

POPULATION - REGISTRATION

1994 - 98

Star 311194

## Homeland

### IDs valid

Citizens of the TBVC states will be able to use homeland ID documents in the April 27 election.

But, Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Ciskei and Venda citizens who do not have identity papers must apply for South African documents at the Department of Home Affairs or magistrate's offices in South Africa. Green South African ID cards issued since 1950, the blue IDs issued since 1972, green IDs issued since 1980 and reference books issued since 1950 are also valid.

— Staff Reporter

(238) (104)

# Homeland residents get their SA citizenship back

Biday 3/1/94

TIM COHEN

MORE than 7-million people regained their SA citizenship on New Year's Day, simultaneously gaining the right to vote in the April 27 election with their homeland identity documents.

The Home Affairs Department yesterday reminded SA's new citizens that they need not apply for SA identity documents if they had documents issued by any of the TBVC territories

The decision effectively sidesteps a confrontation with the Bophuthatswana government, which has reportedly threatened to deprive its citizens of the right to live in the territory if they apply for SA identity documents

The department re-emphasised that green identity cards issued since 1950, blue identity documents issued since 1972, reference books issued to blacks since 1950 and ID books issued by the TBVC states would all be acceptable for voting

Legislation came into effect on January 1 in terms of which TBVC citizens would automatically regain their SA citizenship.

A large number of these people had identity documents issued by their

respective territories or still possessed SA reference books, the department said.

These people would be eligible to vote in the election, it said, appealing to them not to overburden the department unnecessarily by applying for SA identity documents before the elections (238)

People who did not have any of these documents could apply for SA identity documents but, since the territories in question were still independent, this would have to be done inside SA at Home Affairs department offices or magistrate's offices.

Our political staff reports that Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte said during debate on the Restoration and Extension of South African Citizenship Bill that the measure meant residents of the TBVC states could take part in the election as full SA citizens.

They were unilaterally deprived of their SA citizenship when the four homelands became officially independent - Transkei in 1976, Bophuthatswana in 1978, Venda in 1980 and Ciskei in 1981.

Today, three of these homelands

are ruled by military dictators and the government of the fourth, Bophuthatswana, was restored to power when the SA Defence Force crushed a military coup attempt against it.

During last year's debate in Parliament, the Western Cape leader of the DP, Hennie Bester, said the fact that a pen stroke and one and a half pages of legislation restored citizenship to residents of the TBVC states underscored the futility of grand apartheid.

In 1991, it was estimated there were 3 458 200 people in Transkei, 2 419 600 in Bophuthatswana, 557 400 in Venda and 946 600 in Ciskei

However, most of these people are children and it is estimated that 3,29-million people in the four homelands are over the age of 18 - 15,7% of the total electorate

With an estimated further 4,77-million voters in the six non-independent homelands - 22,7% of the total electorate - nearly 40% of the voters in the April 27 election will be resident in former homelands, and they could have a significant influence on the outcome of the election

The TBVC territories are to be formally reincorporated into SA on April 27.

People in that the police were to take refuse in





Slow wheels of bureaucracy . . . hundreds of people queue up in vain every day for identity document applications in Tembisa on the East Rand.

PICTURE GEORGE MASHINI

# Long wait in ID queues in Tembisa

Star 7/11/94

## STAFF REPORTERS

The Kempton Park Home Affairs Department came under fire this week for the inefficient handling of thousands of identity document applications in Tembisa on the East Rand.

Up to 500 people a day queue up at the makeshift office

Many people, like crippled Raymond Mbatha, told The Star they had been waiting for two days without being attended to

The office has been in operation for three weeks, staffed by four Home Affairs personnel and between 10 and 15 ANC volunteers (238)

Germiston regional director Pieter Hartzler said "We do not have more people who can help, but are doing as much as we can. The problem is that people come without the necessary documents and many of them are not South African citizens."

He said many people from Ciskei and Venda were applying for a special stamp on their identity document which would enable them to vote in the April election. The office, however, had not received the stamp, Tembisa ANC election administrator Joseph Phasha said.



# Mobile units roam Capre

## for quick IDs



□ **KHAYELITSHA QUEUE** Potential voters wait to apply for ID documents at the Home Affairs offices in Khayelitsha



□ **MOBILE UNIT:** ID document-seekers wait to have their photographs taken at the Home Affairs mobile unit in Airport Industria

■ New ID documents for voters are being processed by mobile units at a rate of knots by temporary Home Affairs workers. Weekend Argus Reporter

HOME Affairs officials are working long hours to ensure that thousands of potential voters in Peninsula townships have ID documents in time to make their mark on April 27

Crucial to this effort are the department's seven roving mobile units which process ID document applications

The units, controlled from the department's Nyanga office, visit townships in terms of a programme devised in conjunction with political parties and other organisations

Communities in Khayelitsha, Langa, Guguletu, Nyanga and Mitchell's Plain have benefited from the registration drive

The units are housed in caravans and equipped with cameras, photocopiers and generators to allow for the speedy completion of applications. Each one has a director



□ **VOTER PHOTO:** Matilda Gqada prepares to take Guguletu resident Elia Lebanya's ID document photo at a Home Affairs mobile unit in Airport Industria

and nine specially employed temporary workers to deal with the paperwork and photography

They each handle between 200 and 250 applications a day, which means that the Nyanga office receives about 2 000 ID document requests daily

over three months left to election day a Home Affairs spokesman conceded time was running short. "But we are working day and night to finish the work," he said



evacuations and ensure stabilisation of patients. This would improve survival chances by up to 40%.

has been running and Jordan indicated that these would continue through the election and be used by the post-election ANC government as a key part of its concept of

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## Government battles to meet demand for ID documents

B/Day 27/1/94

ERICA JANKOWITZ

ABOUT 55 000 Bophuthatswana residents applied for SA identity documents in December and the Home Affairs Department was working hard to issue them, spokesman Niel du Bois said yesterday (238)

Du Bois denied claims by Cosatu's northern Transvaal office that Bophuthatswana citizens would not be able to vote with their territory's documents.

He appealed to TBVC citizens to apply for SA identity documents only if they did not possess official documentation.

As far as SA was concerned, nationals of self-governing territories could hold dual citizenship, but Bophuthatswana authorities said this was not permitted.

Cosatu northern Transvaal regional secretary Joe Selau said the federation would take up at national level the issue of Home Affairs not being allowed to take mobile units into Bophuthatswana to process applications.

Du Bois said this was "a political decision, but residents are free to apply outside the borders. After all, after January 1 they were regarded as SA citizens".

He said Home Affairs was investigating how many people in Bophuthatswana required identity documents

to ensure there were enough staff to process applications.

Selau put the number at between 1,8-million and 2-million and said Cosatu felt it was "not good enough" that people had to travel to SA to get what was rightfully theirs.

Bophuthatswana Information Service spokesman Alwyn Viljoen denied residents had been threatened with deportation if they applied for SA identity documents.

"Our view is that individuals should be free to live and work where they want to, and we do not force anybody residing in Bophuthatswana to become a citizen of the country."

He said Home Affairs was meant to supply Bophuthatswana authorities with a list of all residents who applied for SA documentation, but he did not think this was being complied with. Du Bois was unaware of the requirement.

Meanwhile, Du Bois said Home Affairs was "taking strain" in processing the ever-increasing number of identity document applications. Some 70 000 were received in the last week of December alone, he said.

The upsurge in applications for SA documentation suggested that many South Africans wanted to vote.

# Aliens hoping to vote seek documents

Star 27/1/94

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER  
PRETORIA BUREAU

South Africa has about 15 000 illegal immigrants who appear to be trying very hard to obtain identity documents to vote in the April 27-29 general election.

This was disclosed by Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte who said in Pretoria yesterday that strenuous efforts were being made to prevent the casting of fraudulent votes.

Schutte said that while identity documents — official IDs, voter cards, the old green ID cards, reference books or passports — were acceptable for voting, 0,3 percent of the population were in the country illegally.

This figure constituted 15 000 illegal voters (238) (3000)

He added that it was found that among people who were repatriated less than 1 percent had falsified ID documents.



# The Ballot paper

South Africa 14/12/94

The ballot paper is the piece of paper on which you vote. The names of all the parties contesting the election will appear on a list. Each party's logo will appear next to its name on the same line, followed by the party's initials and a photograph of its leader. At the end of the line is an empty space.

You are only allowed to vote for one party, by placing an X or any other mark in the space next to the party that you support. It is not yet clear whether there will be one ballot paper or two at the election, but the form of the ballot paper will not change.

DIKWANKWETLA PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA		DPSA		
INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY		IFP		
NATIONAL PARTY		NP		
PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS		PAC		
XIMOKO PROGRESSIVE PARTY		XPP		
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS		ANC		
DEMOCRATIC PARTY		DP		

This is a sample and not an official ballot paper. You must enter the above parties in the order in which they are listed when you register for the election. The order in which parties are listed will be determined by lot.

# 4-million ID backlog and Home Affairs can't cope

South Africa 14/12/94

Doubling the number of staff in South Africa's Home Affairs offices has failed to meet the increased demand for ID documents in our country. A backlog of 3.8 million applications for new IDs has accumulated at Home Affairs. Even with its increased capacity, these offices will only be capable of issuing another 1.8 million IDs before the election on April 27th.

To make up the shortage, the IEC will introduce Temporary Voter's Cards, which can be presented in place of an ID at voting stations.

The cards will be available in early March, and will be issued on the spot from Home Affairs offices. The IEC will also introduce mobile units that will travel into townships and rural areas to issue Temporary Voter's Cards.

To qualify for a Temporary Voter's Card, you will need

- A passport-size photograph and
- Proof of identity and age. This can be any of the following:
  - \* a passport
  - \* birth certificate
  - \* primary school document

For further information telephone 0800 113937, free of charge.

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APRIL  
27TH

INDEPENDENT FORUM FOR ELECTORAL EDUCATION



## 2-million voters without IDs

PRETORIA — Nearly 2-million eligible voters are still without identity documents or temporary voter's cards with only seven weeks to go before polling, according to Home Affairs' latest figures

A spokesman said thousands of hours of overtime had been worked since the beginning of the year to cope with the deluge of applications

During the past four weeks an average of 34 500 applications was received daily. In the past week 30 000 documents had been issued

At the end of last month nearly 21-million people had been provided with documents, out of an estimated 22,8-million eligible voters.

A total of 18-million had Republic of SA identity documents and another 1,5 million had identity documents of the independent homelands. A total of 792 000 people had old reference books, the number of first applicants now being processed was 557 000, and 132 000 temporary voting

GERALD REILLY

cards had been issued

Processing, the spokesman said, still took from four to seven weeks. Those applying for documents after February 1 were being issued with temporary voting cards. These could be issued right up to the start of the polling.

A Human Sciences Research Council political analysis centre said the count and the announcement of the result could take up to four days.

Complications could arise, said the centre, if a political party claimed the election in a region had not been free and fair because of the intimidation of violence.

A suggestion by President FW de Klerk that regional "re-election" could then be considered had not been "well received."

The spokesman said a re-election in one region could have a domino effect, leading to chaos.

Report by G Reilly, TML, 216 Verméulen St. - Pta

## Police to set up post at Bekkersdal taxi rank

POLICE had agreed to set up a joint operations centre at a taxi rank in Bekkersdal, on the West Rand, as part of efforts to restore order in the township, a source said at the weekend.

Police also agreed to step up patrols at the rank, which the Inkatha Freedom Party says is the scene of most violent incidents in the township.

WILSON ZWANE

Police confirmed that a meeting at which these undertakings were agreed took place in Pretoria.

Meanwhile, Inkatha Transvaal deputy chairman Humphrey Ndlovu alleged that the person who threw hand-grenades at Inkatha mourners in Bekkersdal

eight days ago, killing an Inkatha supporter, was a black policeman.

"We are collecting evidence and will submit it to the police shortly," he said. Police said a person arrested after the incident was still in custody.

