

POLICE VETO HALTS BIRTH CONTROL TALK; TOWN HALL IN TUMULT

**Mrs. Sanger and Mary Winsor,
Leaders in Movement, Ar-
rested at Meeting.**

AUDIENCE SWARMS STAGE

**Sergeant Seizes Mrs. Sanger as
She Starts to Speak—Police
Buffeted by Crowd.**

ORDER FROM HEADQUARTERS

**No Further Explanation Offered by
Raiders—100 Reserves on
Guard in 43d Street.**

A mass meeting to discuss "Birth Control: Is It Moral?" was broken up by the police at the Town Hall last night. Hundreds of men and women, many socially prominent, derided the police and urged the speakers to defy the order not to speak.

After an hour of uproar and disorder, during which the police were buffeted about in the crowd that swarmed upon the stage, Mrs. Margaret Sanger and Mary Winsor, both conspicuous figures in the birth control movement, were placed under arrest, charged with disorderly conduct.

The police appeared before the speaking had begun, but while the hall was half filled. The doors were locked and the crowd that was inside had to stay there, while hundreds of others in West Forty-third Street clamored for admittance. Among those locked out were Mrs. Sanger and Harold Cox of England, editor of *The Edinburgh Review* and a former member of Parliament. When the doors were opened to dismiss the audience, the crowd swept the police aside and carried Mrs. Sanger and Mr. Cox inside. The attempts to speak and the arrests followed.

The meeting was to have been the culmination of the First American Birth Control Conference, which held sessions at the Plaza on Friday and Saturday. The Town Hall had been engaged three weeks ago and \$250 had been paid for the use of it. When the doors opened at 7 o'clock hundreds crowded in. By 7:45 the hall was filled except for the reserved seats which had been set aside for persons identified with the movement. There was still a large crowd of ticket holders outside and the street was filled with limousines on their way to the hall when, at about 8 o'clock, Police Captain Thomas Donahue, of the West Forty-seventh Street station went to the hall and ordered the doors closed.

Crowd Sweeps Into Hall.

Mrs. Sanger and others who were caught outside appealed in vain for admittance. They were told that the meeting had been ordered stopped by a telephone message from Police Headquarters. Telephonic inquiries to headquarters brought the reply that the orders had been issued by one of the Commissioners, and that none of the Commissioners nor any one who could give any information as to the cause for the order, was at headquarters last night.

One hundred reserves from the West Forty-seventh Street Station were posted in front of the door. The announcement that the meeting had been called off, instead of scattering the crowd, served to increase it. At 8:30 Captain Donahue, who was inside the hall, announced that the doors would be opened to allow those who had entered to leave. As soon as the doors had swung back, the crowd outside, with Mrs. Sanger and Mr. Cox in the van, brushed the police aside and swept into the hall, and Mrs. Sanger was lifted to the stage.

"Defy them! Defy them!" came from all parts of the hall.

Mrs. Sanger motioned for silence, then cried: "One would certainly suppose that this display of liberty and freedom of speech was in Germany, not in America."

"Go on with the meeting," some one shouted, and an outburst of applause followed.

Mrs. Sanger Mounts Stage.

Mrs. Sanger stepped to the front of the stage again and began to speak. She was checked by another demonstration, but before she could continue Sergeant August Handwerg and Patrolman Thomas Gaine walked onto the stage and seized her by the arms.

"You can't speak here," the Sergeant said.

"They don't dare arrest you," a woman called out. "Where's the warrant? What is the charge?"

Mrs. Sanger, stepping away from the two policemen, began her address: "The calling of this meeting tonight," she said, "is the greatest compliment you have ever had. I believe you and I are able to discuss the question whether birth control is moral or not—"

Sergeant Handwerg again told Mrs. Sanger she could not speak and advised her not to cause any disorder. When the policemen took her by the arms again scores of persons in the audience jumped upon the stage. "Arrest her—"

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you don't dare arrest her," they cried. Robert M. C. Marsh was among those who went on the stage, and he told Mrs. Sanger that if she desired he would act as her legal adviser. Others who appeared on the stage in Mrs. Sanger's defense were Mrs. Ogden Reid, Mrs. Juliet Barrett Rublee, Mrs. Ernest R. Adee, Dr. Lydia Allen De Vilbis and Lowell Brentano.

