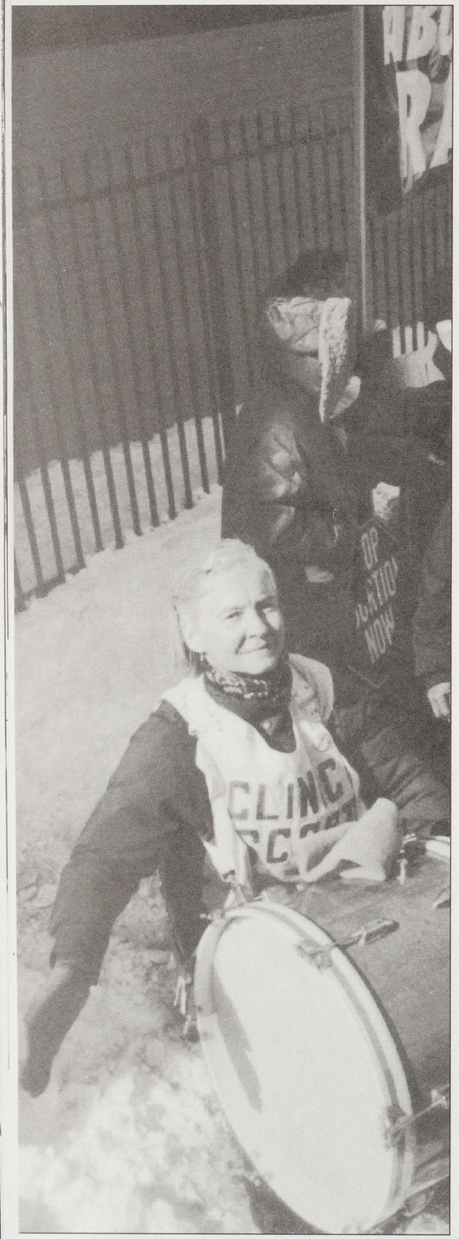
Scheidler and PLAL step up activism after RICO ruling

by Paul deParrie



A Chicago pro-abort, responding to pro-life protesters, beats a drum to drown out pro-lifers.

Chicago, IL — The recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that racketeering (RICO) laws could be used against pro-lifers did not slow Joe Scheidler down.

Scheidler, 67, founder of the vociferous Pro-Life Action League in Chicago (PLAL) and author of *Closed: 99 Ways to Stop Abortion*, a virtual handbook for pro-life activism, was the main defendant in the recent high court case, *NOW v Scheidler*.

His response to the threat of triple damages imposed under RICO? "I'll work three times as hard."

Scheidler, it appears, is a man of his word.

Pro-life activity has exploded in the Chicago area since the decision. Regular, well-attended pickets have targeted the American Women's Health Center abortuary at 2744 North Western in Chicago have brought a chorus of howls from local feminists.

"Anti-Abortionists are Running Rampant!" shrieks the headline on a recent mailer by the Emergency Clinic Defense Coalition, a coalition of militant homosexuals and left-wing groups. The piece goes on to groan about the "huge bloody fetus signs" which "dominate our pro-woman banners and pollute the air space on Western Avenue."

Scheidler's minions now carry huge four by five foot pictures of the Human Life International photo of the baby head being held in surgical tongs. In addition, they have used a sound system to amplify their messages to the mothers inside the clinic.

Nor are these the usual two-hour pickets. They are concentrated, all-day affairs that literally wear out the pro-aborts.

"... lately the 'antis' have escalated their attacks. They now outnumber us greatly," the piece reads. Blame for the state of affairs is laid upon complacency brought about by having a pro-abort in the White House.