Political comment in this issue by J Jones  
newspills by T Blaseker headlines and sub-  
editing by V Strauss all of 11 Diagonal  
Street Johannesburg

• | 'More power' for police c

Star 23/3/94  
**21,6-m can now vote**

The Department of Home Affairs said in Pretoria yesterday that 21,6 million people now had the right to vote in next month's elections. ~~(2074)~~

It said that there had been a substantial increase in the number of identity documents sent to applicants this month.

The department said since last week, mobile units had been accepting

applications for ID documents on behalf of the IEC in Bophuthatswana

People who applied for their IDs more than eight weeks ago and are not in possession of temporary voters' cards must collect their documents at the office where applications were made. — Pretoria Bureau. ~~(238)~~

(Report by N. Chandler, 216 Vermeulen Street, Pretoria)

# Most have *Sowetan* voter papers

AT LEAST 96 percent of potential voters already have identification documents enabling them to vote, the Department of Home Affairs said yesterday. *31/3/94*

In a statement the Department said 21 850 116 of an estimated total of 22 709 152 voters as determined by the Central Statistical Services had their documents by last Friday

The department reminded the public that its regional and district offices would be open on Family Day (April 4) and Founder's Day (April 6) enabling them to apply for the necessary documents. — *Sapa (238)*

(Report by E van Wyk, 141 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg)



## Most voters have IDs

*Sitimes [Cimetro]*  
NINETY-SIX percent of potential voters are in possession of identification documents for voting in the election, the Department of Home Affairs said this week.

*21494*  
Altogether 21 850 116 of an estimated 22 709 152 voters as determined by the Central Statistical Services had their documents by last Friday. The regional and district offices would be open on Family Day tomorrow and Founders Day on Wednesday —

Sapa *(238)* *(2045)*  
(Report by E Van Wyk, 141 Commissioner St, Johannesburg)

# All should be able to vote

By Carl Peters

EVERYBODY who applies for the necessary documents to vote in the coming elections will get their documents in time and will definitely vote, the Department of Home Affairs said yesterday

Mr Charles Theron, a spokesman for the department, said they were coping with the demand for documents and were processing about 26 000 voter cards a day

He said that just under a million people have been issued voter cards since they were introduced in February this year.

## Documents to vote

He said there were only 823 353 people whose documents were still outstanding. These people needed the documents to vote in the elections which are only 18 days away

"Provided everybody applies, they will vote. Our office hours have been extended and we were open on both public holidays which fell on Monday and Wednesday," he said

A recently completed census showed that there were 22 709 152 potential voters

## Temporary IDs

A total of 21 885 799 citizens had the necessary documents — identity books, temporary IDs or voter cards, he said

Residents in the homelands who qualified to vote could use the identity documents issued to them by the homeland authorities, he said

Sowetan 8/4/94

(238)

(2017)

# Next time it's for real . . .

BY SHANNON NEILL

**HUNDREDS of people gathered on the Grand Parade in Cape Town last week to take part in a mock election to see if they would know how to cast their votes on April 27 and 28.**

"We are basically teaching people how to vote," said the head of the ANC voter education task team, Ms Rashieda Abdullah

"We explain to them what to expect on the day We explain that it's a secret ballot

"We find out whether they have an identity document and if they don't we help them fill in the form

*Southeaster (suppl. to South)*

here and take them to Home Affairs "

People at the mock election said it was useful to get a chance to practise voting

"Many people don't understand how to vote In the Western Cape many people are illiterate I never went to school so I didn't understand voting — now I do," said Mr Frederick Bloem

Mr Shepard Kama said he brought his elderly mother to the mock election because she was afraid of voting

"Now she understands it so she says she will vote," he said

● As election day draws closer the Department of Home Affairs is

being swamped with applications for identity documents, according to acting regional representative, Mr Pierre de Villiers

A Home Affairs report shows that 104 089 identity document applications were received in January, 103 076 in February and 100 963 in March

A further 168 005 applications have been received at the mobile units which go into different areas each week (238) (~~3219~~)

Mr De Villiers says everyone who applies for an identity document now is issued with a temporary voter's card so that they can still vote even though they won't have identity documents



# About 70% *Star 22/4/94* in Transkei have no ID

East London — The Independent Electoral Commission estimates that in Transkei alone, as many as 1 million people still do not have any form of identity document.

The ANC and PAC, the main contenders in the region, are extremely concerned and fear that the backlog could have a significant impact on the final election result in the Eastern Cape region, of which Transkei is a key part. *(+03) (238)*

The magnitude of the problem is highlighted by the fact that there are only 1.4 million voters in the homeland. So, by the IEC's estimation, about 70 percent do not have voting documents.

There are just over 3 million voters in the entire region.

The IEC is trying to issue a daily average of 150,000 temporary voter cards in time for the election. — Echa.

(109 High St, Grahamstown)

B/DAY 25/4/94

## Fake IDs not linked to election fraud, say police

STEPHANE BOTHMA

238

THE discovery of a large number of fake identity documents in Johannesburg by the SAP's syndicate fraud unit last week was not linked to attempted election fraud, the police said at the weekend.

All indications were that the illegal activities at Vrede Peace Immigration Verteenwoordigers in Lancet Hall and Peace Immigration Consultants in Medical Centre, both in Jeppe Street, were aimed solely at providing false identity documents to illegal immigrants, Col Eugene Opperman said.

Although two men allegedly involved in the scam handed themselves over to the syndicate fraud unit on Friday, Opperman said investigations continued. However, no further "significant" arrests were expected.

Nobelo Titus Noko from Meadowlands and Mpotzi Elphas Khumalo from Zola North briefly appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on Friday. They were released on bail of R1 000 each and the case was postponed to June 6.

They were not asked to plead to charges of fraud and forgery and others yet to be formulated.

On Wednesday, the unit raided the offices of Vrede Peace Immigration Verteenwoordigers following a complaint from Home Affairs about irregularities.

During the raid, police seized 22 ID books, four passports, 100 passport photographs, 26 birth certificates, 384 completed and uncompleted receipts for ID applications, 203 completed and uncompleted applications for passports, two fingerprint sets which were the property of Home Affairs, and administration books with about 2 000 names of people who were suspected of having been issued false ID documents.

Following up on information received, the unit on Thursday raided the offices of Peace Immigration Consultants where 26 ID books, 13 passports and several other forged documents were found.

Report by S Bothma, TML, 11 Diagonal St, Jhb

By PETIA KROST  
IT was full speed ahead at Cape Town's Home Affairs department this week as harassed officials battled to cope with the last minute rush of people wanting to obtain voting documents

At any one time in the last two weeks at least 200 people could be found lining up inside the department's Barrack Street offices

Most of them have never voted before and many — including middle-aged white South Africans — had never even possessed an identity document.

Even vagrants, like Peter Verwey and his wife Norma had turned up to get the document that

# Endless queues for IDs to vote for the very first time

SITING AT METR

24/4/94

(238)

would ensure that they would be able to vote next week

"Just because I sleep on stoeps doesn't mean I shouldn't vote for a new government," said 41-year-old Mr Verwey

It was only this week that a passerby mentioned to him that he was entitled to vote, he said "I was very excited because it is important for me to vote. I want peace" He said the most impor-

tant reason that he wanted to vote was because "there is a party which has promised us homes and jobs and I am struggling to give my wife and our five children a proper life".

He was convinced the new government would ensure a better life for him and his family A young Milneron man, Lance Gray, 24, had taken time off work to relieve his mother, Jenny,

in the seemingly endless wait for her voting card

He said his mother, who had lived in South Africa all her life, had never had an identity document and had not voted before

Ferber Hofsta, 49, said he was applying for his documents now as he had had no intention of voting until last week "I realised that if I vote for a better government, they will give me work,"

said Mr Hofsta, who lives in Manenberg

An unemployed 21-year-old Khayelitsha man, who called himself Kuster M, said this was the fourth time he was applying for an ID document

"My shack keeps being burnt down with my ID book in it. Maybe with a new government that I will help vote in, we will get housing which will

ensure my safety and that of my ID book", Winnifred Madevu, 52, who also lives in Khayelitsha, said she was reapplying for her ID book, because the one issued to her recently had an incorrect surname She was one of four black people in the queue on Wednesday afternoon who had the same problem.

After 36 years living in England and working as a manager on British Rail, Robert Eckstein had recently returned to South Africa, his birthplace, after taking early retirement

"I want to be a part of the new South Africa and every vote counts," he said. (News by P Krost, 122 St Georges Mall Cape Town)



## 300 000 seek ID books

Home Affairs received 300 000 applications for new identity documents and 100 000 for re-issues during the first three weeks of last month, in spite of the passing of the election *Star*

The department said yesterday it had issued 238 640 ID documents in that period, double the figure for the same period last year *216194*

Many of the applications were made during the issuing of temporary voter cards. — Sapa

(238)

# ID cards: 'No decision'

CT,

By BARRY STREEK  
Political Staff

16/8/94

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NO final decision had been taken about replacing identity books with identity cards, the Department of Home Affairs said in a statement

The matter was only in an investigative stage, it said yesterday after the announcement last week by Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi that consideration would be given to replacing ID books with

cards. "No final decision has been taken, neither have funds been allocated for the implementation"

If it decided to replace ID books with cards, the department added, the public would not be expected to replace existing identity books "or, for that matter, any of the documents issued in earlier years"

"All forms of identity documents issued by the department will remain valid"

## No decision yet on replacing ID books

PRETORIA — No decision had been taken to replace the ID book with an identity card, the Home Affairs Department said yesterday

Sapa reports the department said the matter was "only in a investigative stage"

Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi last week announced that consideration would be given to an identity card to replace identity books

The public would not have to replace identity books or "any of the documents issued in the earlier years" All forms of identity previously issued by the department would remain valid

Our political staff reports that Buthelezi said the issuing of passports was taking longer than before because revised procedures had been instituted, including fingerprints, to deal with fraud.

They had been introduced, he said, because the point had been reached where certain countries were no longer prepared to accept an SA passport for the granting of a visa without his department first confirming the passport's authenticity

Buthelezi was replying to a question which was tabled in Parliament by DP MP Douglas Gibson.

Buthelezi said it now took an average of two to three weeks to obtain a passport because of these revised procedures

"Internal investigations have revealed that a substantial number of passports were issued to persons who have submitted identity documents that were either falsified or obtained by means of fraudulent information."

However, it was appreciated that in some cases passports needed to be issued urgently and consequently provision had been made for such cases, Buthelezi said.

(238)



# ANC's Ferguson 'followed her heart' by abstaining to vote on abortion bill

By **PATRICK BULGER**  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Cape Town - Singer, songwriter and African National Congress MP Jennifer Ferguson may be in hot water with the ANC leadership for her decision to abstain from voting on the Choice on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill on

Wednesday

And the absence of another 54 MPs from the chamber when the vote was taken was also being looked into, ANC chief whip Arnold Stofle said after the ANC's weekly caucus meeting yesterday.

He said the party whips were still going through the record of

the voting, in which 210 MPs voted in favour of the bill, 87 against and five abstained.

By abstaining from voting, Ferguson disregarded a directive from the ANC's national executive committee which decided recently not to allow a free or conscience vote on the bill.

Ferguson said after the vote

she had "followed the dictates of my heart". Although not opposed to abortion on principle, Ferguson, the mother of two children, has misgivings about abortion after the 12th week of pregnancy.

Stofle said the ANC constitution was silent on what should be done about members who were absent for the vote.

He explained that some members were away on leave while others would have been present if the vote had taken place on Tuesday as planned, and not on Wednesday after the National Party had forced a one-day delay in voting.

The bill will be voted on in the Senate next week.

