

DENNISON BACKS 2 MORAL ARRESTS

He Gets Police Explanation of Birth-Control Case

Special to The New York Times

HUNTINGTON, L. I., Aug. 9 —Suffolk County Executive H. Lee Dennison summoned Police Commissioner John L. Barry to his offices today to "explain" the arrest Friday of a birth-control advocate and a 28-year-old mother at a birth-control information meeting.

The birth-control advocate, William R. Baird Jr., and the woman, Nancy Ann Manfredonia, were charged with endangering the welfare of a child—Mrs. Manfredonia's 14-month-old daughter, who sat on her mother's lap during the meeting in Huntington. Mr. Baird exhibited contraceptive devices at the meeting.

After meeting with Commissioner Barry, Mr. Dennison said he was satisfied that the arrests had been legitimate.

"Not everything that transpired at that lecture meeting was part of the publicity," Mr. Dennison said in an interview. He declined to elaborate on what other information was involved in the case, since it is "now before a judge."

However, Suffolk District Attorney George J. Aspland, who said he was handling the case personally, said that a decision on how the prosecution of the case would be conducted would be made "within a week."

Mr. Aspland said that the two key aspects of the case were "whether the child was actually endangered" and, second, "whether there was an intent to endanger the child."

Today Mr. Baird led a demonstration of about 100 people, mostly women, in front of the Second Precinct station house of the Suffolk County Police Department in Huntington.

At a news conference before the picketing began, Mr. Baird called for the resignation of Police Commissioner Barry and for a "full investigation of the circumstances surrounding the arrests."

As he had after his arrest, he charged again that the arrests had been "inspired by my political opponents and the political arm of the Roman Catholic Church." Mr. Baird is the Liberal party candidate for Hempstead Town Supervisor in this fall's elections.

Mr. Dennison denied that the arrests had "any political overtones," adding that he had "never heard of Mr. Baird before the arrests and "have never met the 14-month-old one."

Mrs. Manfredonia noted again that her daughter knew only four words: "mama," "dada," "cookie" and "milk."

The trial has been set for Sept. 30 in Suffolk County District Court. The two defendants face fines of up to \$500 each and a year in jail.

The New York Times

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Originally published August 10, 1971