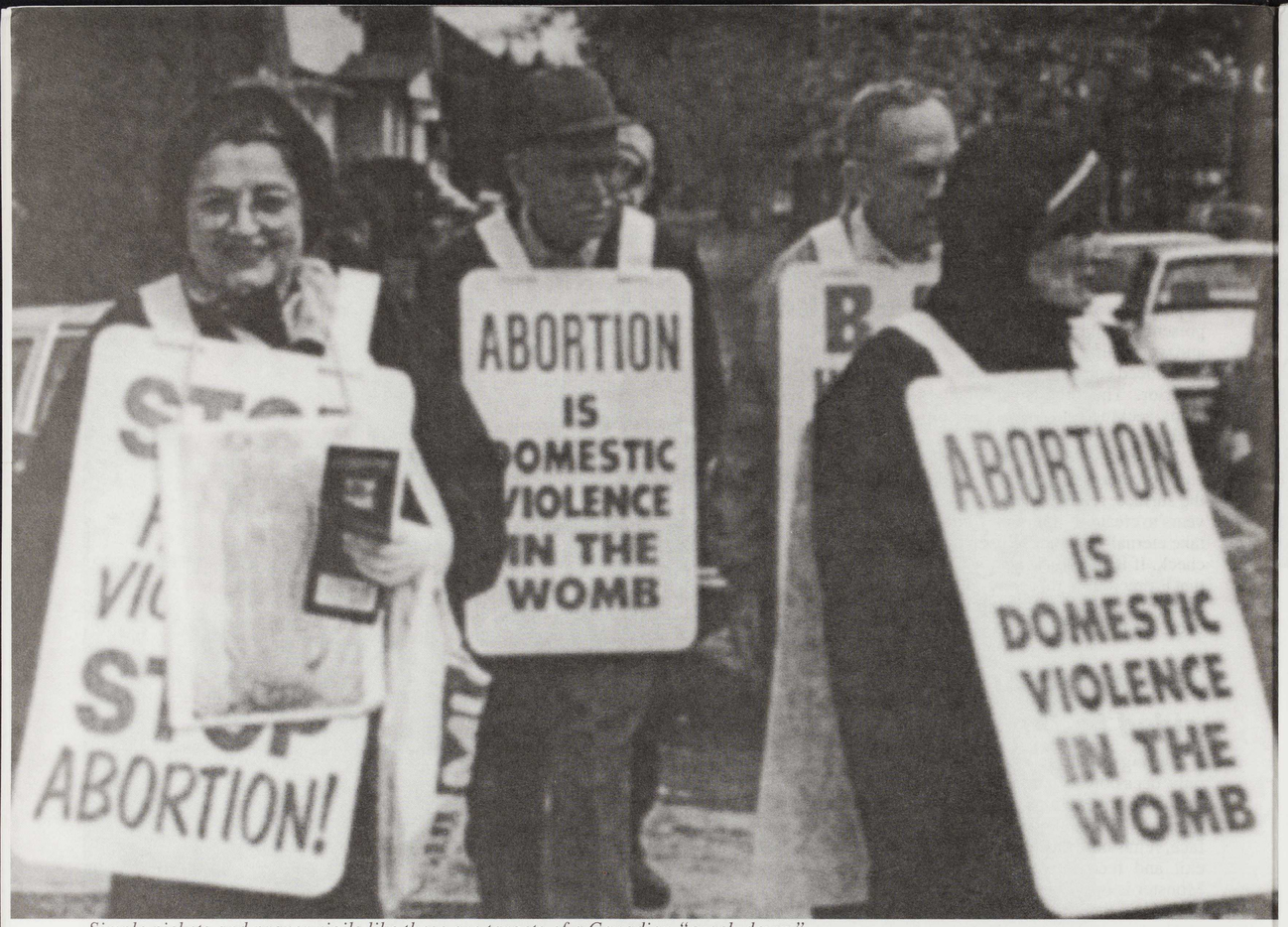

Simple pickets and prayer vigils like these are targets of a Canadian "crack-down."

the event, the first time an abortion doctor had been shot in Canada.