The stage was then in a tumult. Several women began to address the audience, and as fast as one was seized by the police another began to speak. Mrs. Sanger was still the storm-center, and her friends crowded around her and all but swept the policemen off their feet.

"If you would help us," one woman told the audience, "we could remove the police from this platform."

There were cries of "Put out the police!" but wiser counsel prevailed and the audience contented itself with booing the two policemen, who up to that time had made no attempt to clear the stage. The attempts to speak persisted. Mr. Cox, the British editor who had been scheduled to speak, was pushed to the front of the platform and introduced to the audience.

London Editor Cut Short.

"I have come across the Atlantic to address you," he began, but further remarks were cut off by the policemen.

Captain Donahue, who up to this time had been watching the scene from the front of the hall, then appeared on the stage and addressed Mrs. Sanger. "Please get off this stage before you cause some disorder," he told her. Mrs. Sanger refused to move.

"If you arrest her you'll have to arrest me too," one woman cried.

"The captain informs me that this meeting has been stopped by an order by telephone," Mrs. Sanger called out to the audience. "I asked him who was the other end of the wire and he couldn't tell me."

When it became apparent that his orders to leave the hall were not to be obeyed Captain Donahue ordered the arrest of Mrs. Sanger and Miss Winsor who were taken out of the hall between the two policemen, while the audience sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty."

Mrs. Sanger, hatless, led the procession across Broadway and up Eighth Avenue to Forty-seventh Street. Nearly all of those in the hall had followed and hundreds joined them on Broadway. Many of those in the hall had gone directly to the police station, some on foot and some in limousines, and the police had to fight their way through a big crowd to get their prisoners in side.

At the police station, Mrs. Sanger described herself as a writer and gave her address as 104 Fifth Avenue, the headquarters of the Birth Control Committee. Miss Winsor, who has been prominent in the suffrage movement, said her home was in Haverford, Pa. Patrolman Gaine told Lieutenant Courtney, in charge at the station, that the arrests had been on the order of Captain Donahue and that the charge was "refusing to leave the stage in the Town Hall when ordered by the Captain and me."

Prisoners Sent to Night Court.

The prisoners were ordered to be taken to Night Court, at 316 West Fifty-fourth Street. While they were in the police station the congestion in Forty-seventh Street had become so great that reserves were placed at Eighth Avenue, half block from the station, to keep the throng back. When the prisoners left the station in a patrol wagon they passed through cheering crowds, which followed on a run to the court.

The two women were again applauded as they entered the court room. Accompanying them were Robert M. C. Marsh and Jonah J. Goldstein as counsel, an

as witnesses Mrs. Ogden Mills Reid, Mrs. Ernest R. Adee, Mrs. Juliet Barrett Rublee and Mrs. William A. McGraw of Detroit.

Magistrate Francis X. McQuade released the two prisoners without bail in the custody of their counsel until today, when they will appear for examination in West Side Court. After the trial, the court room, they went to the home of Mrs. Rublee, at 242 West Twenty-ninth Street.

Mrs. Sanger, after leaving Night Court, declared that immediate steps would be taken to get out an injunction to permit the meeting to be held this week. She said that a daughter of a Supreme Court Justice, who was in the audience, called up her father last night and was informed that there was not enough time last night to get the injunction.

"We have reason to believe," Mrs. Sanger declared, "that this meeting was closed by the influence of the Catholic Church."

Mrs. Ann Kennedy, one of the officers of the First American Birth Control Conference, told reporters that she had seen in the hall after the police locked the doors a man who said he was Mgr. Joseph P. Dineen, secretary to Archbishop Patrick J. Hayes. Mgr. Dineen, Mrs. Kennedy said, declared that he had been sent by the Archbishop to the meeting.

