

Sterilization:

Most of [REDACTED] them were in the house and really needed me. I went to a place in Vernon. She was a [REDACTED] single girl and she [REDACTED] had about two [REDACTED] or three children, a baby in a crib and no screens on the door or windows and flies crawling all over that smelly baby in that crib. She was living with an old man, the school teacher sent me there. She was single [REDACTED] and I had to get her mother's consent to sign papers to get her sterilized! And the mother would consent, and the girl consented, and the man she was living [REDACTED] with said, "If you get [REDACTED] sterilized, I won't live with you anymore." And [REDACTED] she wouldn't go on with it. Before I got [REDACTED] that turn down, I went to some of the hospital boards and I asked them if they would sterilize the woman. So they had to take it up with the board and ask, 'Who is going to pay for this sterilization?' I said, 'But you've got a new baby every year, every second year there is a new baby, who pays for that? Why don't you sterilize her and get her through?' And it was taken up by the board, [REDACTED] and they consented to sterilize her FREE.

I went to the store and bought those things that you hang from the ceiling and give it to her. Those were the little extra things that I did. I couldn't stand the little babies [REDACTED] lying there, flies crawling all over a baby, and no screen doors and in the Interior the flies are awful [REDACTED] if you don't have screens.

Distribution System:

There was application forms, and they had to sign them, that they wanted birth control, and then they would get initial supplies. There would be a little package come in the mail for them. The packages contained a jelly, maybe half a dozen condoms and a price list where they could get all this stuff below cost from [REDACTED] this organization. If they couldn't afford it, they signed up for free, and they could send in the two dollars anytime they wanted [REDACTED] or never, if

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they couldn't afford it.

There was two other women in this Vancouver area and Victoria.

[REDACTED] I did the Interior. I just loved

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driving. I was [REDACTED] paid two dollars for each one that I did, but I had

my expenses at home, my expenses in the cars and all the rest of it.

The main interest was the poorer people.

It was Kaufman's idea. He was having problems with his own staff, he was

having to lay off people and they were appealing to him and he had sympathy

for these people [REDACTED] that were being laid off. It was his hobby. [REDACTED] He

started it in his own factory.

I'd go way up to a lumber mill, to company towns. I drove up on a road one time, up on the mountain. They put boards, planks, over a gulch-it's open between the two wheels, you get your two wheels on the boards and go over the gulch. You go right up to the top [REDACTED] and it's a company town.

And the women are all happy to see me.

I [REDACTED] knew where I was going, I was not canvassing [REDACTED] house to house.

And I had to follow that, I just went there and [REDACTED] lots of times it was a long ways between contacts. It was problems, and I was trying to help them.

If I got one person in one town, that was all I needed. They'd tell me where to go. And I'd go see Mrs. Jones down the street there and she's got three of them and I know that she is just haggard with these children, and I know [REDACTED] he's out of work and 'I'm sure that if you went [REDACTED] there, she'd be glad to see you.' So I'd take the tip and go. And [REDACTED] sure enough she was there. Lots of times they'd say, 'But who sent [REDACTED] you? So glad to see you, but who sent you?' I'd say, 'Well, I can't tell you who sent me, you have to fish around yourself.' And that was nice. I just enjoyed

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every day of my life, I really did. I spent five or six years doing that. Every minute I enjoyed it and I'd love to have gone through it all again, I enjoyed it so much. I felt I was doing something.

I would talk to both husband and wife if they were interested and especially when it comes to the operation. I had an awful lot of vasectomy operations done. Some of them were very important and needed to be done. The doctor took me in while he was doing one, showing me how it was done.

I think people were interested in birth control all the way. I went up the mountain to a place—that was somewhere in the Okanagan—I went up there and she told me, and she meant it, she was so desperate, that she was going to do something to wipe out her family. She was so pleased to see me and I had a talk with [redacted] her. I don't know how many she had, maybe three or four or so, but she was getting pregnant and she said that she was just so fed up with the poverty and everything, that life wasn't worth living for at all. She said, 'Just talking to you has really given me a little [redacted] bit of hope.'

Do you know, sometimes I was bringing them food. I'd go [redacted] to the store and buy up some stuff and take it around there. It would be one particular case I was thinking of. I went up a mountain around off Chilliwack and they were living in a lean-to that they had made themselves, not having to just pay any rent, squatting. It was more like a playhouse than a living [redacted] quarters. They wouldn't be working.. From Abbotsford in [redacted] there they were on Welfare. They had to walk several miles to get to the relief where [redacted] they get their cheque.

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Insert 1: I went right to Prince George and Giscombe and I went a way up into Braylorne. I went right up to Quesnel and Wells and in that way. I went in every side road whenever I could to get it spread.

****People were looked down on for having ~~big families~~ big families.

In the old days, my husband was one of thirteen, number thirteen. They were needed, I suppose, on the farms, it would come in pretty handy. But, as times got tougher, why people wanted less children.

Legality:

In Mission I run into a doctor, was going to have me run out of town you see, because I was doing birth control work here in Mission. So, I went to the police station and I said to the man at the desk, "I'm doing birth control work here in Mission, and this doctor is going to have me put out of town. So he is going to come to you people, and see that I get moving on. Now," I said, "I'll tell you where I'm staying, so if you want to talk to me, you know where I am." So, I give him my address. But, he says, "Oh, don't pay any attention, that's just a lot of bluff."

(When I went to Trail) this lady says to me, 'You know, I gave you two dollars, and I signed up for that, and I haven't had anything back.' I said, 'You haven't!' I went to the post office and I could see all the little cubbyholes, all there in the different wickets. So I wrote Kaufman's and told them that these little packages were all in the post office and they weren't getting them. And I tell you, I went back to the post office and they were all out. No fooling! Some post masters had apparently opened one and found that they were birth control. They used to think it was against the law, you see.

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I knew that I had the backing, and that it was not illegal; I was trying to
the
wake people up.

Clinics;

Mildred Osterhout and a bunch of these women started a birth control (clinic) here in Vancouver. They were fitting diaphragms, and it became quite popular. I think Kaufman helped them too; they likely got their supplies from him. Mind you, Kaufman wasn't making the birth control supplies. Some of us in Kamloops got together and [REDACTED] brought those girls up there to fit the diaphragms, for some of the poorer [REDACTED] people up there.

Own Interest:

(mother)

I was only two years and ten months old when she had her third. She never [REDACTED] had another one then for about ten years, but that was too many, too fast. And then I get my three in ten years, both birthdays are in November. And I'm telling you, there was no intercourse for a long, long time after that. And I met lots of cases like that. Went went often years without [REDACTED] any sex play at all; just petrified about another [REDACTED] pregnancy. [REDACTED] Of course, a jelly and condom is the safest method there is for birth control. You know what I'd do - I'd get up and go into the kitchen and test that safe to see if there wasn't a spot in it that could leak out anything there. Just in terror. So when women talk to me [REDACTED] about their problems, there was something right there that was with them. They had a great confidence in me, these people. Many women don't realize the joy that they have for them in the sex act at all and it's just telling them one thing and another.