THEMBA HADEBE

about 20 000 men - but

Star 1/11/96 (237)

# Pro-lifers will fight 'to the death'

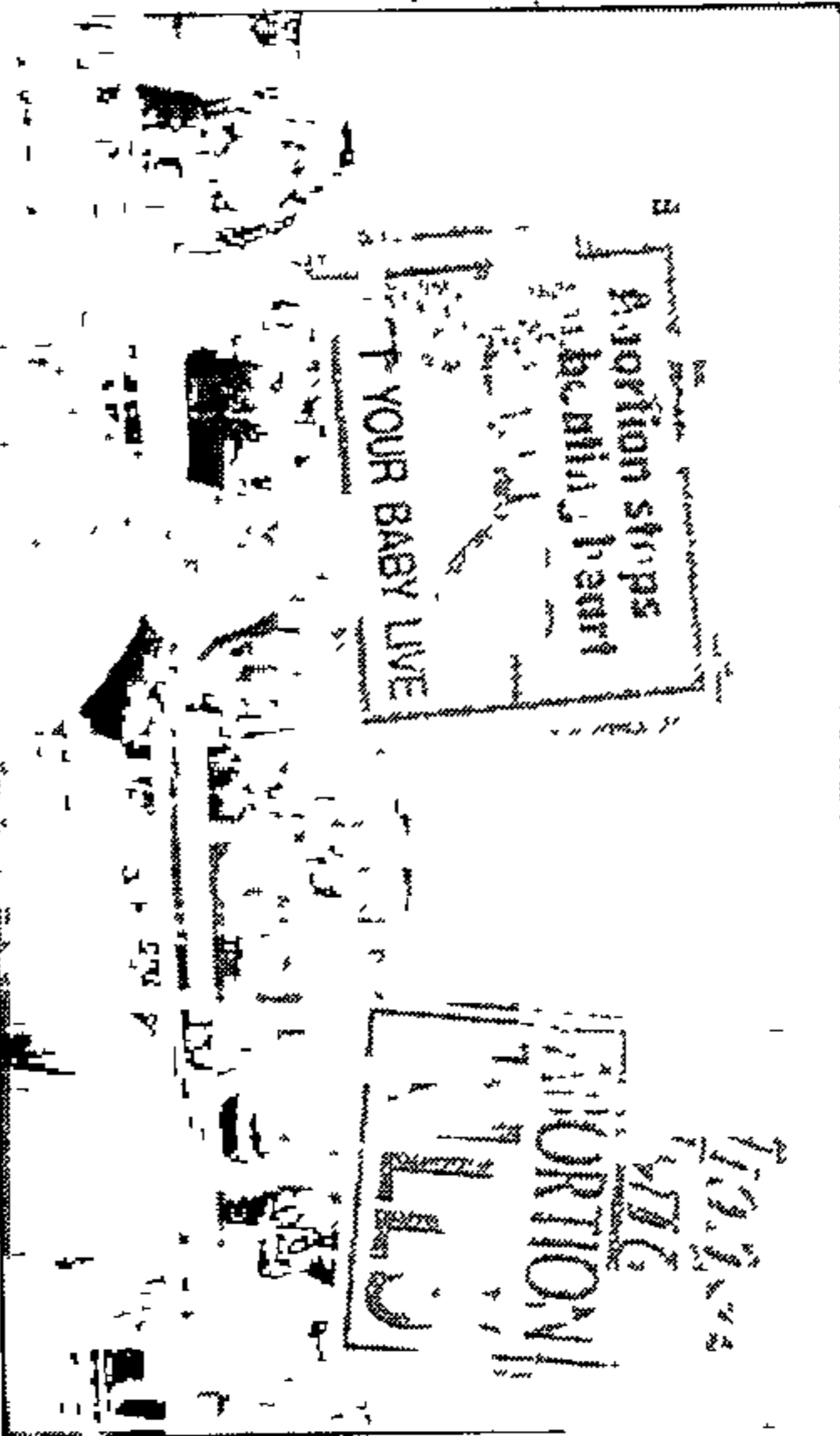
(237) MtG 1-7 198 196

The anti-abortion campaign will not die down after the passage of the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill, pro-life groups vow. **Rehana Rossouw reports**

**A**MERICAN-STYLE demonstrations outside hospitals and clinics where abortions are performed will be the norm in South Africa, the country's biggest pro-life grouping warned this week.

Glynis Newbury, of Pro-Life, said the organisation would "do everything in its power" to stop the "killing of babies". This would include protests targeting women on their way to hospitals and clinics to have an abortion. Newbury said pro-lifers would not commit violence as they were committed to "stopping the violence of abortion". However, she had scant sympathy for medical staff who were victims of violence in pro-life protests.

"In America, about five or six doctors who are abortion providers have been killed or injured since 1972. At the same time, they've been killing an average of two million babies a year. And people want to talk about the violent protesters? People who have killed abortion providers overseas are not members of pro-life groups, but pro-choice people usually in a state that they are. We totally deny that we are planning violent action."



American action: South African pro-life groups have vowed to mount demonstrations outside 'abortionists'

Ministry of Health spokesman Vincent Hlongwane said if the law allowed access to hospitals and clinics and the access was denied to anyone the law would have to take its course.

"The police would have to do what they are trained to do if a small group of people decides to block our health facilities," Hlongwane said.

The chairman of the parliamentary portfolio committee on health, Dr Abe Nkomo, has voiced fears that right-wing church groups in South Africa were being bankrolled by American extremist anti-abortion groups which have been linked to violence in their own country.

In the run-up to his committee's

hearing on the pregnancy bill two weeks ago, anti-abortion groups sent its members horrific pictures of foetuses. MPs were also sent letters warning that "there will never be peace in South Africa until there is peace in the womb".

Many of the leading lights in the pro-life movement had been at the forefront of the Christians for the Truth campaign in the late 1980s which had campaigned against liberation theology in South Africa. These groups were linked to right-wing American religious groups like the Moral Majority and Family Life Coalition.

Zimbabwean author Paul Giffard's book in the 1980s, *New Crusaders'*

Christians and the New Right in Southern Africa traced these links and named former Rhodesian right-winger, the Reverend Peter Hammond, as a pro-Unita, pro-Renamo cleric who had denounced liberation theologians as communists. Hammond was jailed in Mozambique after being caught entering the country illegally, which he had done on many occasions during his relationship with Renamo.

Hammond now lives in Cape Town and heads United Christian Action, a pro-life group which is also intent on protesting outside clinics and hospitals where abortions are performed.

Newbury said Pro-Life was the largest South African anti-abortion lobby group and had never been offered funding from American organisations. "We would love to know where those dollars have gone. We'd have no problem accepting it, after all the South African government gets money from America. Abortionists earn good salaries while pro-life groupings are mostly staffed by volunteers."

Newbury said she had little doubt that private clinics would be established to provide abortions in South Africa as the state health system was already over-extended and some women would not want to queue for hours or accept inferior treatment.

"We are going to be outside the abortion and when women see that there are people outside who are willing to give up their time to support them and offer alternatives, we will change their minds."

Pro-Life would continue its anti-abortion campaign by extending its services to women seeking alternatives to abortion. They could be offered funding, housing and support if they required it.

The organisation is also considering a campaign to withhold taxes and to lobby parliamentarians to use taxes to assist women who wanted to give birth to live babies and put them up for adoption. They will also assist medical personnel who object to participating in abortions.

"At the outset, we are going to fight to repeal this law with all legal means at our disposal, including the Constitutional Court," said Newbury.

United Christian Action spokesman Mtham Payne said although her organisation did not receive US funding, it gained information from there.

"I don't know any pro-life group which is well-funded in South Africa and anyone who suggests we have links with extremists in America is slanderous," she said. "I certainly don't think standing outside an abortion clinic with a placard saying 'abortion kills babies' or a model of a 12-week-old foetus is violent. If we want to intervene to stop an abortion, one place we can reach women planning to do so is outside clinics and hospitals."

**'Abortion is one of the biggest money-spinning rackets in the countries where it is legalised'**



# ANC to check on 55 absent MPs

CT 1/11/96

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## POLITICAL STAFF

The African National Congress is to investigate the absence of 55 of its MPs from the abortion vote in the National Assembly this week, as well as what action to take against singer and MP Ms Jennifer Ferguson, who abstained.

ANC chief whip Mr Arnold Stofile said the ANC national executive committee would consider their position when it meets on Monday. He said it would have to be determined whether any of those absent did so without official leave.

The ANC decided last year that a R100 fine would be imposed on those who were absent during critical votes in Parliament, following the failure last year of the ANC to pass the budget vote with the required majority of over half of the 400-member house.

The Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Bill was passed by the National Assembly with a clear majority of 210 to 87 on Wednesday. There were five abstentions — Mrs Esmé Chart and Mr David de Villiers Graaff of the NP, Ferguson of the ANC, and Mrs Inka Mars and Mrs Sybil Seaton of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Stofile said the ANC would have to establish whether Ferguson's abstention was "a true reflection of her intention". Once that had been established, he said, the ANC whips would report to Monday's meeting.

## Mostly married women take the option

PRETORIA — Most women resorting to abortion were married and were doing so because they did not have access to reliable contraceptives, the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) said yesterday.

The popular belief that women opting for abortion were promiscuous was untrue, UNPF executive director Ms Nafis Sadik said.

Wrapping up a conference on population issues by Southern African ministers, she said many married women were using

abortion as a method of birth control.

"In most of the countries of the world the majority of abortions are taking place because women don't have access to safe, reliable contraceptive services.

"They resort to whatever means are available — and that is in most cases unsafe abortions."

Sadik said countries should examine why abortions were taking place, and should try to eliminate them as a method of family planning. — Sapa

Among those absent were ANC Women's League president Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Constitutional Affairs Committee chairperson Mr Pravin Gordhan. Gordhan, however, said in a press statement yesterday that he was in Durban on Wednesday to attend a conference and would have voted for the measure.

The ANC bound its members to support the measure.

Altogether 191 of the members who voted for the woman's right to choose abortion were drawn from the ANC camp, with the remainder made up of the Democratic Party, a handful of NP and IFP members, and the Pan Africanist Congress.

Significantly, the most senior IFP member in the chamber, Deputy Safety and Security Minister Mr Joe Matthews, voted for the bill.

He was joined by veteran MP Mr Jurie Mentz, the party's representative on the abortion and sterilisation ad hoc committee, Ms Sue Vos, the IFP's constitutional spokesman in the National Assembly, Mr Peter Smith; and MPs Mr Farouk Cassim and Mr Hennie Bekker.

Most of the IFP's members voted against the measure, and not a single NP member supported it. Notably absent was party leader Mr F W de Klerk, who is overseas, and deputy constitutional assembly chairman Mr Leon Wessels.

# TESTING TIME AHEAD FOR HEALTH SERVICES

## Stepping into an unknown future

The ethical, religious and moral debates raging in parliament about abortion have eclipsed the finding by the Medical Research Council (MRC) that to legalise abortion could only cost the State R1m a year

The Department of Health has accepted the results of a MRC study which found that, if legalised, about 6 000 abortions are likely to be performed at State institutions each year at a cost of R14m. This is only R1m more than it costs the State to provide expensive and sometimes life-saving treatment to 13 000 women who experience complications from unsafe abortions each year.

But the MRC's figures are at best a useful guide, providing three possible scenarios of which the quoted figure is deemed "most realistic". It found that the demand for abortions could range between 26 000 and 175 000 a year, costing the State between R8,4m and R42m.

Even if the 60 000 estimate proves accurate and the State has a spare R14m to provide free abortions, this does not imply that it has the facilities or sufficient trained and willing personnel to perform 5 000 abortions a month — it does not.

The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill provides for abortion on demand up to and including the 12th week of pregnancy and up to and including the 20th week if continued pregnancy poses a risk to the woman's physical or mental health, if there is substantial risk to the foetus of severe physical or mental deformity, if pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, or if it would significantly affect the woman's social or economic circumstances.

The pro-choice DP fears that the last condition is too vague and opens the door to abortion on demand in the sec-



Mike Ellis

FM 11/11/96

ond trimester, especially as no verification is required

An early abortion is a relatively simple, cheap procedure but it becomes more expensive and complicated in the second trimester

The MRC calculates the average cost of treating a routine first trimester abortion without a general anaesthetic as R136 at primary health care level and R168 in a regional hospital. The average cost of a second trimester abortion including two days in hospital is R417.

Free abortions will be available to women who are not members of medical aid schemes, in terms of government's policy of free health care for pregnant women and

children under six, says Eddie Mhlanga, the Health Department's director of maternal, child and women's health.

