



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
AT  
CHAPEL HILL

The School of Medicine  
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
(919) 966-1601  
FAX: (919) 966-6377

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
CB# 7570, 214 MacNider Building  
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27599-7570

May 17, 1993

Douglas Johnson  
Federal Legislative Director  
National Right to Life Committee, Inc  
Suite 500  
419 7th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2293

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The presentation by Dr. Martin Haskell, entitled Dilation and Extraction for Late Second Trimester Abortion, presented at the National Abortion Federation Risk Management Seminar, September 13, 1992 says nothing about the fetuses being dead prior to the procedure. In the "Background" section of the manuscript, Dr. Haskell refers to two methods of inducing fetal death prior to performing the extraction (intra-amniotic infusion of urea or rupture of the membranes and severing the umbilical cord) which were described at previous NAF meetings. By contrast, the method that Dr. Haskell describes says nothing about induction of fetal death prior to the surgical procedure. Consequently, I believe it is quite safe to say that fetuses are alive at the time the D&X procedure is performed.

Enclosed find a copy of the letter that I have sent in overnight mail to Congressman Smith. I am also enclosing for your interest copies of the articles that I enclosed with that letter. In addition there is a recent article by Dr. Robertson in Cambridge about the care of newborns with birth weights less than 800 gm. I call your attention to the section entitled Clinical Conclusions on page 328.

Sincerely,

Watson A. Bowes Jr., M.D.  
Professor

*[Dr. Watson Bowes, a leading authority on maternal and fetal medicine, is a professor of both obstetrics/gynecology and pediatrics. He is co-editor of Obstetrical and Gynecological Survey, and has served on the Congressional Biomedical Ethics Advisory Committee.]*