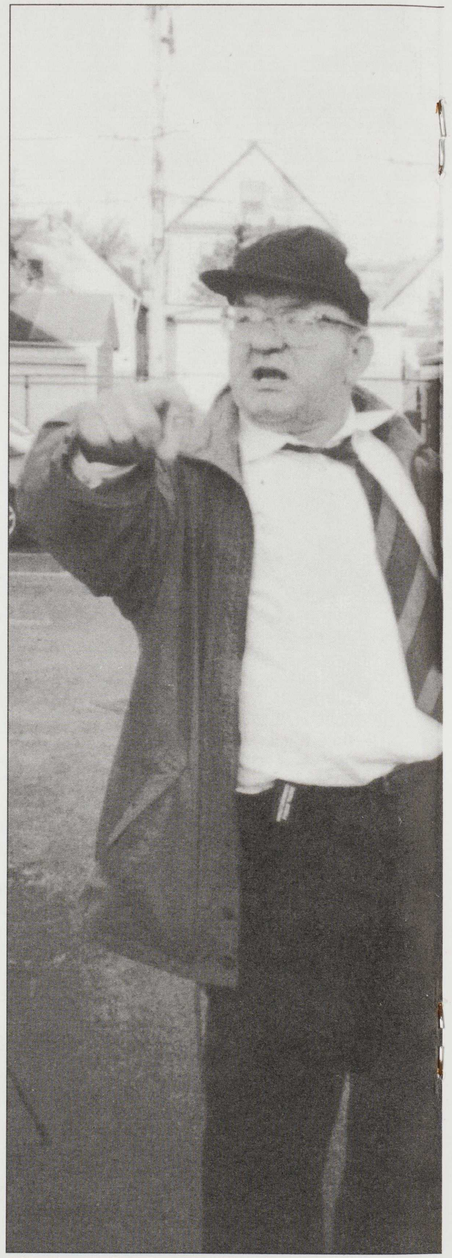
An average of 50 show up for the regular pickets and sidewalk counselors busily contact mothers coming in to the clinic.

Babies have been saved, and that's one thing that has incensed the local abortion enthusiasts.

A January 29 picket resulted in two abortion-bound teens going to the pro-life Women's Center counseling office instead of American Women's abortuary. Both children were confirmed to have been saved.

A particularly effective sidewalk counselor, Lourdes Olivarez, speaks little English but held a picture of an aborted baby and told an abortion-bound mother on March 19, "If you go to the clinic, your baby will look like this."

The mother, named Silva, went to the pro-life Women's Center — one of three women to change their minds that day.



Abortionist Jan Barton shouts at pro-lifers on the picket line.

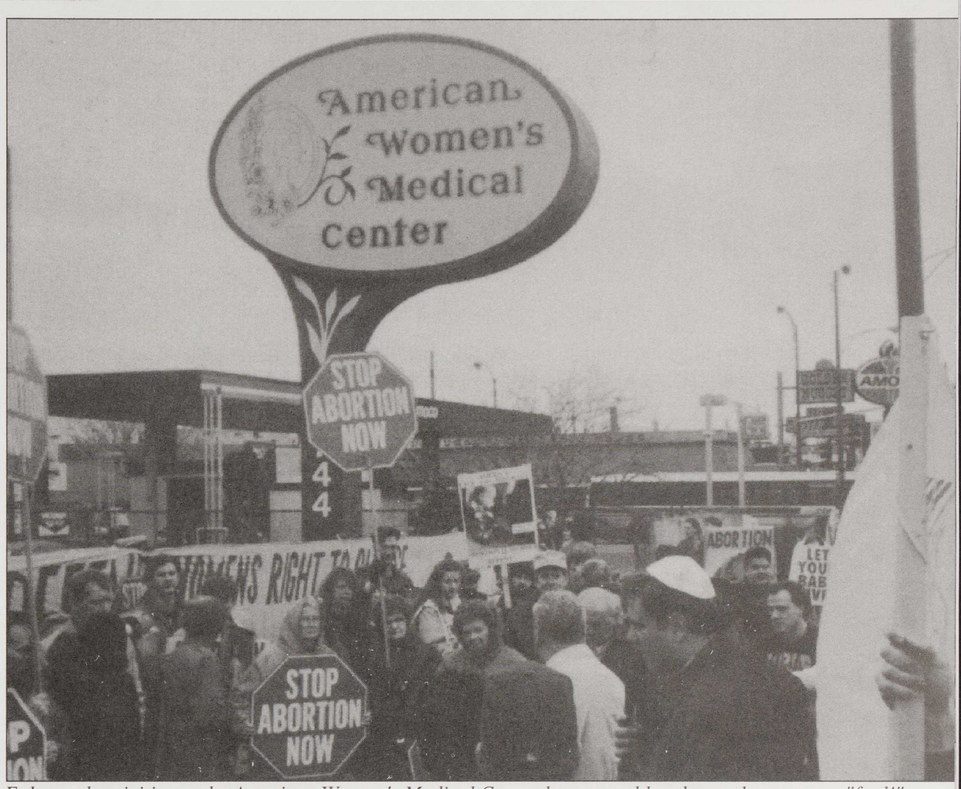
On another day, Jan Barton, an abortionist, approached Tim Murphy, a PLAL organizer, and demanded that he stop using the large baby-head signs because they did not accurately represent what he, Barton, did.

