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# THE WORKING WOMAN

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December, 1935

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Volume 6  
Number 11



you to know that the cost of keeping a young child fed, clothed and cared for at a decent standard of health, recreation and education, is \$7.50 a week or a little more. Most pay envelopes and relief allowances do not provide for even this modest standard for child life.

Often you feel tired, discouraged, too worn out with work and worry to be a companion to your husband and children. Your husband, too, is anxious and unhappy. Sometimes you wish that you could put off having another child until you are able to take care of it properly, until your family is on its feet again.

You can put off having another baby. By using good, scientific methods of birth control, with no harm to yourself or to your husband, you can have your children when you want them. It is fairer to children, too, not to have them too close together. You know from what you have seen yourself how often young babies die when they are born into homes where there is not enough food or clothing for the children already there, and and where the mother has not time or money to take the right kind of care of herself.

### Not an Operation

Birth control is not an operation. Birth control is not the same thing as abortion. Birth control means preventing the conception of a baby at one time so that it may be allowed to come into life at another time when you and your husband want it. The use of birth control methods needs a little common sense, but it is quite simple, and can be learned by anyone who is willing to be careful and patient.

The use of scientific birth control is moral when it has as its result the spacing of children in a home, so that the health of the mother is made better and the health and happiness of the home increased. The truly religious woman is right and moral in saying:

"I want to have as many children as we can keep alive and take care of, but no more than we can care for."

Another? (Courtesy of the American Birth Control League) By William Gropper

## To Mothers

By Margaret I. Lamont

**Y**OU are willing to have children when you can take care of them. You are eager to do the best you can for the children you already have. But if you and your husband are earning low wages, or if you are on slim relief allowances, then you are always

worried about where healthy, nourishing food will come from; often you worry about whether you will have a roof over your heads next month; sometimes you have trouble getting shoes or warm winter coats for your family. It may or may not surprise

A MAGAZINE FOR WORKING WOMEN, FARM WOMEN AND WORKING CLASS HOUSEWIVES

The Catholic Church says that birth control is against the laws of nature. Yet this church has approved a method of birth control called the "safe period," or "rhythm." This method is not always reliable, and its use needs closer supervision by a physician than some of the simpler methods. Therefore it is hard to see how Catholics can continue always to object to the use of scientific methods. In any case, the attitude of one church should not be forced on people who do not belong to that church.

Remember that birth control does not *compel* any women to stop having children. It allows her to have them *when* and *as* she wishes. You use birth control methods of your own free will. You must be sure to use the best and safest methods. You should go to a good doctor, to a hospital, or to a birth control clinic for advice. For information inquire at Margaret Sanger's Motherhood Advice Bureau, 17 West 16th Street, New York City. In places where there are no clinics to give safe information cheaply or free, women who want to know about birth control should insist that city, county, or state public health authorities give them the information. Women have a right to this information.

Women and their husbands also have a right to work, to better living conditions and wages so they can take care of their families. But now, with part-time jobs, or no jobs, with low wages or relief, many families are in a tight place. The mothers in these families need a rest from child-bearing that comes too often, so that they will have strength to bring up the children they already have, and so that they can work for and help their men work for better living conditions and a better chance in life in the future for all who are now wretched and without hope.

*Published and distributed by the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, Inc., Margaret Sanger, President, 1343 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.*

*Write for additional copies of this leaflet and for other printed material about the birth control movement. It will be sent to you free of charge by writing to the address given here.*

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# A Bill

## H. R. 5600

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That sections 211, 245, and 312 of the CRIMINAL CODE, as amended, are each amended by adding at the end thereof the following:*

"The provisions of this section shall not be construed to apply to any book or information relating to the prevention of conception, or article, appliance, substance, drug, medicine, or thing designed, adapted, or intended solely for the prevention of conception (1) for use by any physician legally licensed to practice medicine in any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, or by his direction or prescription; (2) for use by any druggist in filling any prescription of a licensed physician; (3) for use by any medical college legally chartered under the laws of any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia; or (4) for use by any hospital or clinic or governmental agency chartered under the laws of the United States, or licensed under the laws of any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia."

*This Bill has been introduced into the Senate also where it is known as S. 600. Copies of H.R. 5600 will be sent free on request. Address the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, Inc., 1343 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.*

## The Fight Starts For Legal, Free Clinics

"**W**HAT do you women talk about when you get together?" husbands will say. Many of us have laughed with them at this. But it is true that when women are so desperate for knowledge and help that their natural shyness is lost, they may indeed talk to one another occasionally, in an effort to find out how to prevent incessant child-bearing.

