

Medic blames state for abortion clinic abuses

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—The chairman of the Illinois State Medical Society Tuesday blamed the state for poor conditions in abortion clinics.

Testifying before a special Senate subcommittee examining some of the abortion abuses, uncovered recently by The Sun-Times and the Better Government Assn., Dr. Robert Hartman, chairman of the medical society's board of directors, urged the state Departments of Public Health and of Registration and Education to better enforce the laws regulating abortion clinics and doctors.

"We have witnessed a travesty," Hartman said, referring to the abuses. "There has been a failure of all the mechanisms designed to protect the public."



THE ABORTION
PROFITEERS

Reaction

Hartman argued that his society should not be blamed. "There is a myth that the medical society, or the profession, is in some way responsible for allowing this situation to exist," he said. "But I must point out that the Illinois State Medical Society is a voluntary association of members of the medical profession. It is not a licensing agency, nor is it a police force."

Policing the profession, he said, lies with the Department of Registration and Education, which licenses and disciplines doctors.

"THE REMEDY, it seems to us," he testified, "is not in more legislation and more regulations, but more careful attention to the preparation of (disciplinary) cases for court, more strict adherence to, and the enforcement of our present safeguard standards, and speedy hearings and decisions regarding possible improprieties or violations."

Hartman was one of about dozen witnesses who showed up here to testify before the subcommittee, chaired by Sen.

Leroy W. Lemke (D-Chicago). Three of the others were Dr. Paul Q. Peterson, director of public health; Joan G. Anderson, director of registration and education, and Arthur F. Quern, director of public aid. Most of the rest represented various anti-abortion organizations.

Lemke, himself an outspoken opponent of abortion, was named to chair the special Senate subcommittee by Sen. Richard M. Daley (D-Chicago), the chairman of one of the Senate's two judiciary committees.

Ostensibly, Lemke's panel was formed to hear testimony on a bill sponsored by Daley to require abortion counselors to be licensed by the state. However, Lemke has used the opportunity as a platform for right-to-life groups.

NEARLY A DOZEN civil rights and women's organizations boycotted Tuesday's hearing here because, they

charged, Lemke was being unfair.

"We believe that the subcommittee's true purpose is to completely eliminate the availability of safe, medical abortions," the groups said in a prepared statement, noting that five of the six senators on the subcommittee are outspoken foes of abortion.

Before the subcommittee met here Tuesday, Lemke called for a vote in the Senate a resolution he is sponsoring that calls for a federal constitutional convention to amend the constitution to ban abortions. The resolution fell two votes short of the 36 needed for adoption, but Lemke used a parliamentary maneuver to keep it alive for another vote.

In the House on Tuesday, Rep. Eugenia S. Chapman (D-Arlington Heights) introduced two bills aimed at tightening state regulations for abortion clinics and a third measure seeking a \$50,000 supplemental appropriation to pay for it.