In the past, medical aids paid for legal abortions according to the scale of benefits. At R921,50 it included the GP's or specialist's fee, the anaesthetic, theatre costs and a half-day ward fee. But the Registrar of Medical Aid Schemes, Danie Kolver, says medical aids are unlikely to pay for abortions now unless they are medically necessary as most do not pay for elective procedures. Government cannot force medical aids to pay for abortions as benefits are no longer determined by statute.

The Bill permits a registered midwife who has undergone prescribed training to perform an abortion during the first trimester. Thereafter only a medical practitioner may terminate a pregnancy.

A technical task team representing the health department, teaching hospitals and NGOs is developing a six-week train-

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ing course which will be available by the end of November.

The Medical Association of SA (Masa) feels that to ensure the safety of the patient, midwives should only be allowed to perform nonsurgical abortions under the supervision of a doctor. This proposal was tabled by the pro-life National Party in the portfolio health committee but rejected by the ANC majority.

NP MP Sheila Camerer fears that there is going to be a lack of control over where and how abortions are performed. She points out that 5%-7% of routine abortions result in complications and is not convinced that a six-week course will suffice.

The Bill allows medical abortions (those induced by drugs currently unavailable in SA) to be performed anywhere. Surgical abortions have to be performed in a facility designated by the Health Minister.

Mhlanga says that only private and State hospitals will be designated at this stage. In the long-run, he envisages primary health-care centres offering abortions but accepts that initially there will

be insufficient low-level facilities and trained staff available and that resources are spread unevenly across the country.

This means that initially the burden will fall almost entirely on tertiary and secondary hospitals, many of which are battling to cope with existing patient loads. Moreover, the State does not know what percentage of staff will be willing to perform abortions.

Masa has found considerable resistance among its members.

NGOs are gearing up to fill the gap. At least 10 new private reproductive health clinics seeking to provide abortions are in the pipeline. They could provide invaluable assistance to the State.

The original Bill allowed medical per-



Sheila Camerer



sonnel with conscientious objections to refuse to participate in abortions, but made it an offence for them not to refer a patient to a willing practitioner. This sparked outrage among political parties and medical groups who argued that obligatory referral negates the very nature of conscientious objection. The committee responded by dropping the entire provision. This means that the Bill no longer explicitly recognises the right of medical personnel to refuse to participate in abortions.

ANC MP Andries Nel says the provision is unnecessary as sufficient protection is provided by the Constitution which guarantees the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion. But there is concern, especially among the 75 000 members of the Democratic Nursing Organisation of SA (Denosa), that the Bill affords conscientious objectors no legal comeback if they are fired or otherwise discriminated against for refusing to participate in abortions. As the majority of nurses are also registered midwives, considerable pressure will be placed on them to undergo the prescribed training.

The NP is considering mounting a constitutional challenge over the provision which allows minors to consent to an abortion without informing their parents. It argues that this negates the right of a child to parental care.

The Bill states that the medical practitioner should advise a minor to consult with her parents or guardian. However, an abortion cannot be denied if the minor refuses. No spouse, lover or parent has any legal say in whether an abortion is granted.

Masa objects because the provision runs counter to existing medical consent principles for minors. It argues that a child may not be in a position to fully understand the risks or implications of the procedure, and would in any event require parental consent to any emergency interventions which may flow from the procedure.

Mhlanga says that neither the department nor Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma are swayed by these arguments, which fail to consider the predicament of an abused child who has to obtain con-

sent from her abuser.

But surely it is far simpler to spell out such circumstances in the Bill than deal with the medical-legal ramifications that could arise from a blanket exemption?



Abe Nkomo

UCT's head of nursing, Prof Rosalie Thompson, warns that necessary medical history may be unwittingly or deliberately withheld by a minor, placing the practitioner at risk of being charged with negligence should the child's well-being be affected as a result.

Another major point of contention is that counselling before and after an abortion is no longer compulsory for adults or minors. The ANC introduced this amendment as it felt women should have the

right to refuse counselling and that a lack of counselling facilities, especially in rural areas, should not be allowed to prevent women from accessing abortion.

From the outset committee chairman, ANC MP Abe Nkomo, undertook to determine the broad consensus of citizens on abortion. For three consecutive days the committee was bombarded with oral evidence from nearly 100 interest groups covering the entire range of the debate. It was obvious that it could not assimilate such a barrage of information, much of it contradictory, and emerge with the consensus view in such a short time — if, indeed, consensus is possible on issues such as abortion and the death penalty.

A referendum would provide the majority view and opinion polls indicate that it would probably be pro-life.

Four days were devoted to internal committee deliberations, which DP MP Mike Ellis describes as "shambolic" as there was no consolidated document reflecting all the amendments.

"It was the first real legislation this committee and department has had to deal with and there was a clear lack of experience in the ANC, the department and the chairman," says Ellis.

The DP considers the Bill "flawed" but is going to vote in favour of it as a block because it furthers the party's pro-choice policy. It is a sad state of affairs when the most vigilant party in parliament knowingly supports poor quality legislation because it is better than none at all.

Camerer says the Bill was "steam-rollered" through the committee. "I have never been in such an inhibited debate. Nkomo obviously had his orders to rush it through. None of the submissions were ever discussed — a lot of people who testified were wasting their time."

Nkomo slams her allegations as "scurrilous and ridiculous." He says submissions to the committee repeatedly stressed the need for improved access and true freedom of choice for women. "That is what the ANC has delivered, in line with its election promise. We apologise to no-one, least of all the party which was prepared to let thousands of women die with no freedom and no hope."

That parliament will pass the Bill on November 5 is inevitable. The ANC is the majority party and all its members, including Catholics and Muslims, are being compelled to support the Bill. The PAC will also vote for the Bill as a block. The NP, Inkatha and the ACDP are allowing a free vote. But even if all these three parties' members join the FF in voting

against the Bill, the outcome in both the National Assembly and Senate will still be overwhelmingly in favour of the legislation.

With these political battle lines drawn from the start, the public participation process was little more than a sop to the pro-lifers who failed to budge the ANC on any key points, but who had their day in court.

The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill swings the pendulum as far from the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 as the gulf between the pro-

choice and pro-life lobbies is wide.

Constitutional challenges — and there will be many — may go some way towards creating an equilibrium as the Constitutional Court will have to strike a balance between competing rights such as the right to life and the right to bodily control.

This much is clear, the abortion debate in SA is far from over. ■



Nkosazana Zuma

## Abortion Bill rebel MP Ferguson to face music

Wyndham Hartley (237)

CAPE TOWN — The only ANC MP to buck party discipline in voting on the abortion Bill on Wednesday, Jennifer Ferguson, could face the wrath of the ANC leadership early next week.

Ferguson, who abstained from voting in direct contradiction of party orders, said yesterday that she was unable to follow the party line and had to follow the dictates of her heart.

ANC chief whip Arnold Stofile said after yesterday's caucus meeting that when the voting printout had shown that Ferguson had broken ranks and abstained the ANC had tried to get hold of her to see if it was a mistake, but she had already left the house.

He said that once they had discussed the matter with Ferguson a report would be submitted to the party leadership, which would be meeting on Monday.

Stofile said there were no rules on what should happen if an MP failed to abide by party discipline. The only guide was the directive which instructed all MPs to vote for the Bill.

He explained that ANC members who were absent from the National Assembly during the vote would be fined in accordance with standing ANC rules.

Stofile said there was also a parliamentary fine for being absent without leave.

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Marches held over abortion Bill

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It will soon be a matter of time before  
a court will have to decide whether or not  
the state's abortion law is constitutional.  
The state's attorney general has  
filed a lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality  
of the law. The state's attorney general  
has also filed a lawsuit to challenge the  
constitutionality of the law. The state's  
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constitutionality of the law.

# Abortion bill needs only Mandela's name

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I am piloting this because I am a Christian, says Zuma

BY PATRICK BULGER  
Cape Town

Abortion-on-request legislation scaled its final legislative hurdle yesterday when the Senate passed the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill

Now President Nelson Mandela must sign the Bill into law for it to become operative and to replace the Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975, which offered abortions in specific instances

The ANC and the Democratic Party voted in favour of the Bill, with the Freedom Front, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the National Party all dissenting.

The vote was carried with 49 votes in favour and 21

against

The debate echoed last week's debate in the National Assembly and was concluded with raucous applause from senators and public alike.

Health Minister Nkosazana

**ANC and  
DP combine  
to carry  
the day**

Zuma, a Catholic Church member who introduced the Bill, said nurses at a hospital in Soweto at the weekend were fulsome in their congratulations and were looking forward to the new provisions as-

sisting the lot of women who, until now have gone for backstreet abortions, often with disastrous consequences.

"I am piloting this Bill precisely because I am a Christian," Zuma said.

She said that if, as claimed, the majority of South Africans opposed abortion, there would be no abortions

"If everyone chooses not to terminate pregnancy, this Bill will be irrelevant. But if there are those who want to terminate, they should not go to the backstreets and endanger their lives"

She was confident women would exercise their choice in a responsible way.

"Today we must show that women in this country are also free," she said.

Star 6/11/96



**WEDNESDAY**  
NOVEMBER 6, 1996 ★

SENATE APPROVAL APPLAUDED

# Abortion bill now ready to become law

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**PRESIDENT** Nelson Mandela will put his signature to the abortion bill "in a few months' time", enacting one of the most controversial laws thus far in the new South Africa.

**T**HE controversial Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill passed its final parliamentary hurdle yesterday when it was adopted in the Senate by 49 votes to 21.

All that remains now for the measure to become law is its enactment by President Nelson Mandela.

According to Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma, the enactment will take place in a few months.

The bill provides for abortion on demand up to 12 weeks of pregnancy, as well as from the 13th to the 20th week and beyond under certain circumstances.

As in the assembly, the bill was opposed by the National Party, the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Freedom Front, while support

came from the African National Congress and the Democratic Party.

Although the NP and IFP gave their members a free vote, no members present of either party voted in favour. Twenty senators were not present for the vote.

Introducing the debate, Zuma said thousands of South African women who had backstreet abortions ended up in hospital ill.

Some spent days in the intensive care unit at great cost to the health department. It was far more important to assist them with a safe termination early in the pregnancy than to try to deal with the consequences of backstreet abortions in an emergency.

The bill allowed women to uphold their religious beliefs, their cultural and moral values and to

exercise their choice accordingly.

"Every woman has a right to exercise her choice, but is not allowed to impose it on others," she said.

To speak out against abortion in the South African context was merciless and cruel to those who labour. "For every woman it is painful to have to consider an abortion. She will not take the decision lightly, knowing that the grief for her unborn child will remain a constant companion."

Only the pro-choice legal framework enabled the individual woman to wrestle with this decision as a matter between her and God, Zuma said.

The debate echoed last week's debate in the National Assembly and was concluded with raucous applause.

Zuma, a member of the Catholic Church, said "I am piloting this bill precisely because I am a Christian" — Political Staff, Sapa

● See Page 10

# Abortion: Open letter to Ferguson

**WAS THE decision by ANC MP**

Jennifer Ferguson to abstain last week from voting on the Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Bill a self-serving act? An ANC colleague, **PREGS GOVENDER**, writes an open letter to the singing MP, asking her to remember those women whose lives the bill aims to change.

*Dear Jennifer*

On October 31, the day after voting on the Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Bill, the Cape Times carried an article on the reasons you gave for abstaining from voting.

After receiving innumerable calls from women, I am writing to convey the thoughts that have been expressed.

You are a woman of power. You have found your voice and it is heard by many people, in many places. There are millions in our country who are not as fortunate.

Prior to voting on this bill, you articulated a pro-choice position. You were voted into Parliament by many who believed that you would protect and defend their right to make their own choices (As you had done in choosing an abortion at 21 years and for which you said in the article "I am at peace with my decision, knowing that I was not yet ready to be a mother").

What is your responsibility as an MP voted into a position of power and privilege in relation to the rights of women who put you there?



JENNIFER FERGUSON

You are quoted as saying that you oppose abortion after 12 weeks. The bill is very clear that abortion after 12 weeks will be allowed only under those specific circumstances outlined, such as rape, danger to the physical or mental health of the woman, and so on.