Right here in New York City where birth control clinics are legal, a young girl about to marry, was heard saying that she thought the best method of not having too many children was not to have relations with her husband except for the purpose of having children. She was quite right in fearing abortions but knew absolutely nothing about birth control.

There are advertisements in magazines and papers for expensive medicines which *hint* that they prevent conception or bring on menstruation. These are either utterly useless or definitely dangerous to life itself.

The information and supplies necessary to the health and well-being of women and their families must be made legally available to all and must be given free by the Public Health Authorities.

The WORKING WOMAN lends its full support to the movement started by Margaret Sanger for legal birth control clinics throughout the United States. We support the Bill H.R. 5600.

It is not generally known, that even now, there are 230 such clinics legally operated in different states.

"How strange!" you will say. It is, indeed strange. The Federal (or National) Laws do not agree with the State Laws, and the birth control organizations are forbidden to tell you by mail, that there may be a legal clinic operating within walking distance of your home, where the charge is low for workers and the information may be had free for those on relief. In fact, in New York, if you open the telephone book to the right place by chance, you will see their name and number, legally listed.

The Bill, H.R. 5600 will adjust the Federal Laws so that they will agree with State Laws. The WORKING WOMAN and other publications which go through the mails, may not tell you where to go nor what to do, because the Federal authorities would ban our magazine from the mails and take away our right to mail in the future. Yet, in the following states it is already legal to give birth control information:

Alabama	Oklahoma
Arkansas	Oregon
Delaware	Rhode Island
Florida	South Carolina
Georgia	South Dakota
Illinois	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas
Maryland	Utah
New Hampshire	Vermont
New Mexico	Virginia
North Carolina	West Virginia
North Dakota	Wisconsin

It is necessary to stress that birth control does not mean abortions (operations). It means simple methods of preventing conception. Women who write to the American Birth Control League, 515 Madison Avenue, New York City, will be sent free literature about their work.

We must remember that winning the legal right to send and receive birth control information will not mean the end of unemployment, low wages and poverty and will not prevent war. It will be of great help, though, to women who work and wives of workers.

Women and men should work together to fight the coming of fascism which brings war in its train.

#### Support H.R. 5600

Women's Trade Union Auxiliaries in particular, should start a movement to get city, county and state governments to open free birth control clinics. This is the next move, particularly in those states where the legal right to such clinics has been won, but where it is left to birth control organizations to get inadequate, private donations for their public work. Birth control clinics should be part of the health programs of local governments, but workers and small business people and home owners should not be taxed for the purpose.

Millions of factory and white-collar workers and workers' wives, may not now be told publicly what concerns them so deeply, on account of Federal Postal Laws passed in 1873, which class birth control with obscenity.

Doctors who may legally give advice in their states, have to "bootleg" their contraceptive supplies and information for their patients. It is this ridiculous situation that H.R. 5600 would amend, says Margaret Sanger.

Only poor women are suffering. Any woman with the funds to pay a doctor may have correct, scientific information.

Over 15,000 women die in the United States each year from having operations performed by quacks and mid-

wives who are not competent. Many, many others are left with internal disorders from unscientific work, which may indeed prevent them from ever having children again and may turn them into helpless invalids at an early age, when all life is before them.

All women's organizations must be reached with this message. Trade unions, mass organizations, social, and other clubs. Women must bring pressure to bear on their local Congressional representatives to support and vote for H.R. 5600.

Conferences must then be arranged to take up this subject exclusively and then lend their weight to press for enactment of H.R. 5600. It is so vitally important a measure that the response to your activity will be large.

#### NOTICE TO OUR READERS

The Editorial Committee has decided to improve the WORKING WOMAN vitally in the next few months. In order to conserve our forces for the change a four-page folder will be sent to subscribers only, for a short period.

Plans include a larger size, more stories, more pictures and a new title for the magazine that will have a more popular appeal.

Readers are cordially invited to send in suggestions on all these points. Ask your friends what they think, too.

