

Race and Reproduction

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Stenographic Report of Hearing Held Before The Eugenics Board of North Carolina on April 20, 1938 in regard to the Sterilization of [REDACTED], a Resident of Durham County.

Miss Ruth Wexler, Child Welfare Worker; Miss [REDACTED] patient; Mr. [REDACTED], patient's father; and Mr. J. Grover Lee, Attorney for Mr. [REDACTED]; appeared for the hearing.

Miss Wexler and [REDACTED] patient came in first for the hearing:

Mr. Mickey: There are just a few things that seem to be interesting about this case - little things we ought to know. What about this condition at home that was the cause of [REDACTED] being sent to Board of Public Welfare? patient

Miss Wexler: That happened before we came in on the case. It was my understanding that the child did have bruises as a result of a beating. Judge of Court brought that to our attention. [REDACTED] patient and younger sister were moved from custody of father.

Mr. Mickey: Her mother is now at Dix Hill?

Miss Wexler: Yes, at the present time.

Mr. Mickey: When Judge Walker put her in charge of the Superintendent of Public Welfare, did she make a definite finding of delinquency or feeble-mindedness?

Miss Wexler: It did not come up at that time. There never has been an official finding of delinquency. The charge was dependency with improper care at home. Delinquency did not enter into it at that time.

Mrs. Bost: It is since then?

Miss Wexler: Yes. It hadn't occurred before that.

Mr. Mickey: Does [REDACTED] particularly care about going back home? [REDACTED] patient, do you care about going back home?

[REDACTED] patient: Yes sir.

Miss Wexler: That is the only alternative, in fact.

HEARING CASE 20 APRIL 1938

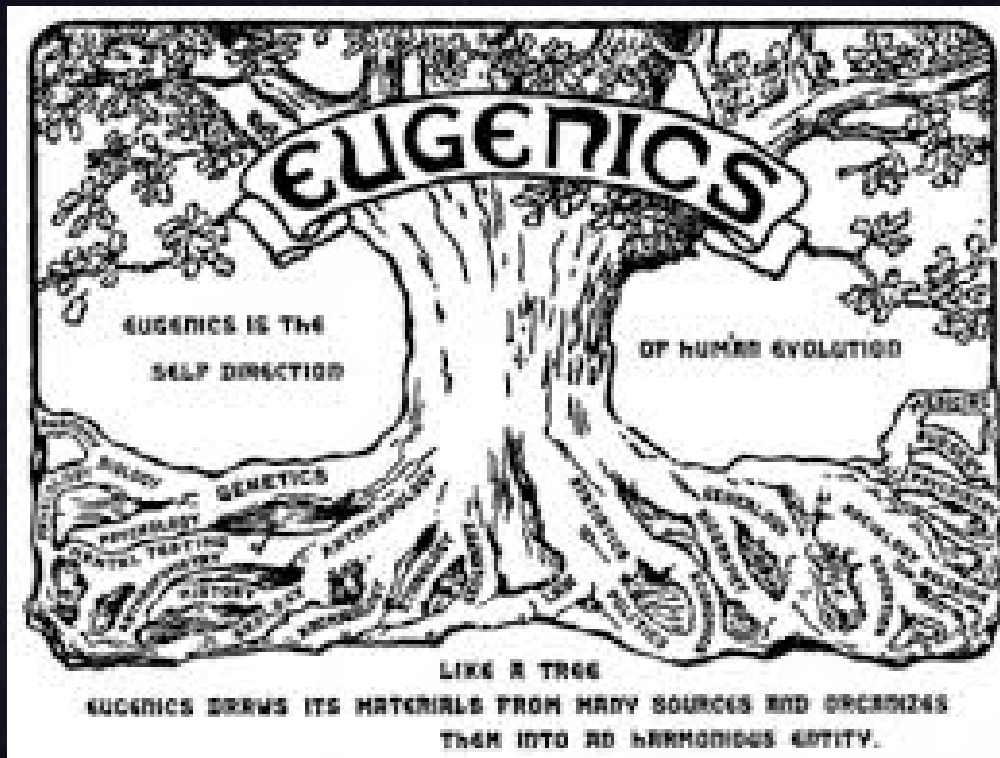
“If she is insane, it is from being locked up five months. It would run anybody crazy.”

“...butcher her up and experiment when she is innocent”

“I am not doing anything...Neighbors give me something to eat.”

“If you continue to object and if we do not go ahead, you are going to have trouble all the time. You know you can't afford that.”

“I have tried to train them right. I whipped them for disobeying, This thing started because I was correcting my own child.”



Form No. 4 - Order

NORTH CAROLINA,
WAKE COUNTY.

Sterilization or Asexualization to be performed
on

feeble-minded, epileptic or mentally diseased.