In fact, after the 20th week it would be only when a doctor — after consultation with another doctor or midwife — believes that the pregnancy "would endanger the woman's life or result in a severe foetus mal-function".

You are quoted as "following the dictates of my heart" whereas others are presented as "toeing the party line".

MPs such as Sister Bernard Ncube voted for this bill because she saw the pain and suffering caused by the lack of access to services under the NP's Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975. Her faith, conviction and compas-



PREGS GOVENDER

sion go beyond herself. It encompasses the need to save the lives of women and young girls who die in their hundreds every year.

Her compassion gives her the courage to face the pain and ostracism that voting for this bill will inevitably bring from the Catholic Church that she has served as a nun for so long and so faithfully. That takes real courage.

You talk of the "voice of the unborn child that is so often silenced". For those of us who have found love, there should be no place in our hearts for a self-righteousness and smugness that pretends that we are the only "big ones" who hear the "little ones".

Contrary to what the pro-life lobbyists would have us believe, the child who is raped, the woman who is battered, the unemployed mother of five whose pill failed because she had flu and was on antibiotics,

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are not irresponsible, uncaring people who callously "murder unborn babies".

The flip side is captured in Zapiro's cartoon (in the Cape Argus) depicting a protest against the bill and two street children in the background saying "Wouldn't it be nice if this lot showed the same concern for us after we're born".

I want to end this letter by recalling some of the words I delivered in the debate, for which you hugged and kissed me in congratulation.

"When I read the words of the Catholic Church this morning, when I hear the dogma of the ACDP and the NP, the words of that great being of compassion and love are a source of comfort. Let the who is without sin cast the first stone."

"This debate is not about the legalisation of abortion. Abortion has been legal in SA for over two decades with the National Party's Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975.

"We did not hear the voice of the Pope or the Catholic Church, we did not see money from conservative, right-wing Americans being poured into campaigning against it, we did not have a woman apologist for the male NP raising her voice in shrill protest.

"Why then and for whom did it legalise it in 1975 and why and for whom does it oppose it now?"

"Was abortion acceptable when 70% of those who had access were urban, middle-class, white women. Was it acceptable when those who died (over 400 every year) for lack of access were African, Indian and coloured women? Was it acceptable that that bill was introduced in the context of no sex education in all schools, no comprehensive

health-care policy or system? The total costs of treating incomplete backstreet abortions arising directly from the NP bill was R18,5 million per year.

"The bill we debate today extends choice and access to all women — rich or poor, African, Indian, coloured or white. It rests on the principle that the lives of all women are valuable, not just some women.

"The right to control our bodies, the right to choose a safe, legal termination of pregnancy should be seen in the context of political, social and economic choices for women — in the context of moving our society towards equality, respect and healthy sharing of power and in responsibility in the home and in society.

"We all know of South Africa's endemic violence against women. The 1992 figures of the SA Police's Child Protection Unit reported over 15 000 cases of child abuse.

"Who are we to say we care about life, that we care about children and human suffering when United Nations figures of 1992 show 84 000 children dying before turning five years old in our country alone?

"Who are we to say we care when over 700 000 coloured and African children between five and 14 years were involved in unprotected child labour in 1991?

"Where were the edicts from those who stand in pulpits now and talk of sin?"

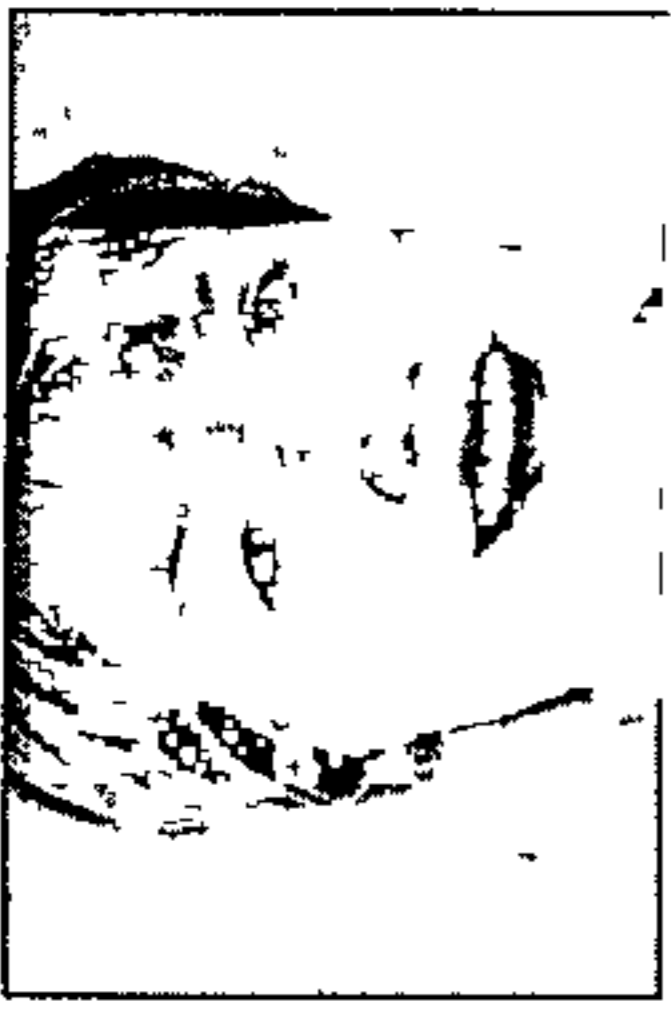
Jennifer, you have great power as a woman, a singer and as an MP. Women look to you to use that power with compassion.

Pregs Govender is the chairperson of the parliamentary ad hoc joint committee on the improvement of quality of life and status of women.



# At last: it's 'arewe' to the jacks

Star 9/11/96 (237)



Illegal abortions have never been difficult to obtain in South Africa. There have only been two criteria: either you had enough money, or you were willing to play Russian roulette with your life

## JACQUI REEVES reports

Last year, one of Gauteng's medium-sized regional hospitals had 1 000 admissions for incomplete abortions, 400 of which had serious complications. Shock or septicemia are just two of the possible complications that sometimes necessitate a full hysterectomy on the woman.

Carol Marshall, Gauteng's chief director of health programmes, says these complications are just what the Termination of Pregnancy Bill aims to avoid.

"We have always had to cope with the results of incomplete terminations. The clinics will make sure that the terminations are performed by correctly trained staff, under the correct conditions," she says.

Marshall makes it clear that Gauteng will not be setting up "abortion clinics" but will offer the termination of pregnancy service as part of the comprehensive primary health care programme.

Although the Gauteng Health Department plans to have the clinics up and running within three to four months, professional and safe abortions have been available in Johannesburg for more than two years.

Clinics operating through word of mouth, disguised pamphlets and radio adverts had been trying to help desperate women, despite the illegality of abortion.

"It was just too frustrating to just sit by and watch these women die or suffer great pain by going for a backstreet abortion. I knew the risks, but decided the chance was worth taking," one unnamed doctor said.

## Gestation

State clinics plan to use two different techniques in the termination of pregnancy. A national health meeting next month will confirm the techniques as well as further details, but the two interim proposals depend largely on the period of gestation.

If the foetus is still under 12 weeks old, medication will be prescribed for a one to two-day period, during which the foetus will be aborted.

The patient will experience what has been described as heavy menstrual flow, which will come to an end once the entire foetus has



waiting room.

The difference is that some of the women who appear to be mindlessly thumbing through an old magazine will have their thoughts occupied by one of the most difficult decisions they may ever have to make.

If, after the counselling and alternatives have been offered, the abortion is still chosen, the procedure is performed and the woman moves to the recovery area, a prettily decorated room with beds and lounge chairs.

"They may stay here for 10 minutes or two hours, it really depends on how the individual feels," Halsted says.

The Marie Stopes concept tries to move away from the strict cold, hospital environment, making the difficult experience as untraumatic as possible.

"Partners, mothers and even friends can come into the procedure room with the patient, if she feels it will help her through the process," Cornilissen says.

An abortion at Marie Stopes will cost R600. It is a non-profit organisation that uses the funds gained from the services it offers to maintain the project and possibly expand its services further into Africa.

Within the next few weeks, branches will be opening in Durban, Soweto and Cape Town, and by the end of 1997 they hope to be in Pretoria, Randburg, Vereeniging, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein.

"We are trying to become established across the country because there are a lot of women who need the help of trained professionals in making a decision about an unexpected pregnancy," Cornilissen says.

A Gauteng-based doctor, who regularly performs abortions, says the relief seen on the faces of the women he treats is indescribable.

## Right track

"Sometimes these women have simply made one of the biggest mistakes of their life by falling pregnant. Sometimes an abortion helps to put these women back on the right track and keeps their lives moving in the right direction. A pregnancy cannot be seen as some type of punishment," she says.

Marshall says the department is aware of possible action by pro-lifers against women choosing abortion, but says the department will not tolerate intimidation.

"Our clients will not be harassed on our premises, but I foresee something of a problem for these pro-lifers in identifying the women. These clinics offer all services, they will not be able to distinguish a woman coming for an abortion from any other client there for one of the other services," she says.

Government representatives have visited the Marie Stopes Clinic in the past few weeks, gathering information on the basic requirements for their clinics.

Halsted says no more than 100sq m is necessary to run the clinic.

"The basic model requires a reception and waiting room, three counselling rooms and two procedure rooms," she says.

The counselling room is used in discussing abortion, family planning or any of the services offered at the institution.

The procedure rooms are used for surgical procedures such as abortions or sterilisations, and are situated alongside the sterile



## You were willing to pay Russian roulette with your life. JACQUI REEVES reports

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The patient will experience what has been described as heavy menstrual flow, which will come to an end once the entire foetus has been expelled.

The second method is known as manual vacuum aspiration.

Anne Halssted, from the Marie Stopes family planning clinic in Johannesburg, says the technique is efficient and effective, when correctly performed.

"Forceps hold the vagina open, enabling the doctor to insert a catheter through the cervix and into the uterus," she says.

"The ipas syringe, to which the catheter is attached, creates a vacuum which then sucks out the product of conception."

The Marie Stopes Clinic was started in the United Kingdom in 1911 and is now found in 30 countries around the world.

The Johannesburg branch, on Jeppe Street, offers family planning, general sexual health education, vasectomies, female steril-

untraumatic as possible.

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The counselling room is used in discussing abortion, family planning or any of the services offered at the institution.

The procedure rooms are used for surgical procedures such as abortions or sterilisations, and are situated alongside the sterile room where all equipment is sterilised for re-use.

Between 50 and 60 people visit the clinic each day, and are recorded in a daily diary of appointments.

No official appointments need to be made at the clinic - patients are just placed on a list which the staff work through.

Intense staff training is given a high priority by both the directors of the Marie Stopes Clinic and government officials setting up the primary health care clinics.

Staff need to be able to advise the patient on the best alternative for that individual, and not to allow personal opinion to influence the client's decision. "We have made pre- and post-counselling part of our protocol, and it is obligatory for anyone wishing to use the state services," Marshall says.



**MORAL DILEMMA:** An aborted human foetus aged between six and seven weeks. With the passing of the abortion bill, safe, professional abortions will be available to all women in South Africa and they will no longer have to resort to dangerous backstreet operations

sation and pap smears, and will offer abortions. The facilities to perform the abortions are in place, and staff have been trained in the correct procedure.

Paul Cornelissen, programme director at the clinic, says only qualified doctors with additional gynaecological training are employed to perform the abortions.

"These doctors have been very specifically trained, they know what to look for and to feel for, so the risks are minimal."

Cornelissen says many women have the false impression that abortion through private clinics are the best and safest way to go.

"In private clinics, the doctors may have to perform perhaps one abortion a month. At the state clinics, the doctors do the abortions on a regular basis, with the experience often giving them a superior skill," he says.

At the Marie Stopes Clinic anaesthesia is not used, with the doctors preferring to use the "vocal local" method over drugs or gas.

and the levels of discomfort.