Throughout the afternoon the accusations became more and more incredible as the news spread. By evening the entire episode had taken on an ominous tone.

The BCTV news hour reported on other incidents within the abortion battle, citing the May 1992 bombing of Henry Morgentaler's Toronto abortion clinic, protests at Vancouver's Everywoman's Health Clinic in Vancouver, as well as incidents in Pensacola, Florida in the U.S. No mention was made that even the Morgentaler bombing was still unsolved and that no pro-life involvement had ever been indicated.

There have been no other violent incidents, the news report concluded. But the media completely ignored violence perpetrated by the abortion activists against pro-lifers on several occasions. BCTV has extensive file footage of these incidents, but they chose not to use them.

The most vivid example of pro-abortion violence occurred on Mother's Day in 1992. In an annual event the Vancouver Right to Life Society rents a truck and fills it with donations of baby items and gifts for young mothers as a positive way of doing something special for the day while acknowledging the importance of Motherhood. This quiet event takes place outside Vancouver General Hospital.

Shortly before the planned event it was learned a pamphlet had been distributed by University Students for Choice and the Coalition United to Fight Oppression (CUFO).

It stated, "On Mother's Day 1992 hundreds of sexist, homophobic and anti-abortion bigots will block Vancouver streets to shut down women's clinics."

Since no such event was planned and the truck wasn't scheduled to arrive until 2 p.m., organizers saw little reason to be concerned. However, by the time the truck pulled up, a group of radicals had already gathered to disrupt the event. They immediately mobbed the truck, ripping off its signs, pushing and shoving, screaming vulgarities and generally causing havoc. The onslaught continued for over two hours.

When the back door of the truck was opened, the group pounced into the opening frantically waving their signs in a very intimidating fashion. The signs were vulgar—with such slogans as "F—k off born-again Bigots" and the screaming of obscenities was beyond belief. When they started taunting pro-lifers with continual chants of "Jesus was a homo—Mary was a dyke." Even some of their own then left in disgust.

Inside a few people tried to sort out and to collect gifts; the noise from forces pounding on the sides and the motions rocking the truck added to the confusion. Pro-life signs were snatched from inside and torn up to the tune of "F—k you" over and over again. Outside the truck the confrontation escalated as pro-life members were hit with signs, spat at, and kicked.

This was all captured on BCTV cameras, and it was impossible to ignore. Officers investigating the incident recommended charges be laid against the pro-aborts, but they were vetoed by prosecuting attorneys.

Today, in the wake of the Romalis shooting, the pro-aborts with the aid of the Vancouver media continued their accusations while calling on B.C.'s attorney general for assistance in their cause.

Henry Mortgentaler, Canada's leading abortionist, accused the Pope and fundamentalist Muslim leaders of inciting hatred and violence by their suggestions that those who perform

abortions are guilty of murder. A few weeks earlier, Mortgentaler declared the abortion debate over with the opening of his new clinic in Ottawa when he boldly proclaimed, "All right, on October 13, 1994. we declare victory. We've won it and it's a resounding victory and let's let everyone know about it."

Kim Zander, a spokesperson for the Everywoman's Health Center, said, "It's not a surprise that what has happened in the United States would happen here; the anti-choice movement in the United States and Canada have very strong links."

She called on Attorney general Colin Gabelman to investigate those ties while blaming police for their slow response to anti-abortion protests outside clinics.

Joy Thompson of the B.C. Coalition for Abortion Clinics was even more vocal causing Ted Gerk to note that her comments "disturb us".

"The suggestion that peaceful picketing somehow has a relation to this shooting is ludicrous," Gerk noted. "Comments by members of the pro-abortion movement are once again fanning the flames. . . trying to scare political points in the face of a tragedy. . .a tragedy in which little is known for sure regarding the circumstances. . .smacks of political opportunism."

