# Doctors - Endorse Bill on Abortions

## By DAN HAMRICK Associated Press Writer

Should a licensed doctor working in an accredited hospital be free from any restrictions of law in deciding when to perform an abortion?

That is the issue being considered by the Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee as it conducts hearings on a proposed abortion law described by its backers as the first of its kind in the nation.

### Four Doctors

Four doctors testified in support of the proposal Tuesday, calling it ideal for physicians as it would leave it up to a doctor's conscience whether an abortion should be performed.

## Probe Begins At Herington

ABILENE (Special) — A grand jury impanelled to investigate alleged irregularities in city government at Herington began work Tuesday.

Kenneth Smith of Abilene, jury foreman, said the panel will meet two or three times a week until all evidence has been heard.

Charles Bogan, assistant Dickinson County attorney, is legal adviser to the grand jury.

## 20 Subpoenaed

Twenty persons have been subpoenaed as witnesses. Most are Herington residents who signed a petition requesting a grand jury investigation.

Bogan was named legal aide to the jury after jurors said they did not want Dickinson Co. Atty. Max Hinkle as their adviser. Bogan has been given sole responsibility to sub-poen a witnesses.

witnesses, Smith said.

Dr. William Kane, Hays, a Roman Catholic, said he is opposed to abortions but supports the bill.

Kane said he can support the measure because it does not give legislative endorsement to the act of abortion and because it lets the doctor decide whether to perform an abortion or refuse to perform one.

#### No Restrictions

The measure would permit a doctor licensed to practice medicine and surgery to perform an abortion in a licensed and accredited hospital. It would set no other restrictions by law.

However, Dr. Edward F. Steichen said the American Medical Assn. sets forth conditions to be followed in an accredited hospital.

Steichen said three doctors must certify in writing that an abortion should be performed and that their report is reviewed later by a committee of five physicians.

## Penalties Told

He said a doctor who violates the regulations can be subject to censure, dismissal from a hospital staff or loss of his license.

Steichen is a Democratic state representative from Lenora. He also is a Roman Catholic.

Kansas law now permits a physician to perform an abortion only if necessary to save the mother's life. But it does not require the operation to be performed in an accredited hospital.

#### Better Than Colorado

Dr. Kermit E. Krantz, chairman of the Dept. of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the University of Kansas Medical Center, said he wrote the Kansas law and thinks it is superior to a law enacted in Colorado.

Dr. William R. Roy of Topeka said the Colorado law states an



CHARLES G. CANNON . . . redirects talents

## Ex-Forger, Now Artist, Wins Show

CAPE CORAL, Fla. (AP) — Charles G, Cannon, who turned his artistic talents from forgery to oil paints behind Colorado prison walls, has won an art show here with his painting of a "warm and happy old boxcar."

Cannon, 43, is serving 10 to 14 years on a forgery conviction at Colorado State Prison at Canon City.

## First Prize

His painting, titled "Freighters," a 24-by-36 inch oil with "lots of reds and whites," won first prize in the Cape Coral Art League's third annual art show. Cannon was awarded \$150.

Interviewed at the prison, Cannon said the painting was his "first break-through from the traditional pattern." He called it "a structural abstraction."

"I feel perfectly wonderful that my painting, which represents an attack on nonobjective art, has carried the day," Cannon said. "So much art today is not planned or studied and does not allow the element of human dignity to show through."

20-Year Veteran

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C. F. Thompson, Herington city utilities commissioner, touched off a probe when he charged that city utility employes had set meters back to gain lower monthly rates. He also charged mismanagement of city affairs.

## Brings Data

Thompson appeared at the Dickinson County courthouse here Monday with a briefcase full of data he said he gathered by searching city files.

Bogan told Thompson the commissioner probably will be called as a witness if it seems advisable later. Thompson was not permitted access to the grand jury, which conducted its first full session Tuesday.

The jury's probe may not be limited to that Herington matter. Court observers said the fact that persons other than Herington residents were subpoenaed indicates the scope of the investigation may be a wide

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Dr. William R. Roy of Topeka said the Colorado law states an abortion may be performed if a continuation of the pregnancy endangers the life or health of the mother, if the pregnancy resulted from a sex crime or if there is substantial risk of birth defects.

Kane said that because the Colorado law sets conditions under which an abortion may be performed, many doctors are afraid they may be sued if they refuse to perform an abortion.

## Question Posed

"Why not put regulations for doctors into the law?" he asked. And he answered with another

question: "Why not specify regulations for taking out a gall bladder?"

Krantz said there are 5,000 abortions in Kansas each year.

But he said the proposed law would make it more difficult to obtain an abortion in Kansas because the operations would have to be performed in an accredited hospital.

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## 20-Year Veteran

Cannon, who has been painting professionally for 20 years, entered two paintings in the show. Prison officials arranged their shipment to Florida.

"Freighters" carried a \$3,500 price tag, and the other entry, depicting a brownstone building that he said "could have been in Denver, Washington or New York," was priced at \$2,500.

Cannon said "Freighters" pictured an old Denver & Rio Grande-Western Railroad boxcar, probably used for the last time about 1920.

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Two members of the attorne general's Consumer Advisor Council provided most of the disagreement.

## All Castigated

Noble Drake, representing the State Chamber of Commerce said "all businessmen are castigated for the misdeeds of few." He urged enforcement the 1968 Kansas Buyer Protection Act — not enactment further laws against busine fraud.

Gerald Robinson, Topeka O fice of Economic Opportunit director, said that unless the Legislature puts more teeth in the Kansas act, it "would be tantamount to condoning robery."

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