"We do not tell the woman that it will be painless, because it is uncomfortable. But we will make sure she goes into the situation with all her questions answered," Halssted says.

The procedure takes between one and five minutes to complete.

More than 300 000 South African women have abortions each year. Between 50 000 and 60 000 are performed in Gauteng - the Marie Stopes Clinic plans to cope with a large percentage of that number.

Walking into the clinic, the light pink reception is no different to any other doctor's

### Briefed

Nurses stand with the patient during the procedure, holding her hand talking to her and keeping her calm.

Careful pre-counselling helps to explain the procedure to the woman, who is carefully briefed on the technique, the time it will take,



# Pro-lifers set to subject women to 'pavement counselling'

Nov 9/11/96  
By JACQUI REEVES

(237)

Pregnant women making their way to abortion clinics in South Africa will have to run the gauntlet of "sidewalk counselling" if Claude Newbury, spokesman for the Pro-life organisation, has anything to do with the matter.

"We will use all legal means to oppose the killing of foetuses and will do everything possible to offer these women an alternative to murdering their children," Newbury says

The controversial activist says the Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Bill, passed by the Senate this week, is biased and does not afford people the grounds to protest against abortion on demand.

"The Government is planning to use our taxes to sponsor abortion clinics which, morally, many South Africans cannot agree to

"We have profound moral objections to abortion and want to see our taxes being used to offer alternatives to women "

Newbury says the Government's failure to provide alternatives is like "putting a pressure cooker on the stove, turning up the heat and then sealing the pot"

One of the tactics employed by pro-life supporters is group prayer outside abortion clinics

## Attack at clinic

Protesters kneel, saying they are praying for the souls of the children about to die

Early last year, American pro-lifer Johan Salvi appeared in court on charges relating to an attack at one abortion clinic and the killing of two receptionists at another

This came soon after Paul Hill, another pro-lifer, murdered a doctor who regularly performed abortions

Is Newbury concerned that South African pro-lifers might adopt this fanatical approach?

"It depends what you mean by fanatical Pro-life is generally a very moderate organisation There have been isolated incidents where people claiming to be pro-lifers have acted violently, but that is highly unusual," he says

Five people have died at the hands of anti-abortionists

Newbury says "Forty thousand children have been murdered at these 'abortuaries' Thousands of children are murdered every day by abortion These are the levels of so-called fanaticism we should be worrying about "

Paul Cornelissen, programme director of the Marie Stopes Clinic, says clinic staff are expecting opposition but will not be deterred.

"We are serving a cause and are sure of our reasons We would like to advertise cellular telephone and home phone numbers for women to contact us on, but we will obviously not be able to do this because of possible pro-life harassment However, we will not give up "

Pro-life plans a similar approach

Says Newbury "Don't expect us to disappear into the night because the legislation has been passed We will keep up this battle for the most basic of human rights "

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9/10 1996**

# 'Pro-lifers' may resort to group prayer outside abortion clinics

(237) ARG 9/11/96  
**JACQUI REEVES**  
OWN CORRESPONDENT

**Pretoria - Pregnant women making their way to abortion clinics in South Africa will have to run the gauntlet of "sidewalk counselling" if anti-abortion activist Claude Newbury has anything to say on the matter.**

"We will use all legal means to oppose the killing of foetuses, and will do everything possible to offer these women an alternative to murdering their children," Mr Newbury said.

One of the tactics employed by anti-abortionists in other countries is group prayer outside abortion clinics. Protesters kneel down, saying they pray for the "souls of the children" about to die.

Mr Newbury said South Africa's latest Termination of Pregnancy Bill, which was passed by the Senate this week, is biased and does not afford people the grounds to protest abortion on demand.

"The Government is planning to use our taxes to sponsor abortion clinics, which morally, many South Africans cannot agree to.

"We have profound moral objections to abortion, and want to see our taxes being used to offer alternatives to women," Mr Newbury said.

He added the Government's non-provision of alternatives was like "putting a pressure cooker on the stove, turning up the heat, and then sealing the pot".

Paul Cornelissen, the programme director of the Marie Stopes clinic, said clinic staff were expecting opposition, but would not be deterred.

"We are serving a cause and are sure of our reasons. In the past we have advertised cellular telephone and home telephone numbers for women to contact us on.

"We will obviously not be able to do this because of possible pro-life harassment, but we will not give up," Dr Cornelissen said.

Anti-abortionists plan a similar approach.

"Don't expect us to just disappear into the night because the legislation has been passed," Mr Newbury said.

"We will keep up this battle for the most basic of human rights."



# There are no easy answers in the debate on

**The Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Bill – better known as the Abortion Bill – gives us an opportunity to examine the political process being used to try to resolve one of the most controversial issues known to society.**  
**JEREMY SARKIN reports**

In all countries, abortion is a problem not easily addressed. Part of the reason is that political parties are formed on the basis of core economic ideologies and do not easily accommodate uniform attitudes towards apparently unrelated is-

ssues such as abortion

There have been three reactions to abortion, abstinence, postponement and depoliticisation

Abstinence occurs where the state, groups or individual leaders refuse to take a stand. Postponement is often a delaying tactic. Depoliticisation can occur in a number of ways

Often abortion is redefined as a technical issue enabling politicians to pass responsibility to "experts"

While abortion is an issue of major political importance, it is one that cannot easily be solved within the political process

It is for this reason that, around the world, courts have often been left with the task of dealing with the matter.

Where political debate on the subject occurs, it tends to be divisive and emotional, full of rhetoric and symbolism

The passion with which the debate is waged by supporters of positions perhaps unhappily described as "pro-life" and "pro-choice" adds to the dilemma on how to deal with the issue. Abortion gives rise to major

*The issue has been fought in the political setting as it is central to the emancipation of women*

ideological, religious and moral battles as the issue involves a variety of competing interests: woman-foetus, woman-man, woman-doctor, parent-child, family-community

It is not an issue on which consensus can be reached since there is no solution capable of satisfying both sides of the

to abortion would not have been ensured, and greater support for the bill would have been needed

While it has been argued by some that a free vote should have been allowed on this issue, the real question is whether the list electoral system is the correct one for South Africa, or whether it should be adapted to something that sits between the constituency and list systems

This would remove the problems associated with the list system and deal with some concerns that occur in a constituency-based system with its "first-past-the-post" result

While resolution of the abortion issue has largely been determined by the electoral system, it is far from over, as the Constitutional Court will inevitably be brought in to determine the new law's constitutionality. The court will have to decide whether the law achieves the

debate at the same time

This gulf is reflected in the language deployed in the abortion debate: those who support abortion liberalisation use words such as "foetus", "termination" and "pro-choice", while those opposed to abortion reform use "baby", "murder" and "pro-abortion"

The issue has been fought in the political setting in South Africa as it has become an issue seen to be central to the emancipation of women, while it is an issue of vital significance to certain religious communities

South Africa's changed political context has seen the subject of abortion rapidly become a topic of considerable interest

A key factor underlying the debate relates to the nature and shape of our new democracy

A crucial part of the legislative process is that members of Parliament are elected on the

necessary balance between competing rights

As abortion is an issue that will continue to haunt the legislature and the courts, it might be useful for the process of abstract review to be followed so that Parliament can send the new law to the Constitutional Court for immediate consideration

If the court finds that the law is constitutional, then time and energy will not be expended afterwards trying to fight or defend its provisions

However, if the court determines that the law is unconstitutional, before the bill becomes law, Parliament can address its faults in the light of the guidance given by the court

Professor Jeremy Sarkin is a member of the law faculty of the University of the Western Cape and national chairman of the Human Rights Committee

basis of proportional representation according to a party list

This system tends to reduce debate in Parliament, limits accountability and decreases the overt concern of individual officials with public opinion.

Parliamentarians toe the party line because the party is able to ensure compliance and the individual parliamentarian wants to obtain a place on the party list in the future

The power of the party – or rather, its leaders – to ensure that the party line is being followed increases unless there is an overt attempt by a number of its members to remain independent

The workings of the list system have been a crucial part of the process surrounding the abortion issue in Parliament and in particular on the question as to whether the ANC would allow members to vote as they

believed on the issue a conscience vote

Within the current electoral and parliamentary system, the ANC caucus decision not to permit a free vote was the appropriate one

*The real question is whether the electoral list system is the right one or whether it should be adapted*

That ruling will determine the type and extent of the law that will eventually be enacted

If the ANC had permitted a free vote, the need for compromise and greater debate on the issue would have arisen.

Furthermore, had a free vote been permitted, the passing of a law that permitted broad access

termination

96/11/16

Abortion requests  
overwhelm clinics

(237)

Hospitals and clinics in  
Tembisa and Kempton  
Park have been  
overwhelmed by  
demands and requests for  
abortions since the  
Constitutional Assembly  
and Parliament approved  
the Choice of Termination  
of Pregnancy Bill two  
weeks ago. - City Desk

*etaw 11/21/96*

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# Baragwanath awaits ET 14/11/96 (237) abortion go-ahead

JOHANNESBURG Reports that Baragwanath Hospital near Johannesburg was performing abortions on request were denied by hospital superintendent Bokkie Rabinowitz yesterday.

"Although we are going to have to perform abortions under the new legislation at some stage, there are still too many issues surrounding the operation which have not been discussed by the health department," he said.

Rabinowitz was referring to uncertainty over how the operations would be carried out, either by suction or through the use of drugs.

He added it was still illegal to perform abortions on request as the legislation had yet to be signed into law by President Nelson Mandela.

He doubted, however, that medical institutions providing such treatment

would be prosecuted as the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill was due to be signed any day now.

Johannesburg Hospital social work department head Beverly Kriel said abortions were being performed in terms of the old Act. These cases included women suffering psychological trauma, or where the life of a woman or that of the unborn child is threatened during birth.

She added the gynaecological unit could barely cope, and expressed concern that the scale at which hospitals would be expected to perform the procedure would exacerbate the problem.

She said a workshop to train doctors, organised under the auspices of the Women's Health Project, would be held at Baragwanath Hospital at the end of the month to discuss some of the questions surrounding the operation. — Sapa

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## Pro-lifers take stand on blood

(237)

PIETERSBURG· Blood banks in the Northern Province fear stocks might dry up because Pietersburg Christians are refusing to donate blood, for fear it might be given to women who have abortions.

A movement to establish a non-racial private blood bank is also gaining momentum.

Anti-abortionists said the purpose of the private bank was a step towards ensuring that women requesting abortions are not supplied with their blood.

Provincial blood transfusion service director Mr Andre Fouche, himself a Christian, said that to deny any patient blood was "immoral, inhuman and unethical".

Anti-abortionists said they expected a backlash from pro-choice groups, but felt they could choose how their blood was used.

Pietersburg NG church pastor Dominee Dame de Kock said that if their blood was used in such cases Christians would feel their conscientious objection to abortion had been violated.

African Christian Democratic Party provincial chairman Mr Neels Roelofse said the issue needed a careful approach as Christians did not have the right to deny a fellow human being the right to life — Sapa

ST 14/11/96

# ANC to act over abortion vote

15  
MfG 15-21/11/96

The Catholic Church is not taking action against those who voted pro-abortion, but Jennifer Ferguson could face expulsion for failing to toe the party line, reports **Gaye Davis**

**T**HE Catholic Church will not be taking action against members of the faith who, as African National Congress MPs, voted in favour of the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill. But MP Jennifer Ferguson, who, while not a Catholic, abstained from voting on the Bill, could face expulsion from the ANC and the loss of her seat for breaching party discipline.

ANC whip Geoff Doidge said Ferguson's action would be considered by the ANC's National Executive Committee. She might escape with a reprimand but could face expulsion, he said. "In other Parliaments the chief whip would simply suspend an MP who did this, without even consulting the party leadership."

Doidge himself is a Catholic. He said this week: "I've been taught that abortion is wrong. But I am not a Catholic nun, did not vote for the Bill."

But the Catholic Church will not be communicating any MPs, notwithstanding a carefully worded statement issued by Archbishop Wilfrid Napier on the eve of the vote. Napier said that under canon law, "all Catholics involved in a deliberate and successful attempt to bring about an abortion are automatically excommunicated" for a crime against human life.

