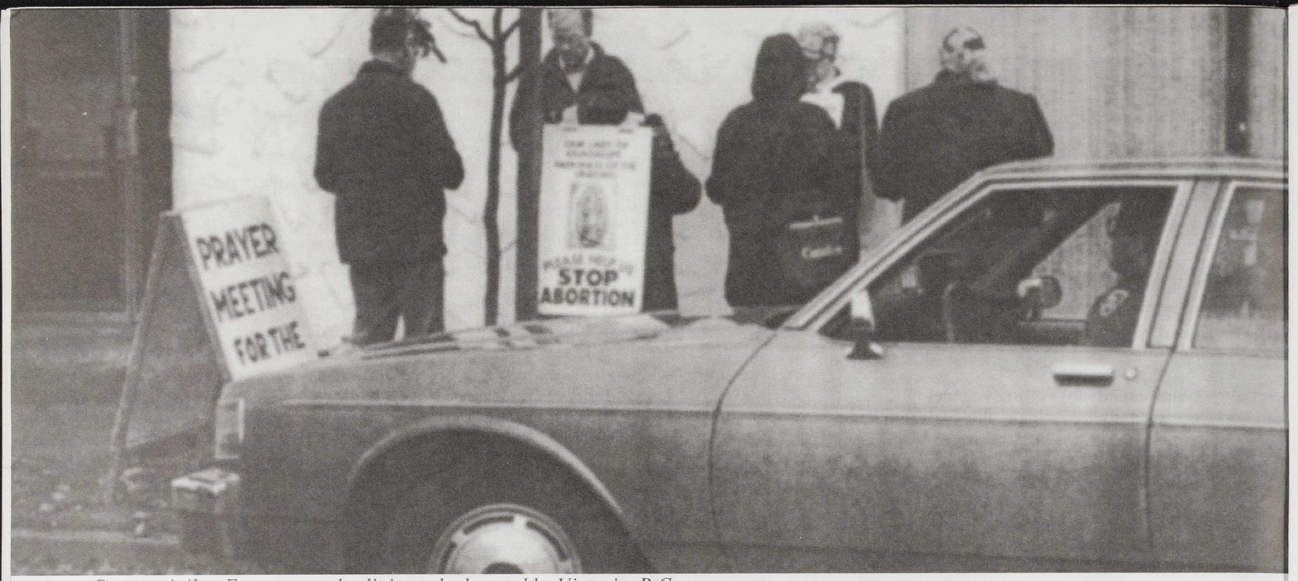

Prayer vigil at Everywoman's clinic: to be banned by Victoria, B.C.

the timely bombing of Morgentaler's clinic in 1992 seemed to be the excuse for Ontario's ruling New Democratic Party (NDP) government to bring in draconian legislation restricting the pro-life movement, the recent shooting in Vancouver seems to have given the B.C. NDP government the excuse it needs.

There is no evidence connecting either one of these incidents to the pro-life movement. This has caused many to question motives and ask, "Who stands to gain the most from these events?"

With the Vancouver newspapers locked out on strike during the media frenzy over the shooting, Joy Thompson immediately appointed herself spokesperson for the daily press.

But, where was B.C.'s Attorney General? He was trying to downplay various other government scandals and calls for his and various ministers resignations.

Thompson insisted it was imperative he immediately act to protect "health care workers" in her movement.

Although the police still had no leads, pro-lifers were immediately put on the defensive from allegations perpetrated by Thompson and her adherents. Unable to substantiate any chronicles of violence within the Canadian pro-life movement, the focus was immediately shifted to such activity in the United States in an effort to associate Canada with the U.S.'s more militant element.

On November 13, the newspaper lockout ended and the *Vancouver Province* resumed publication with the front page story headlined "Shadow of Hate." Subtitled "Neo-Nazi groups linked to abortion doctor's shooting," the accompanying article declared, "Neo-Nazis are suspected in the attempted murder of a Jewish gynecologist who does abortions in Vancouver."

Pro-lifers were, once again, shocked and infuriated at being linked to neo-nazis.

And where did the daily paper which had not reported since the shooting five days earlier, get the information? Predictably it came from none other than Joy Thompson who offered the following words to the *Province*, "The chance that there are connections with white supremacists who promote violence and have an underground network that organizes the availability of firearms should not he ruled out in this investigation."

This was ludicrous considering the fact that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) was under scrutiny because of a leaked document stamped "read and destroy" that led to charges that the agency was spying on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. But more importantly was a recent discovery that a CSIS agent, Grant Bristow had organized and even funded a white supremacist group and was active at an international level. That has led to speculation about the involvement of Canada's spy agency infiltrating other special interest groups on both ends of the political spectrum (see sidebar).

Was Joy Thompson suggesting the same alleged government-sponsored Neo-Nazi movement is in some way affiliated with pro-life organizations in Canada?

Unlike their American cousins, the Canadian federal and provincial governments fund many organizations promoting a pro-abortion agenda. Besides Planned Parenthood, there is the National Status of Woman and their National Action Committee, LEAF (Legal Education Action Fund) for feminist lawyers.