"Tell your boss Scheidler to stop the blitzkrieg at my clinic," he said and later implied a threat of legal action.

Scheidler responded on his telephone hotline message, "Sorry, Jan, but when you stop killing babies, we'll call off the troops."

In another arena, PLAL has been targeting Sister Shella Lyne, a Catholic nun who was recently elected as Cook County Health Commissioner. Lyne helps set policy for the Cook County Hospital and has publicly given her support for continuing abortion at the hospital. She also supports abortion as a part of any national health care bill.

Politicians coming to town experience large and vocal crowds of pro-life activists organized by PLAL. ■



Enhanced activities at the American Women's Medical Center has caused local pro-aborts to cry "foul!"

Houston pro-lifer picked up on gun charges

Pensacola, FL — While in Pensacola for the Michael Griffin trial, Daniel Ware, a Houston, Texas pro-lifer expressed a fear that "Janet Reno and her Justice Department" would swoop down on pro-lifers in town in a Waco-style" massacre.

Ware, 40, told local activists, John Burt, Don Gratton, and Floyd Murray, that he would stand "shoulder to shoulder" with them if this was the case. Showing them three firearms he had brought with him to town, he also added that a "Beruit-style assault" on the abortionist convention, the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, planned for the following week in Pensacola might be in order.

Burt contacted Don Treshman, Director of the Houston-based Rescue America, about Ware.

Ware was a taxi driver who occasionally came to picket Houston abortuaries, Treshman informed him.

Would Treshman help get Ware out of Florida, Burt asked?

Sure, Treshman replied.

Treshman called the taxi driver and asked him to come back to Houston. Ware hopped on the next bus.

Meanwhile, Burt, Gratton, and Murray, nervous about the situation, sought the advice of an attorney. Next thing they knew, they were being debriefed by the FBI.

They told federal agents that Ware had showed them a rifle, two handguns, and 500 rounds of ammunition and had talked of "killing as many people as he could before being killed himself."

Ware denies those remarks but says he offered to stand shoulder to shoulder against an attack he believed would be launched by federal authorities.

Upon his arrival back in Houston on March 10, Ware was picked up by federal agents on weapons possession charges. They accused him of being a felon in possession of a firearm because of a conviction when Ware was 20-years-old of possessing a counterfeit $100 bill.

The old charge, however, had been made under the Youthful Offenders Act which allowed a judge to accept a plea bargain, sentence to probation, and have the conviction wiped from the record immediately upon completion of the probation. Ware's was just such a case — the conviction record, though, had not been cleared back in 1977 when it was supposed to be.

Ware

After three weeks in custody, Ware was returned to Pensacola under indictment for both the possession charge and an additional charge under an obscure statute requiring people to notify a bus company in writing prior to carrying a weapon in luggage aboard a bus.

James Blackmon, an ex-probation officer from Houston who now runs a non-profit organization that helps crime victims, probationers, and parolees, said, "Anybody who knows Daniel, anybody who has half a brain, would know he shoots off his mouth."

Blackmon has known Ware for about four years.

Blackmon, who testified at Ware's bail hearing, promised to provide Ware a place to live and personally deliver him for trial.

Bail, however, was denied. ■