Her compassion gives her the courage to face the pain and ostracism that voting for this Bill will inevitably bring from the Catholic Church that she has served as a nun for so long and so faithfully. That takes real courage,"

"What is your responsibility as an MP voted into a position of power and privilege in relation to the rights of women who put you there?"

"You were voted into Parliament by many who believed you would protect and defend their own choices (as you had done in choosing an abortion at 21 years )

Her statements prompted a rebuke from fellow ANC MP Pregs Gonder in an open letter published in *The Cape Times*. "You are a woman of power," Gonder wrote. "You have found your voice and it is heard by many people ... there are millions in this country who are not as fortunate as you are."

"Those who voted for the Bill will not incur excommunication," Father Ernil Blaser, associate secretary general of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, said this week.



**'I was unable to vote without conscience. I abstained' - Jennifer Ferguson**

"I was searching for the third way, the one that could compassionately embrace both mother and child. I know many of my colleagues were in a similar dilemma. A neighbourly comrade held my hand and said, 'Press the yes-button, my darling, then go home and pray to God.'"

"I was unable to vote without conscience. I abstained."



# Abortion issue is one of peace

**VIEWING ABORTION** simply as an issue of women's liberation lays the basis for a cycle of oppression which neglects the silent voice of the unborn child, submits ANC MP **JENNIFER FERGUSON**. Here she responds to a recent open letter to her from ANC colleague Pregs Govender.

DEAR PREGS,  
Thank you for your open letter to me (Cape Times, Leader Page, November 6). I was moved by its power.

This is a response that will clarify my decision to abstain in the vote on the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Bill.

We have both come from the time of struggle where our common dream was to realise the liberation of all in this country, especially the women. We have worked in different ways, but always aspiring to give voice to the voiceless, power to the disempowered, human dignity for all.

Now we as women sit in the national Parliament, exercising our power, having been given voice by those who voted us in. It is the time of a new struggle but, true to tradition, our mandate, is still to give voice to the voiceless.

The bill has been given to the women of SA as a step towards our empowerment. If however, we see abortion only as an issue of women's liberation, we have planted a seed of another cycle of oppression — one which neglects to hear that most silent voice of all, the voice of the unborn child.

In your letter you list the circumstances

under which pregnancy may be terminated, from the 13th up to and including the 20th week. I quote "The bill is very clear that abortion after 12 weeks will be allowed only under those specific circumstances outlined such as rape, danger to the physical or mental health of the women and so on."

If we look at what's hidden behind "and so on" there's more to it. We find in clause 2(1)(b)(iv), one of the main reasons I abstained from voting "A pregnancy may be terminated if the continued pregnancy would significantly affect the social or economic circumstances of the woman."

Every child affects the social and economic circumstances of a woman significantly. At 20 weeks, premature babies have been known to survive.

When does life begin? When is life given value? Who is to decide? The mother, the doctor, the father, the foetus, the MP?

When you list our litany of social ills in the abortion context — the street child, the malnourished, the abused child — would it have been a better solution had they been aborted? Is not the face of the suffering child a cry to humanity for compassion? If our compassion truly encompassed the unborn child, surely the life of the street child would also be affected?

If we see the foetus as the "other", the obstacle, objected as it is in the terminology

CT 18/11/96

(237)

of the bill, where the unborn child is defined as "the contents of the uterus of a pregnant woman", we are indeed dehumanising ourselves.

In India, where abortion has been legalised for some time now, there is statistical evidence of a severe shortage of women in the future. Why? The majority of the abortions are girl-foetuses, exposed on the screen of the ultra-sound scan. Is this liberation for women? Is this what we are fighting for?

My problem with the pro-choice position as it stands is that it is not radical enough.

*We need a way of seeing! We need to understand with empathy that abortion is a symptom not a solution. We need debate, education, awareness.*

We've fallen into the old trap of dualistic perception that positions the right of the mother against the right of "the other" — the child. Our bodies, their lives.

On the pro-life side on the other hand, there is a financial and media core that consists of American conservatives trying to buy up the issue to suit their agenda. The banners of these pro-life protesters also proclaim pro-gun, pro-bomb, pro-death penalty. Need I distance myself from them?

We need a new way of seeing! We need to understand with empathy that abortion is a symptom not a solution. We need debate, education, awareness.

Are we as a nation ready to take on the moral challenges that arise out of the bill's implementation?

As an MP I felt unable to reduce the complexity of the issue into a mere choice of two buttons. Surely there is more to it?

I was searching for the third way, the one that could compassionately embrace both mother and child. I know many of my colleagues were in a similar dilemma.

When time came for voting, a neighbourly comrade held my hand and said "Press the yes-button, my darling, then go home and pray to God."

It wasn't an easy decision. We had been instructed that the vote was to be one of no conscience. I didn't know how I would be able to vote without conscience.

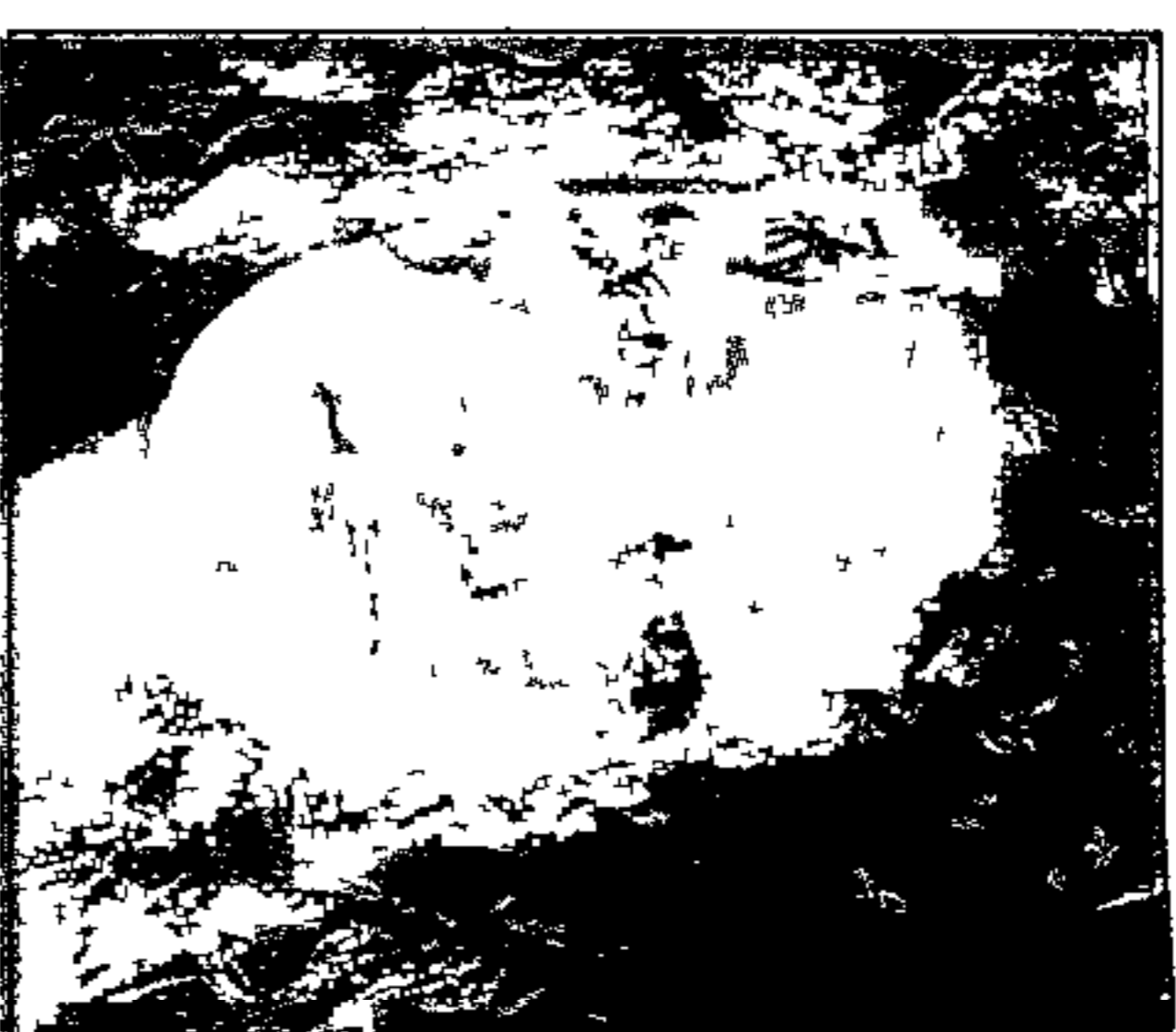
The option of leaving the chamber and going for tea as many of our colleagues did, made little sense to me. I stayed. I abstained. Pregs, you quoted in your letter "the words of that great being of compassion and love, 'Let he who is without sin cast the first stone'."

The simple and powerful beauty of his words does not end there. There is more to it. Having said this to the teachers of the law, he turned to the accused woman with the words "I don't condemn you either. Go now and sin no more."

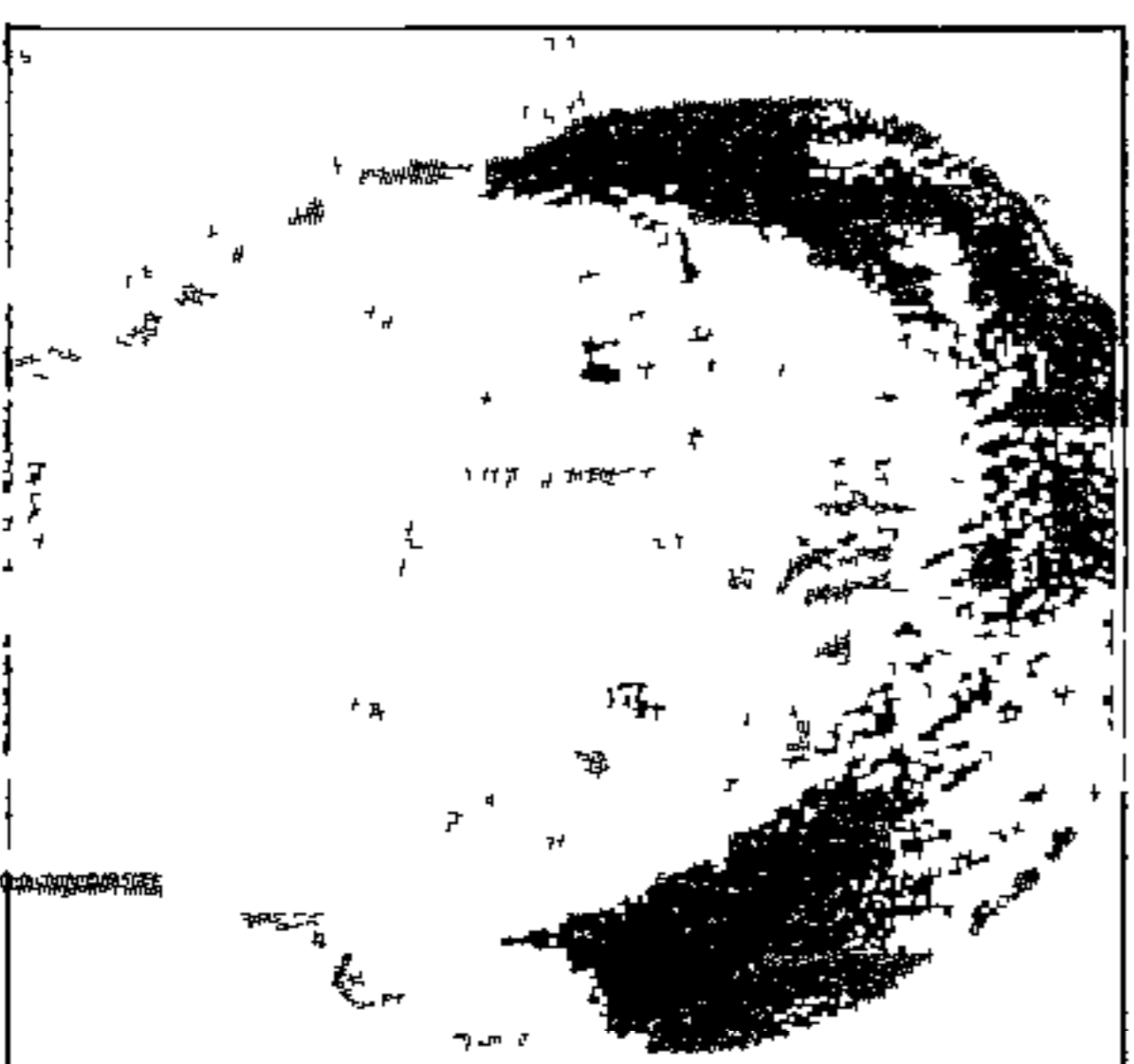
Of course we have a choice. Life is choice. In its deepest sense the abortion issue is a peace issue, maybe the most important one for this country and the world today.

