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Richard Seed, a physicist, talked to reporters outside his home in Riverside, Ill., yesterday about his plans to clone a human being. He said eight people have volunteered to be cloned if he can set up a laboratory and raise the \$2 million he estimates he will need.

## Scientist hopes to clone human before laws are passed to ban it

### Proposal sets off national uproar

By JAMES WEBB  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — A scientist says that he has assembled a team of doctors prepared to clone a human being before Congress has a chance to ban the procedure, and that eight people have volunteered to be cloned.

That set off a nationwide clamor yesterday from doctors who say it can't be done, ethicists who say it shouldn't be done and politicians who say they won't let it be done.

At the center of the uproar is Richard Seed, a Harvard-educated physicist who is unaffiliated with any institution and appears to be virtually unknown in the field of genetic science.

He says he has the expertise as well as couples willing to take part

in cloning, if he can set up an independent laboratory and raise the \$2 million he estimates is needed.

Seed scoffed at the opposition to the concept of human cloning — a possibility that suddenly seemed closer to reality last year after Scottish scientists announced they had cloned an adult sheep, the first cloned mammal.

"New things of any kind, mechanical, biological, intellectual, always tend to create fear," Seed said. "Then the subject becomes tolerated and ignored. And the third stage, which always happens, is the subject becomes enthusiastically endorsed. . . ."

Researchers said cloning humans might one day be possible but would be inefficient, pointing out that the Scottish team went through 277 sheep before cloning one named Dolly.

"The idea of setting up a human cloning clinic is kind of a crackpot notion, even forgetting the ethical issues, because the effectiveness rate would be so low," said Dr.

Sherman Silber, director of the Infertility Center of St. Louis.

Dr. Lawrence Layman, chief of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at the University of Chicago Hospitals, said, "It's not like he can just throw together a lab and just do it."

Seed said he hopes to begin his work within the next few months and set a goal of producing a pregnancy in a woman within 1½ years.

He suggested that the techniques would be similar to those used to create the cloned sheep. DNA would be removed from a woman's egg and replaced with the DNA from the person to be cloned. The fertilized egg would grow into an embryo that would be placed into the woman, who would give birth to the cloned child.

President Clinton has barred the use of federal funds on human cloning, and a bill that would make his order permanent is among several anti-cloning measures in Congress.