

18 Great Falls Tribune

Friday,

Emotion-Pe

By FRANK ADAMS
Tribune Capitol Bureau

HELENA — There's a possible question of abortion reform next year by the constitutional convention, although such a move is apparently not contemplated at this time by the abortion reform forces that surfaced during the last legislative session when the issue sparked an explosion of emotion and rhetoric.

That attempt to overturn Montana's restrictive abortion law was the target of more mail than any other subject before being firmly put down by a vote of 83-5 in the House.

A number of legislators privately voiced support for some kind of abortion reform but were

unwilling to put record for political purposes. It was suggested that legislators that should be shifted by way of a referendum in that matter. One way such a move could be accomplished for the constitutional convention is to write a provision into the constitution deciding whether or not children. To keep in mind the rest of the provision could be approved. If the provision part of the state's declaration of rights. If rejected, it would affect ratification or rejection of the proposed constitution.

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Billings Murder
Trial Now

Emotion-Packed Aborti

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Helena Capital Bureau

question of abortion reform could be placed on the ballot next year by the constitutional convention, although such a move is apparently not contemplated at this time by the abortion reform forces that surfaced during the last legislative session when the issue sparked an explosion of emotion and the

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Billings Murder Trial Now Set for Jan. 18

BILLINGS (AP) — A new date and judge have been set in the first-degree murder case of Jerry Gallagher and John Leon in Billings.

After several postponements of other changes, Dist. Judge Bert H. Wilson ordered the trial to begin Jan. 18, 1972. Gallagher, 34, and Curry, 41, were charged in the death of Eldon Egan. Two have been held with- out in the Yellow

unwilling to put their feelings on record for political reasons. And it was suggested by various legislators that the decision should be shifted to the people by way of a referendum. (The State of Washington legalized abortion in that manner.)

One way such a referendum could be accomplished would be for the constitutional convention to write a provision guaranteeing the constitutional right to decide whether or not to bear children. To keep from joining the rest of the constitution, the provision could be put on the ratification ballot separately. If the provision were approved, it would become part of the state's declaration of rights. If rejected, it wouldn't affect ratification or rejection of the rest of the proposed constitution.

Montana law now makes abortion except to save the mother's life a felony.

The legislation proposed last winter would have left the decision of abortion to the doctor and her doctor. It was supported by a number of groups, including the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women and MORAL (Montana Organization for the Repeal of Abortion Laws).

MORAL chairman Joan Uda of Missoula says her group is preparing to renew the fight in the next legislature, but doesn't feel it's an issue for the convention. "We feel very strongly

that Montana needs a good special interests, including ours, should be putting pressure on the candidates or delegates."

Mrs. Uda says MORAL thinks the best way to handle abortion reform would be through a referendum but it lacks the financial backing to do it. That would like to see a test of the Montana law in the courts "but that is simply not happening."

"I feel very strongly that a majority of the people want a law changed," says Mrs. Uda. "They're just extremely cautious. They don't want their neighbors to know how they feel, while in many cases their neighbor feels the same way."

She says MORAL is trying to gather data on abortions in Montana and the nation — data that is badly lacking — and hard to come by. For example, she asks, "What do we know about unwanted children in Montana?"

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ability that the question of abortion reform could be placed on the next year by the convention, although more is apparently not contemplated at this time by the abortion reform forces that surfaced during the last legislative session when the issue sparked an explosion of emotion and logic. That

Abortion Issue May Face Court

alternative; MORAL people want their neighbors to see a test of the courts "but not happening." strongly that a says Mrs. Uda extremely cautious about how they feel.

If it were up to me, I would like to see at least 27 Montana women have abortions during the first 14 months of that state's new liberal law. Mrs. Uda suspects because of under reporting and says most women seeking abortions don't go to New York because "it's just too expensive."

The provision already there was the Right to Life Association (only a committee already that the unborn child is already protected under the U.S. Constitution and that to seek a constitution forbidding abortions in Montana a majority of states still have suggested that the time may come that the government will impose compulsory family restrictions and that one of the alternatives is repealing restrictions on abortions.

Although there is a statutory anti-abortion trend away from majority of states still

delegates wanted to put abortion of life without due process of law. And the Right to Life the U.S. Constitution

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