

BOTH SIDES PRESS ABORTION VIEWS

Demonstrations Are Held by
Opponents and Supporters
Here and in the Capital

By NANCY HICKS

The first anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand was marked yesterday by demonstrations for both sides of the dispute.

In Washington, more than 6,000 representatives of anti-abortion groups converged on the Capitol, spending the morning trying to talk to Congressmen and the afternoon rallying on the steps of the building seeking support for a constitutional amendment to overturn the Court's ruling.

A proabortion church service held in the capital was attended by about 200 people.

In New York, the National Organization for Women and a group called Catholics for a Free Choice staged separate demonstrations, the former at the East 45th Street office of Senator James L. Buckley, the New York Conservative Republican who has sponsored the constitutional amendment.

Speech by Buckley

At the time of the demonstration, Senator Buckley was in Washington, speaking at the antiabortion rally sponsored by the National March for Life Committee, a Washington-based organization made up of many Right to Life groups.

The demonstration, which drew people by the busload from all over the Northeast, had been planned since November, according to its chairman, Nellie J. Gray, a Washington lawyer. Many demonstrators said they had been designated as representatives of local Roman Catholic parishes or schools.

The New York demonstrations included the "crowning" of a woman "Pope" on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral by Catholics for a Free Choice. The NOW demonstration included a street march in which some women were chained to symbolize what they called Senator Buckley's attempts to enslave women by unwanted childbirth.

In Albany, a 45-year-old salesman, Joseph O'Leary, was arrested and charged with harassment after he allegedly ran up the steps of the State Capitol and tore up a placard in support of legal abortion held by two young women. The incident interrupted a rally of 400 persons in support of a constitutional amendment negating the Supreme Court decision.

Signatures Sought

The antiabortionists, led by the Catholic Church, contend that abortion is murder. Cardinal Cooke, the Archbishop of New York, said in a speech yesterday that he felt legalizing abortion was leading to a more favorable climate for mercy killing, which he also opposes.

The proabortion forces say that denying safe, legal abortions results in increased maternal deaths and child battering.

The purpose of the Washington demonstration against abortion, its organizers said, was to get Representatives to sign a petition of discharge, which would move a House version of the Buckley amendment out of the Judiciary Committee without a vote of the committee membership. The signatures of 218 Representatives, a majority of the House, are needed to effect such an action.

The proabortionists were demonstrating to keep their point of view before the public. Complacency by abortion advocates was blamed for the passage of a 1972 bill that would have repealed New York's liberal law if Nelson A. Rockefeller, then the Governor, had not refused to sign it.

Resistance to Decision

"The Right to Life people have not accepted the Supreme Court decision and continue to press to resist it, subvert it and to turn it back," a spokesman for Planned Parenthood of New York City, Inc., said yesterday.

"We felt that abortion as a right had been established fairly by the Supreme Court as the last word," she said. "We felt the job of the pro-abortion people was to go ahead and get services and make them available so that the option was not just words but tangible services for people who wanted to use them."

"Unfortunately, we have not been able to keep that as our goal."

Dr. Alan F. Guttmacher, president of Planned Parenthood of America, said of the demonstration in Washington:

"Today's demonstration against the Supreme Court abortion decision is an attempt to make a public issue out of what the Court has determined in its historic ruling to be a private matter."

"The quiet, unfolding history of legal abortion has been one of declining maternal death rates, declining hospital admissions for botched-up abortions, declining out-of-wedlock births," he said.

When the Supreme Court issued its decision, only New York, Alaska, Hawaii and Washington had laws that met the Court's standards. Since then, services have become more available around the country, but in an uneven pattern, a check of 12 cities by The New York Times showed.