Funds are needed to effect a change. Donations are called for.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF MARCH 3, 1933. OF THE WORKING WOMAN, published by The Working Woman Publishing Co. at New York, N. Y., for October, 1935. State of New York, N. Y. County of New York, N. Y., ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Bessie Bird, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Business Manager of the Working Woman and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24th, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:  
Publisher, Working Woman Publishing Co.  
Editor, Margaret Cowl.  
Managing Editor, Margaret Cowl.  
Business Manager, Bessie Bird.  
All of 50 East 13th Street, New York, N. Y.
2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)  
Working Woman Publishing Co., 50 East 13th Street, New York, N. Y.  
Margaret Cowl, 50 East 13th Street, New York, N. Y.  
Bessie Bird, 50 East 13th Street, New York, N. Y.
3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.
3. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.
5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is..... (This information is required from daily publications only.)  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of October, 1935.

[SEAL]

BESSIE BIRD, Business Manager  
MAX KITZES, Notary Public  
(My commission expires March 30, 1936.)

# A Thousand New Members

**T**HE Women's Councils are celebrating 12 years of hard, productive work this month. Let us now review what we have accomplished and so make clear the role of our organization in the labor movement.

The beginning of our organization was when a small group of housewives led struggles against the high cost of living. From the first years of our existence we can record splendid work. We have helped the Passaic and Paterson strikers in the textile industry, the coal miners in Pennsylvania, textile workers in the South, and the needle trades workers in New York. At first we functioned as a relief organization in strikes.

## Organized Action Lowers Prices

In the past five years we have grown numerically with thousands of housewives as active members. The Councils have played an important role in strikes against high rent and high bread prices. The recent strike against high meat prices proved to the housewives that when they are organized they can bring prices down. At our last annual conference we worked out a better plan for organizing women against the high cost of living, against sales taxes and against war and fascism.

## Must Reach Further

We have 65 Councils in Greater New York with a membership of 5,000. However, we have yet to reach the broad masses of housewives, and Negro women, who are the most exploited, and are as yet only represented in small numbers in the Councils. It is our task to reach out to women in

By Dora Rich

churches, synagogues, trade union auxiliaries and other women's organizations.

## Housewives Become Leaders

At this time, it is in place to remark on the great advance in our educational work. The leadership developed and grew out of the growth of our organization. All lectures, discussions and classes for our functionaries are being conducted by our own members. The Women's Councils has succeeded in developing a modern, intelligent working class housewife, a leader of organized housewives.

Our achievements should inspire us to further work. This year's membership drive must be made a great step forward in our history and is of vital importance.

## Redoubled Effort Needed

The constant rise in the cost of living; the feverish preparations for another world slaughter; the present war of Italy on Ethiopia which has already destroyed thousands of lives; the steady growth of fascism with its poisonous propaganda—all these conditions should stimulate us in our campaign to draw in many more thousands of women.

The quota of 1,000 new members by January 15, can be tripled by the whole-hearted effort of each member

we now have. We must pledge to bring in at least one new member each. Let us greet the 12th anniversary of the Women's Councils with hundreds of new recruits.

We urge all who feel that our program is of importance to them, to celebrate with us and become members of this huge family of organized women and help us to further our work. We are working toward closer cooperation with other women's organizations in all states in order to carry on our work throughout the nation.

## Join the Councils

With the help of every friend and member, the Women's Councils will be able to build a huge organization of women that will lead successful struggles against the high cost of living and organize the housewife against the growing menace of war and fascism.

Let our slogans be:  
**Housewives join our organization;  
Build a Council in your territory.**

Note:—As a member of the Central Executive Committee of the United Councils of Working Class Women, Miss Rich brings a message that should be of interest to all housewives, whether they are members or not. All who are interested in finding out how to start a Council in their city or territory should write for information to the Women's Councils, 799 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

## The Working Woman

MARGARET COWL, Editor

Published monthly by the  
Working Woman Publishing Co.

50 East 13th Street, New York, N. Y.

Subscription fifty cents a year in U. S. and colonies and Mexico. Single copy 5c. Canada and Foreign 75c a year. Entered as second class matter on April 22, 1930, at the Postoffice in New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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## NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR BIRTH CONTROL, Inc.

1343 H Street, N. W., Room 1204, Washington, D. C.

Please be advised that

Name (of organization) .....

Address .....

City, State .....

Approximate membership (men and women) .....

endorsed H.R. 5600, a Bill to secure an amendment to exempt physicians, hospitals, clinics and government agencies, from the Federal laws which now exclude, without exception, supplies and medical literature relating to birth control from the United States Mails and Common Carriers.

Address .....

City, State .....

Date .....

Name (of executive officer) .....

(This coupon published by THE WORKING WOMAN, 50 East 13th Street, New York, N. Y.)