

Mother and Birth-Control Crusader Are Arrested at L. I. Lecture

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HAUPPAUGE, L. I., Aug. 7—A crusader for birth control and a 28-year-old mother spent the night in county jails after being arrested yesterday for "endangering the welfare" of a child, the woman's 14-month-old baby girl who slept on her lap during a lecture on birth control.

The lecturer, William R. Baird Jr. of Valley Stream, and the mother, Mrs. Nancy Ann Manfredonia, of Central Islip, were arraigned today on the misdemeanor charges in Suffolk County District Court. They were released in their own custody by Judge William Perry, who set a trial date for Sept. 30.

The arrests were made at 10:30 P.M. by three detectives and two uniformed patrolmen, who interrupted a women's liberation meeting in Huntington as Mr. Baird was lecturing and exhibiting birth-control devices to an audience of 100 people.

Code Violation Charged

Because of the birth-control display, Mr. Baird was charged with violating Section 260.10, Division One, of the State Penal Code, which renders a person liable to arrest who "knowingly acts in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental or moral welfare" of a child.

The mother was apprehended for having brought her daugh-

ter, Kathryn, to the lecture. The charge against her comes under a subdivision of the same section: "failing to exercise reasonable diligence in control" of a child. As misdemeanors, both are punishable by fines of up to \$500 and a year in jail.

Mr. Baird termed the arrests "an act of Nazi storm troopers." The 39-year-old Mr. Baird has been arrested previously for his advocacy of birth control and abortion.

The defendants were brought to court handcuffed in a police van after a sleepless night. Mr. Baird said he had not been provided with a blanket or pillow. Mrs. Manfredonia complained that her shoes and glasses had

been removed by the authorities.

She was allowed to diaper Kathryn on a police sergeant's desk, in full view of the birth-control devices that were confiscated.

Kathryn's father, Peter Manfredonia, who took his daughter home from the police station in the early morning hours, said she had been taken to the meet-

ing because a baby-sitter was unavailable. Besides, he said, she could not be hurt by a lecture because her vocabulary does not extend beyond four words: "Mama," "Dada," "cookie" and "milk."

When informed of this, a police spokesman replied: "It doesn't matter. The law doesn't specify whether the child is 14 months or 14 years."

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