On the other side of the fence, when Vancouver Roman Catholic Archbishop Adam Exner was asked if he could refrain from using the word "murder" when referring to abortion, he said he could not since abortion is murder in the eyes of God.

In the meantime, a Birthright office received a very serious threat issued to all members of the pro-life movement promising revenge over the shooting. Individuals within the pro-life movement were also receiving threatening calls.

As both sides talked of fear it became evident this event had changed the face of the abortion battle in Canada.

John Dixon, spokesman for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, indicated the Romalis incident would be "a very serious blow to the credibility of all pro-life activists in our society."

He added, "The shooting is a terrible crime that is going to disgrace, whether unfairly or fairly, every pro-life activist in our country."

Following the escalating threats and rising fear, Ted Gerk issued another news release imploring Joy Thompson and the BC Coalition for Abortion Clinics to issue a statement publicly condemning harassment or violence used by supporters in their own movement directed upon pro-lifers.

"We also demand that they issue a statement to the supporters of their movement to let the police and the justice system in the province of British Columbia do their jobs," he said. "The inflamed rhetoric being used by Joy [Thompson] and the pro-abortion movement is inciting their supporters and could result in another tragedy."

While Romalis remained unconscious, a partner in his medical practice, Ken Nickerson, extolled the virtues of a man who has been as pioneer in the field of "termination."

Nickerson also stated that Romalis had never been threatened in the two decades they had worked together. Pro-lifers had picketed Romalis' home a few years ago, he noted, but most Vancouver doctors associated with abortions, including himself have experienced picketing from time to time. He also said the picketing usually involved a half-dozen people who "conducted themselves peacefully."

With a black cloud hanging over the Canadian pro-life movement, the media blitz of misinformation continued.

The government responds to media distortion

The shooting of Romalis undoubtedly became the catalyst aiding the pro-abortionists in their ongoing fight to silence those opposed to their way of doing "business." As

Media hype against pro-lifers brings government oppression

Canada — The effects of the media hype against pro-lifers in Canada has not been benign. Though neither the bombing of the Morgantaler abortuary several years ago or the current Romalis shooting produced any evidence of a link to pro-lifers, the drumbeating of the press has loosed government officials to enact draconian laws to stop the pro-life message.

Even when free-standing clinics were technically illegal in Canada some years ago, Toronto police were ordered to stand 24-hour guard on just such a clinic — owned by the wealthy and politically powerful abortionist, Henry Morgantaler — in the city.

Several provinces have enacted injunctions limiting the size and frequency of pro-life demonstrations at all facilities which provide abortions. Picketers, in most instances, must be across the street from the abortuaries, sidewalk counseling prohibited from within 100 feet of the clinics, and no demonstrations within 500 feet of residences of abortionists.

The Canadian government has also hired spies to infiltrate pro-life groups in order to find ways of countering their freedom of expression.

Human Life International, an established pro-life organization founded by Fr. Paul Marx, was relocating their main offices to Toronto, but Revenue Canada, the Canadian equivalent of the IRS, has challenged their nonprofit status claiming that their activities are not educational but imposing their beliefs.

In the wake of the Vancouver, British Columbia shooting of abortionist Gary Romalis, Attorney General Colin Gableman has called for the establishment of a 40-member "harassment" squad to follow up on pro-lifers' activities. Using Section 264 of the criminal Code, the anti-stalking law, this squad would seek to construe pro-life expression as harassment.

Police set up permanent surveillance outside an East Vancouver abortuary.

A recent government report, the B.C. Task Force on Access to Contraceptive and Abortion Services, appears to be a template for a new—pro-life only—definition of the word harassment.

"One of the most common forms of harassment," the official report says, "is picketing. Picketing is not confined to abortion facilities. Some contraceptive facilities are also picketed."

The report also concluded that "the use of pictures on picket signs and in other media which are designed to arouse feelings of guilt and shame" also constituted harassment.

It also says that pro-lifer's use of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act is "a new form of harassment."

The recommendation of the report is for the attorney General to launch a province-wide investigation into the "nature and extent of criminal harassment of contraception and abortion providers."