Abortion is a rejection of the innermost, but if we reject the rejectors we reject ourselves.

In order to attain peace in it we must embrace the rejected, true to that being of compassion and love, himself an illegitimate child, significantly affecting the social and economic situation of his mother.



**JENNIFER FERGUSON** Sees the abortion bill as destroying a child's right to life



**PREGS GOVENDER** Supports the abortion bill as a move for women's rights.



## Hillary speaks out on child prostitutes

Chiang Mai, Thailand - US First Lady Hillary Clinton has called for continued efforts to end the trafficking of girls for sex, and Thai women said they hoped her high profile would help to raise awareness of the problem.

Mrs Clinton was on the last day of a two-day visit to two northern Thai cities where she has visited several projects aimed at improving education and preventing girls from being lured into prostitution.

Mee Chay, a 20-year-old AIDS patient, arrived in a wheelchair to see Mrs Clinton during her visit to one of the women's projects and asked her through a translator to help prevent other young girls from suffering her fate.

Mee Chay was an orphan from one of the hilltribe ethnic groups and was sold to a brothel at the age of five, where she was raised to look after prostitutes' children and forced to offer sex services.

Mrs Clinton has focused on women's and children's issues during her visit to a region that is one of the country's biggest markets for prostitution procurement.

"We are all troubled around the world by the rise of international gangs that traffic young girls for sex throughout Asia and the world," Mrs Clinton said in a speech at Chiang Mai University on Monday -  
 Reuter.



Greetings: Hillary Clinton meets AIDS patient Mee Chay, a 20-year-old former child prostitute

# Survey uncovers some strange beliefs about sex

## Study to form basis of contraception project

JENNY VIALI  
 HEALTH REPORTER

(237) ART 28/11/96

A woman holding her breath during sex could result in the couple getting a sexually transmitted disease.

Sound strange?

Well, that is the belief of 65 percent of women and 63 percent of men who responded to a baseline contraception survey in the informal housing areas of Khayelitsha.

While almost all the respondents agreed an STD "germ" was responsible for transmission, other obscure causes cited included not washing after sex (almost half the respondents) and being bewitched (a quarter of respondents).

Luckily, men and women from the area were overwhelmingly in favour of using contraceptives - 66 percent of those surveyed said they used contraception.

The area surveyed is the venue for a pilot programme to distribute condoms to communities, according to the Medical Research Council's Urbanisation and Health Newsletter.

The programme started in March this year and involves the three health NGOs - South African Christian Leadership Action, Zibonele, a joint undertaking by the University of Cape Town's Community Health Department and Shawco, and the Planned Parenthood Association in the Western Cape.

Specially-trained researchers randomly selected one woman and one man from target age groups in each household. The baseline study did not determine whether use of contraceptives was effective.

Only 53 percent of women younger than 20 said they used contraceptives, a vital target group for prevention of unwanted pregnancies and STDs since only 10 per-

cent reported they were not sexually active and none wanted to fall pregnant.

Forty-nine percent of women respondents reported first being pregnant as a teenager. All women and 90 percent of men canvassed felt that women should use contraception.

While more than one third of men and women recognised the importance of condoms for STD, Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) and pregnancy prevention, reported condom use was very low.

Sixteen percent of men and 11 percent of women had either used or currently used condoms.

But three-quarters of men and women said they were willing to use a condom and thought their partner would be willing to do so, or were undecided. The findings of the survey will be used in the implementation of the community-based distribution of contraceptives programme.



WRANGLE OVER PROMISED MONEY

CT 13/12/96

(238)

# Nanny sues father of colour-line child

A LOVE AFFAIR between a white businessman and a coloured domestic worker who bore him a child was the focus of a court battle this week. JACKIE CAMERON reports.

SPRINGBOK businessman, his domestic worker and their love child are at the centre of a court wrangle over money promised to an elderly woman who took care of the boy away from the condemning eyes of a conservative white community.

Mrs Elizabeth Platfies, 83, is to be paid R65 000 for a house, R15 750 in pension arrears and R450 per month for the rest of her life after she won a civil claim against Springbok businessman Mr George Swanson this week.

The complexities of love across the colour line in a town divided by racism unfolded in the Cape Supreme Court when Platfies decided to fight the family for money she was promised years ago in exchange for raising the boy as her own.

The court heard that the drama began when Swanson fathered an illegitimate son by his domestic worker, who is a "coloured woman", in the late 1970s. "The mother was unfortunately

not a fit person to care properly for the boy and in view of the then prevailing laws relating to sex across the colour line, the situation was one which had to be handled discreetly," the acting judge Mr Justice W Burger said, in a written judgment.

It was largely through the efforts of Swanson's mother that an "arrangement" was struck in which Platfies "became, in effect, a surrogate mother for the boy".

"She and the boy moved to a flat in Clarendon and the boy, in due course, attended sea diving schools in the Peninsula. Platfies, who is in relation to the boy, looked after the boy for 12 years until a fall-out with Swanson over money she had requested to assist with her travel arrangements for a holiday.

The boy's mother, meanwhile, continued to work for the Swansons at their Springbok home and occasionally came to Cape Town with Swanson to visit her son. Swanson never married and

continued to remain "very good friends" with the mother, who was married and had several children. This was said yesterday by Platfies at the humble Parkwood Estate flat where she is staying with a friend.

"I was already 60 years old when I started working for the Swansons. They had a café in Wynberg and I worked there at night. My family lived in Springbok, and when I got a lift with the Swansons to the town one year, the old lady asked me to work for her," Platfies said.

"This father always bought me things for the boy's mother, like beautiful necklaces when he came back from overseas trips. Platfies said she grew "tired" of working hard with no gesture of appreciation, and finally decided to throw in the towel after a disagreement over R2000 she needed for a journey to get to Johannesburg where she wanted to visit a friend.

"I said that I'd had enough. I was so broken, I had worked hard and might Mr Swanson did not even wish me a happy holiday. He wrote a cheque and told his aunt to check that I was really going to Johannesburg before handing the money over. It meant that he did not believe me."

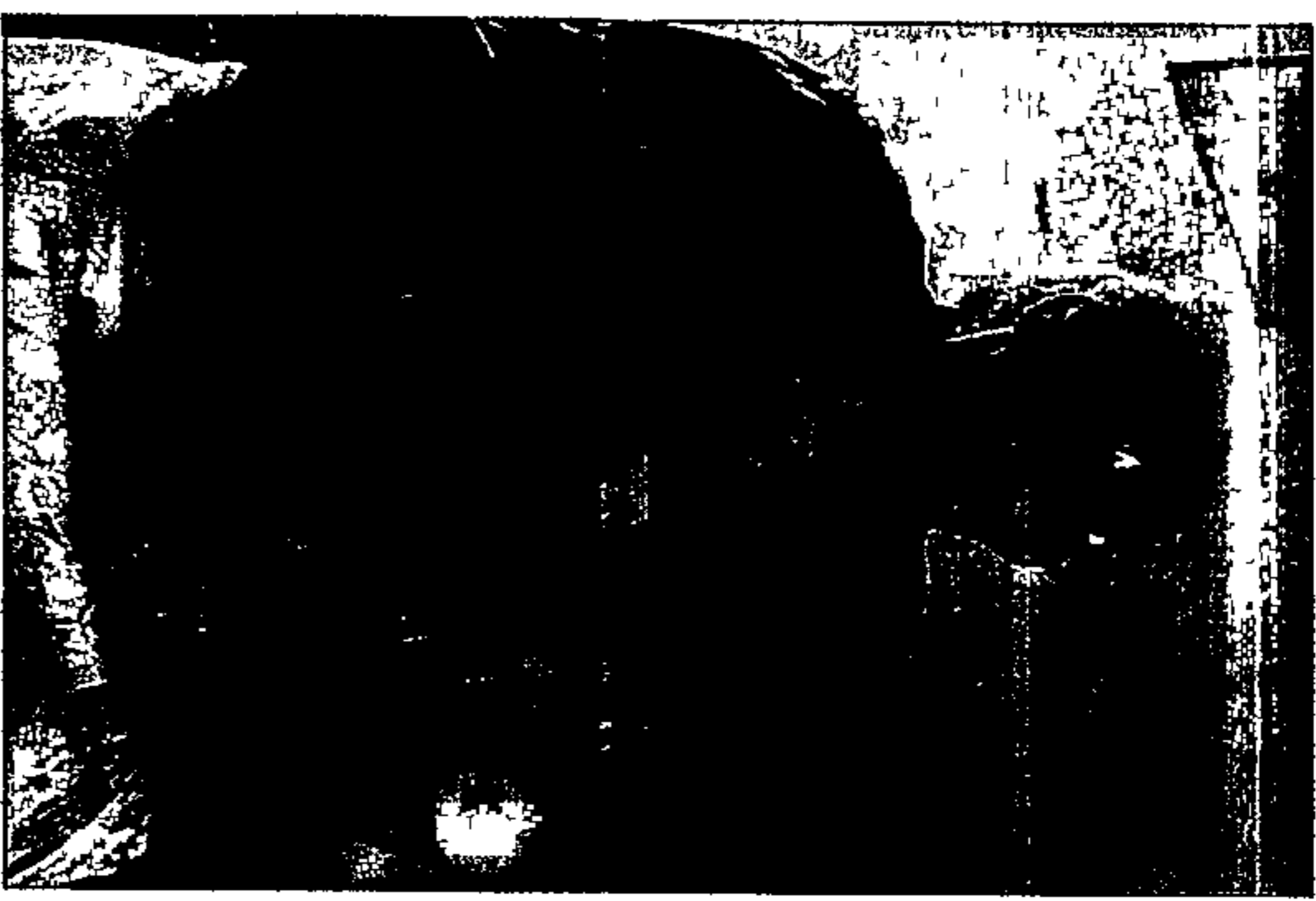
Platfies still sees the boy, now in his late teens, but his father does not allow him to visit her at the Parkwood Estate home. Platfies said she had been approached by the family to drop her legal action, but had decided to press on because she no longer trusted their "words".

In the judgment, which was delivered yesterday, Mr Justice Burger said, Platfies had admirably performed her duties in looking after the boy.

Platfies relied on an oral agreement with Swanson and his mother who had promised her a pension and a dwelling. Swanson denied the existence of the agreement, but the judge said "She made a very good impression on me as a truthful, respectable and reliable person. I have no doubt that she gave an honest and unvarnished account."

He said Swanson had not testified and had failed to give a reason why he could not give evidence. The court was left with no doubt that Swanson had "made serious promises" to look after Platfies following her retirement. Platfies said she felt "happy" about the judgment and "grateful and pite to me, and gave me the strength to talk in court."

"I had a hard time. I wonder when I'll get the money," she said. Swanson was not available for comment yesterday, and a worker at his Springbok home said he was in Namibia. Platfies was represented by Mr Jan van Gend, of Coulters, Van Gend & Kotze after being referred to them by Black Sash Legal Aid assisted with the costs.



DISCARDED MOTHER-FIGURE. Mrs Elizabeth Platfies raised the love child of a wealthy Springbok businessman and his domestic worker in Cape Town. PICTURE: GARRY STEAD