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# Abortionist leader turns pro-life

Christian View

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## OPEN LETTER FROM DOCTOR BERHARD NATHANSON

*Dr. Nathanson used to be director of the largest abortion clinic in the world, in New York, with 35 doctors working under his supervision. During his tenure, 60,000 abortions were performed there - 120 every day of the year including Sundays, except Christmas Day. He performed another 15,000 with his own hands in his private practice. He now deplors this record and puts the case against abortion.*

I regret to say I am personally responsible for 75,000 abortions. But this legitimises my credentials to speak to you with some authority on the issue. I was one of the founders of the National Association for the Repeal of the Abortion Laws (NARAL) in the US in 1968. A truthful poll of opinion then would have found that Americans were against permissive abortion. Yet within five years we had convinced the US Supreme Court to issue the decision, which legalised abortion throughout America in 1973 and produced virtual abortion on demand up to birth.

**How did we do this?** It is important to understand the tactics involved because these tactics have been used throughout the Western world with one permutation or another, in order to change abortion law.

### THE FIRST KEY TACTIC WAS TO CAPTURE THE MEDIA.

We persuaded the media that the cause of permissive abortion was a liberal, enlightened, sophisticated one. Knowing that if a true poll was taken, we would be soundly defeated, we simply fabricated the results of fictional polls. We announced to

the media that we had taken polls and that 60% of Americans were in favour of permissive abortion. This is the tactic of the self-fulfilling lie. Few people care to be in the minority.

We aroused enough sympathy to sell our programme of permissive abortion by fabricating the number of illegal abortions done annually in the US. The actual figure was less than 100,000 but the figure we gave to the media repeatedly was 1,000,000. Repeating the big lie often enough convinces the public. The number of women dying from illegal abortions was around 200-250 annually. The figure we constantly fed to the media was 10,000. These false figures took root in the consciousness of Americans, convincing many that we needed to crack the abortion law.

Another myth we fed to the public through the media was that legalising abortion would only mean that the abortions taking place illegally would then be done legally. In fact, of course, abortion is now being used as primary method of birth control in the US and the annual number of abortions has increased by 1,500% since legalisation.

### THE SECOND KEY TACTIC WAS TO PLAY THE CATHOLIC CARD.

We systematically vilified the Catholic Church and its "socially backward ideas" and picked on the Catholic hierarchy as the villain in opposing abortion. This theme was played on endlessly. We fed the media such lies as "We all know that opposition to abortion comes from the hierarchy and not from most Catholics" and "Polls prove time and time again that most Catholics want

abortion law reform". And the media drum-fired all this into the American people, persuading them that anyone opposing permissive abortion must be under the influence of the Catholic hierarchy and that Catholics in favour of abortion are enlightened and forward-looking. An inference of this tactic was that there were no non-Catholic groups opposing abortion. The fact that other Christian as well as non-Christian religions were (and still are) monolithically opposed to abortion was constantly suppressed, along with pro-life atheists' opinions.

**THE THIRD KEY TACTIC WAS THE DENIGRATION AND SUPPRESSION OF ALL SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION.**

I am often asked what made me change my mind. How did I change from prominent abortionist to pro-life advocate? In 1973 I became director of obstetrics of a large hospital in New York city and had to set up a *perinatal research* unit, just at the start of a great new technology which we now use every day to study the fetus in the womb. A favourite pro-abortion tactic is to insist that the definition of when life begins is impossible; that the question is a theological or moral or philosophical one, anything but a scientific one. Fetology makes it undeniably evident that life begins at conception and requires all the protection and safeguards that any of us enjoy.

Why, you may well ask, do some American doctors who are privy to the findings of fetology discredit themselves by carrying out abortions? Simple arithmetic: at \$300 a time 1.55 million abortions mean an industry generating \$500,000,000 annually, of which most goes into the pocket of the physician doing the abortion.

**ABORTION IS THE PURPOSEFUL DESTRUCTION OF WHAT IS UNDENIABLY HUMAN LIFE.**

It is an impermissible act of deadly violence. One must concede that unplanned pregnancy is a wrenchingly difficult dilemma. But to look for its solution in a deliberate act of destruction is to trash the vast resourcefulness of human ingenuity and to surrender the public weal to the classic utilitarian answer to social problems.

**As a scientist I know, not believe, know that human life begins at conception. Although I am not a formal religionist, I believe with all my heart that there is a divinity of existence, which commands us to declare a final and irreversible halt to this infinitely sad and shameful crime against humanity.**

Yours sincerely,

Bernard N. Nathanson M.D.

*Dr Nathanson later made the films 'Silent scream' and the 'Eclipse of Reason', showing an abortion on ultrasound inside the womb.*

*See on streaming video at  
[www.silentscream.org](http://www.silentscream.org)*

*Many years after this letter was written, he became a committed Christian, which he said released him from the burden of guilt he had been carrying.*

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