

By RUTH DEAN
Star-News Staff Writer

Dr. Alan F. Guttmacher president of Planned Parenthood World Population, expressed "deep concern" last night that the actions of Right to Life groups to overturn the Supreme Court abortion decision will place it in great jeopardy and great danger."

"These people are not going to leave the law as it is if they can possibly overturn it," he told a testimonial dinner honoring Mrs. Marjorie Schuher, retiring executive director of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington.

THE BANQUET audience in the Mayflower Hotel ballroom gasped when Guttmacher recounted how he'd been picketed at a luncheon appearance in Boston earlier in the day by a Right to Life group "wearing white sheets smeared with red paint and carrying signs with 'Guttmacher' printed on them."

He said the movement can accomplish its objective through passage of two constitutional amendments — one, "to grant personhood to the fetus at conception," which he said "is unlikely to pass, but will be used as a bargaining wedge for the second bill to turn back to the states authority to reverse the Supreme Court decision."

Last January by a 7-2 decision, the High Court overturned two state abortion statutes in a decision which makes abortion in the first three months of pregnancy a matter solely between a woman and her physician.

"It is difficult to know how to arm ourselves to fight the battle," Guttmacher told the several hundred dinner guests who included Health, Education and Welfare officials and U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, whose 1969

ruling paved the way for legalized abortion in the District of Columbia.

He pointed out that the Right to Life groups "are seeking 30,000 physicians' signatures to overturn the Supreme Court decision," and said "we don't have 30,000 signatures to fight on even terms. But it would be socially and medically retrogressive if we let this decision languish."

The only avenue Planned Parenthood has "to win the battle," is sex education, Guttmacher maintained.

"I think we're going to establish the individual's complete control over conception, and that will win the battle for abortion if we act wisely."

HE PREDICTED future methods of birth control "will change materially" including reversible methods of sterilization, development of a once-a-month to once-every-three-months pill, and "a male pill" in the next ten years.

"It's high time we gave birth control research great priority," Guttmacher asserted.

Earlier, at a reception before the dinner, Guttmacher said he'd be testifying today before a Senate subcommittee hearing considering rewriting the U.S. penal code to include abortion.

"There's nothing in the Federal code about abortion. I think it's better to leave the damn thing out" Guttmacher declared.

Mrs. Schumacher was lauded for her 15 years service to the local Planned Parenthood group, during which time new patients have increased from 2,000 in 1957 to 15,000 in 1972; contributions have gone up six-fold, and clinic services have been expanded throughout the area.