Canadian government spies on its citizens — Left and Right

Recent revelations Regarding the Canadian Security and Intelligence Agency (CSIS) reveal that the Canadian government has been very active in covert operations against political groups.

Often paying freelance agents, CSIS has infiltrated political groups on both sides of the political spectrum — even having an agent who was instrumental in the founding of a neo-Nazi group.

According to recent revelations, one Grant Bristow was paid upwards of $50,000 in a single year for his efforts within the right-wing Heritage Front.

Bristow was known to have broken into the telephone answering machines of known "leftists" on behalf of Heritage Front while maintaining a cozy relationship with some Toronto police officers — from whom he obtained confidential information.

CSIS was also shown to have been investigating the liberal Canadian Broadcast Corporation.

About a year ago, it came to light that infiltration of Canadian pro-life groups was also taking place (*Life Advocate* March 1994). Court documents published in the *Toronto Sun*, indicate that, among other things, a paid female private eye was sent to a pro-life conference in 1992 to attend workshops and gather information on pro-life activities.

One television program also revelaed that CSIS was involved in joint covert activities with the French secret service and the Israeli Mossad.

As a matter of fact, the Canadian government funds multicultural groups, gay, lesbian and many other fringe organizations. The pro-life movement, on the other hand, is forced to act independently without government assistance, relying only on its members for support. There is a growing silent majority of Canadians who feel these other organizations should also be able to function independently.

More media frenzy

And so the headlines continued: "Anti-abortionists killing their own cause, Neo-Nazi Link Probed, Racism Theory in Doc Shooting," and on and on.

An article by reporter Kim Bolan in the *Vancouver Sun* did more to enkindle the already seething battle. Considering this was the same reporter that was completely out of step in her zeal to discredit pro-lifers in her report following the Mother's Day incident two years ago, this article came as little surprise to Canadian pro-lifers.

Bolan had a lot of time before going to press, so her errors were inexcusable. She casually — and erroneously — reported that Wichita, Kansas abortionist George Tiller was shot and killed last August. In fact, Tiller was up for "business" the next day.

Bolan also stated that high-profile pro-lifer Joe Scheidler had signed a controversial "justifiable homicide petition" in the United States. In fact, Scheidler not only refused to sign the petition and has always maintained that violent activities will not work.

But Bolan apparently wasn't interested in facts as she seized the opportunity to discredit pro-lifers even more. In a subsequent article, she wrote about a fifty-page booklet found in a Vancouver Store entitled "The Real Holocaust: The Attack on Unborn Children and Life Itself," by Malcolm Ross.

In a desperate attempt to tie pro-lifers in with the Neo-Nazi movement, she wrote, "Two weeks after a Jewish gynecologist was critically wounded by a sniper, a Vancouver bookstore is selling a booklet that suggests Jewish doctors are threatening 'Christian civilization' by providing abortions." What she failed to mention is the book has been available for some time.

A few days later, still not satisfied, she attacked Human Life International.

Human Life International-Canada is currently appealing a Revenue Canada decision to revoke its charitable status and has launched a national fund raising campaign to cover its court costs.

A letter sent from Revenue Canada to Human Life states, "...we see HLIC promoting its own interpretation of other controversial issues such as sex education in schools, homosexuality, pornography, universal day care, contraception, sterilization...and planned parenthood."

Nonetheless, Vancouver's Everywoman's Health Center, one of two free-standing abortion clinics in Vancouver, was originally denied charitable status by Revenue Canada, but won its appeal in federal court and now has a number.

The media campaign of misinformation continued their "smear campaign" against the pro-life movement.

The provincial government announced it would set up a criminal "harassment" unit to better protect women seeking abortions and the health care workers who assist them (see sidebar). Joy Thompson expressed feelings of delight and relief at the actions of the attorney general.

The clinics were also given financial aid to improve security and there was a promise of strengthening civil injunctions. The head of B.C. Pro-Life Ted Gerk accused the government of furthering a pro-abortion agenda.

Police still have no leads in the Romalis shooting. A group of British Columbia doctors have put up a $100,00 reward for information on the shooter.

After all the accusations against the pro-life movement, the government actions were predictable. John Hof, told reporters, "Now the pro-abortion movement has what they have been seeking for some time—a government edict to prevent any expression of opposition to the killing of unborn children."

Many Canadians, realizing that the winds of apathy have gripped a nation, now cry, "O Canada, who is standing on guard for thee?" ■

Paul and Rosemary Nielson are pro-life activists in British Columbia whose home was firebombed in 1993. Paul is a regular columnist and writer for The Interim, *a Toronto-based pro-life publication.*

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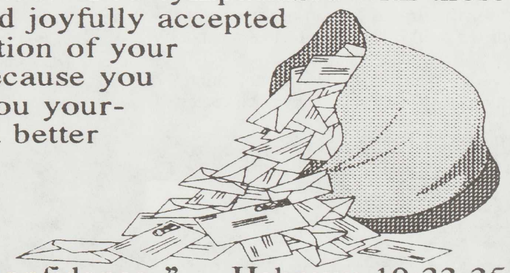

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