

abortion protest. After this information, a recorded message from Scheidler comes on the line discussing group activities.

Advocates for Life recently applied for a court order seeking closure of the PWFHC until it obtains a state license as a health-care facility. A petition was filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court asking for an order requiring state health officials to impose the state license.

Since the court order, the Oregon State Health Division has done a site visit and has determined that the clinic does not need to be licensed.

"There are two different categories of licensing that we might fit under: one is a pregnancy termination hospital and the other is an ambulatory surgical facility. An ASF is a facility that is not connected with a hospital and does proce-

dures that are not customarily performed in a doctor's office. The Oregon State Health Division has determined that we are not a pregnancy termination hospital because we do not require an overnight stay, we don't use general anesthesia, and abortions are not the only procedures performed here. We also do "Well-Women" health care, which includes pregnancy screening, birth control and pap smears. The OSHD also determined that we are not an ambulatory surgical facility because we do procedures that are frequently performed in a doctor's office," explains Hanzo.

State law requires that a health-care facility obtain a state license if it performs outpatient surgery not routinely or customarily performed in a physician's or dentist's office.

Beneath the controversy surrounding the

issue of abortion lies an interesting history. Formulas for abortion in ancient Chinese medical texts date back almost 5,000 years. There are also references to abortion throughout ancient Greek and Roman literature — in the writings of the physician Soranos of Ephesus, for instance — and among Islamic medical writings of the Middle Ages. Methods not only included herbal remedies, but also abdominal massage, hot baths, and jumping or other violent motions.

Throughout the period before the Civil War, abortion was freely advertised in newspapers in America, especially in larger cities. The government was not particularly concerned about the practice. In 1803, America had no legislation on the subject of abortion. Between 1821

and 1841 a few state legislatures passed statutes. The early statutes were not designed to make abortion a crime; they were aimed at unsafe practices, poisonous remedies and criminally incompetent practitioners.

After 1841 the laws began to get broader and more restrictive, designed to go beyond the regulation of medical practice and to change the older attitudes toward abortion. After 1880 abortion was illegal everywhere. All states except Kentucky had criminalized it by statute and had imposed penalties of fines and imprisonment for the abortionist and, in some states, for the woman as well. This legislation, with only a few changes, governed abortion until the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* was issued on Jan. 22, 1973.

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