

Minority report and recommendations of the Governor's Commission appointed to review the State's abortion law

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

Our minority statement is concerned only with the expanded grounds for legalized abortion proposed by the majority of our Committee. We have not separately stated our position on the proposed procedures.

We agree with the majority that a legal abortion should continue to be available if necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman.

Senator McManus and Professor Byrn oppose legalized abortion in the case of rape in the first degree; in view of the procedural safeguards in the proposal, and based on his opinion that such a proposal is consistent with the best interests of the people of the State of New York, Dr. Harrison does not oppose it. All three of us recognize that this ground for abortion is essentially different from the remainder of the majority's proposals, and presents special and difficult problems.

We dissent from all those of the remainder of the majority's proposals which suggest additional grounds for legalized abortion.

We have stated extensively the reasons for our dissent because we believe that as members of a Study Committee, it was our obligation first, to explore carefully and thoughtfully all the ramifications of the problem so that the best interests of the people of the State of New York might be served, and second, to expound in detail the results of our deliberations.

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