In a formal statement, which she gave out later, Miss Sanger said:

"My idea of calling the public together tonight was in the belief that this subject could be discussed at the Town Hall with as much dignity and delicacy as it was discussed the last two days at the Hotel Plaza. We were in no way violating the law. I consider my arrest in violation of every principle of liberty that America stands for, and I shall take this case to the highest courts, if necessary, to preclude the possibility of its ever happening again."

"My arrest will in no way stop the opening of the Mother's Health Centre at 317 East Tenth Street."

Anne Lifshitz, Mrs. Sanger's secretary, complained after the meeting that she had been roughly handled by the police while attempting to reach Mrs. Sanger after her arrest. She said that she was at the rear of the crowd that followed Mrs. Sanger across Forty-third Street and Broadway. She displayed a torn coat, which, she said, was the result of the rough handling.

Both Mrs. Sanger and Miss Winsor have served jail sentences for participation in militant movements. Mrs. Sanger was indicted in 1916 by the Federal authorities here on the charge of sending improper matter through the mails. This consisted of copies of "The Woman Rebel" containing an article on birth control. Later the charge was dropped.

In the same year Mrs. Sanger opened a birth control clinic at 46 Amboy Street, Brownsville, and as the result of a police raid she and her sister, Mrs. Ethel Byrne, were arrested. She was sentenced to thirty days in the workhouse. Mrs. Byrne started a hunger strike against her imprisonment and was pardoned by Governor Whitman. Mrs. Sanger agreed at the time to be governed by the law as it stood, and Governor Whitman promised her that he would have a commission investigate the subject of birth control.

Miss Winsor was one of the militant suffragists who, after disturbances in Washington in 1919, were sentenced to Occoquan jail, outside of Washington.

The committee in charge of the birth conference and last night's meeting includes many persons prominent here and in other parts of the country. Among them are:

Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Chadbourne,	Mrs. G. H. Day Sr.,
Mrs. T. W. Lamont,	Mrs. W. Spinney,
Winston Churchill,	Mrs. Charles Tiffany,
Prof. Irving Fisher,	Mrs. Ernest Poole,
D. R. Hooker, M. D.	Florence B. Hilles,
Mrs. Wallace Irwin,	Laura H. Young,
Mrs. J. L. Laidlaw,	J. C. Vaughan, M. D.,
Mrs. Donn Barbour,	Mrs. Simeon Ford,
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Peterson,	Miss Martha Davis,
Dr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Gruening,	Robert M. Lovett,
Mrs. W. Straight	Mrs. Minturn Pinchot,
Mrs. J. W. Brannan,	Mrs. A. L. Lawrence,
Dr. and Mrs. L. E. Holt,	Mrs. Walton Martig,
Rabbi R. I. Coffee,	Mabel W. Hill,
Ph. D.,	Edith Swift, M. D.,
Mrs. John A. Fry,	Kendall Fanning,
Dr. C. G. Taylor,	Florence G. Tuttle,
Mrs. M. Parrish,	Mrs. Ruth W. Porter,
Mrs. H. St. Gaudens,	Dr. Anna Blount,
Mrs. L. L. Delafield,	Dr. Kenneth Taylor,
Prof. W. B. Pitkin,	Herbert Croly,
Mrs. C. E. Knoblauch,	Mrs. Frank I. Cobb,
Baroness K. Ishimoto,	Dr. E. M. East,
L. Stoddard, Ph. D.,	William J. Fielding,
Prof. and Mrs. J. A. Field,	Bernarr MacFadden,
Rev. A. E. Whatham,	Virginia Young,
Kate W. Baldwin,	Mary Shaw,
M. D.,	Dr. S. A. Knopf,
Mary Halton, M. D.,	Mrs. Kate C. Gartz,
Clara W. Carter,	Mrs. Henry Villard,
Dr. Mary I. Bigelow,	Dr. Alice Hamilton,
Mrs. R. B. Gregory,	Dr. John Favill,
Bertha Rembaugh,	Mrs. Shelly Tolhurst,
Mrs. Robert Bass,	Mrs. Otto H. Kahn,
	Lillian D. Wald,
	Mrs. Dexter Blagden,
	Mrs. M. Stern,
	Mrs. Dwight Morrow,