**But remember – what can be won
- can also be lost**

In the 1992 movie Rain Without Thunder, the year 2045 is depicted. In this movie Abortion and all forms of birth control that are not barrier in nature are illegal, including

the birth control pill, IUDS, Depro Prevera, and Norplant.

In this movie, the Abortion Rights Movement is being lead by the "Atwood" Society - which failed in preventing the overturn of Roe vs. Wade. The Atwood Society had adopted a more conservative cautious approach to protecting and then trying to win back the right to safe abortion, just as the current day abortion rights movement has.

In this futuristic movie, the current leader of the "Atwood" Society said this, "The old Roe vs. Wade Case - which permitted women the right to legal termination nationwide - wasn't dramatically overturned by anyone judicial ruling. - Instead the Supreme Court took a hammer and chisel and slowly chipped away at it. - This gradual chipping away was tolerated because no one believed any state would criminalize abortion – **or** - if any did - it would only be a few. You see the interesting thing is - Americans - while they will react decisively in the face of a crisis, **will nevertheless** tolerate gradual trends - even if those trends are insidious."

An old white-haired women who, in her youth and middle-age, had fought an aggressive war in the 20th century for abortion rights, was the founder of the "Atwood" society, and now seemingly an outcast from the movement, said this - "A woman's movement was born in the mid 20th century – a woman's political movement which spread like a fire - burning the landscape built by men. - But our season changed - By the year 2000 a chill was developing. - Our spring only lasted two generations.

But – it only takes two generations. - It takes one generation to fight for a liberty - and it takes only one generation to lose it. People refuse to believe - that what is farfetched - can happen in just two generations. - When people do not have liberty they crave it, they cherish it. But once a generation obtains it - they then ignore it - they so much as place it on their doorstep to be snatched away. People will invest more energy in protecting their jewelry, than in

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

protecting their liberty. Women not only placed their anatomical liberty on their doorstep, but they elected the people who snatched it away.”

In the election of 2000, a Congress and a President both **hostile** to Roe vs. Wade, hostile to legal abortion, to contraceptives and family planning was elected.

President Bush has said he would do everything in his power to restrict abortions...

Ladies and Gentlemen, It's **wrong** and **immoral** to advocate for and **allow** the devastation to women's lives illegal abortion causes, the devastation "Abortion's Silenced Legacy," has allowed you to become so intimate with, here tonight – especially when there's a better way – when we have within our power the means to decrease the number of unintended pregnancies.

Never forget – and like us – **never doubt** that Roe vs. Wade correctly and morally balanced the right to life of woman and fetus **and** no woman need ever be ashamed of her right to life and liberty.

Don't let your generation be the generation who thought it too far fetched to ever happen to them – ever happen in their lifetime.

We at **Life and Liberty for Women** wish to offer our thoughts and deepest sympathy to the survivors and bereaved family members who suffered unspeakable pain, sadness, and loss in the horrific September 11 terrorist attack upon this nation, in which thousands lost their lives. This surreal tragic event has shown all of us that what seems to far fetched - is **never** so.

Don't let arrogance, complacency, or just a busy life, snatch away the right to safe and legal abortion.

Each one of you **has the power and the means** to keep this horrific mistake of history – **a mistake drenched in pain, blood and death from repeating itself.**

Use your power

For more information,
contact **Life and Liberty for Women**
(970) 416-6872
peggy@LifeAndLibertyForWomen.org