Sterilization or Asexualization was instituted with _____ and _____

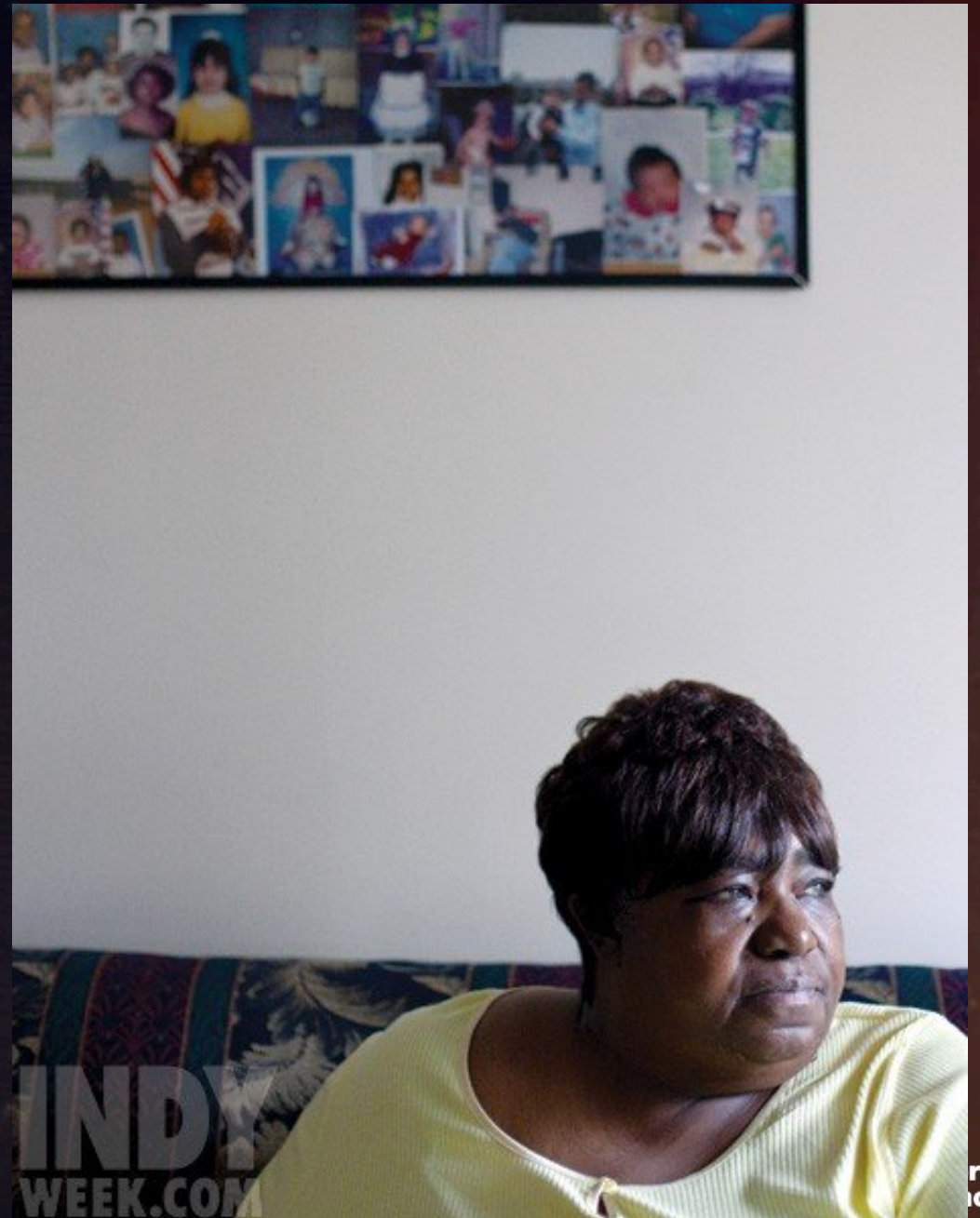
WHEREAS, on _____, _____, the Board of North Carolina, which Notice together served upon the patient and others, to wit _____

WHEREAS, this Board at the place and time designated in the aforesaid Notice of Hearing, did consider the said Petition, and a medical history of the patient, a social case history of the circumstances surrounding the said patient's life relative to the likelihood of the said patient to procreate a child or children, and did hear and consider various other evidence duly offered in support of and against the said Petition, and patient not being present or represented.

AND it being the opinion and judgment of this Board that this case falls within the intent and meaning of one or more of the circumstances mentioned in Section Four, Chapter 224, Public Laws of North Carolina, 1931, and that an operation of asexualization or sterilization will be for the best interest of the mental, moral and physical improvement of the said patient, and/or for the public good,

Secretary of the Eugenics Board

Nial Cox Ramirez, sterilized in 1965 at age 18



North Carolina's Eugenics Law

“mentally diseased, feebleminded, or epileptic”

“in the interest of the mental, moral, or physical
improvement of the patient or inmate or for the public
good”

North Carolina Eugenics Board Members

- Commissioner of Public Welfare
- Secretary of the State Board of Health
- Chief Medical Officer of the State Hospital in Raleigh
- Chief Medical Officer of an institution of the feebleminded or insane
- Attorney General

2. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

3. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

4. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

5. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

6. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

7. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

8. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

9. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

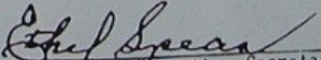
10. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is mentally ill, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

11. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is mentally ill, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

12. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

13. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.

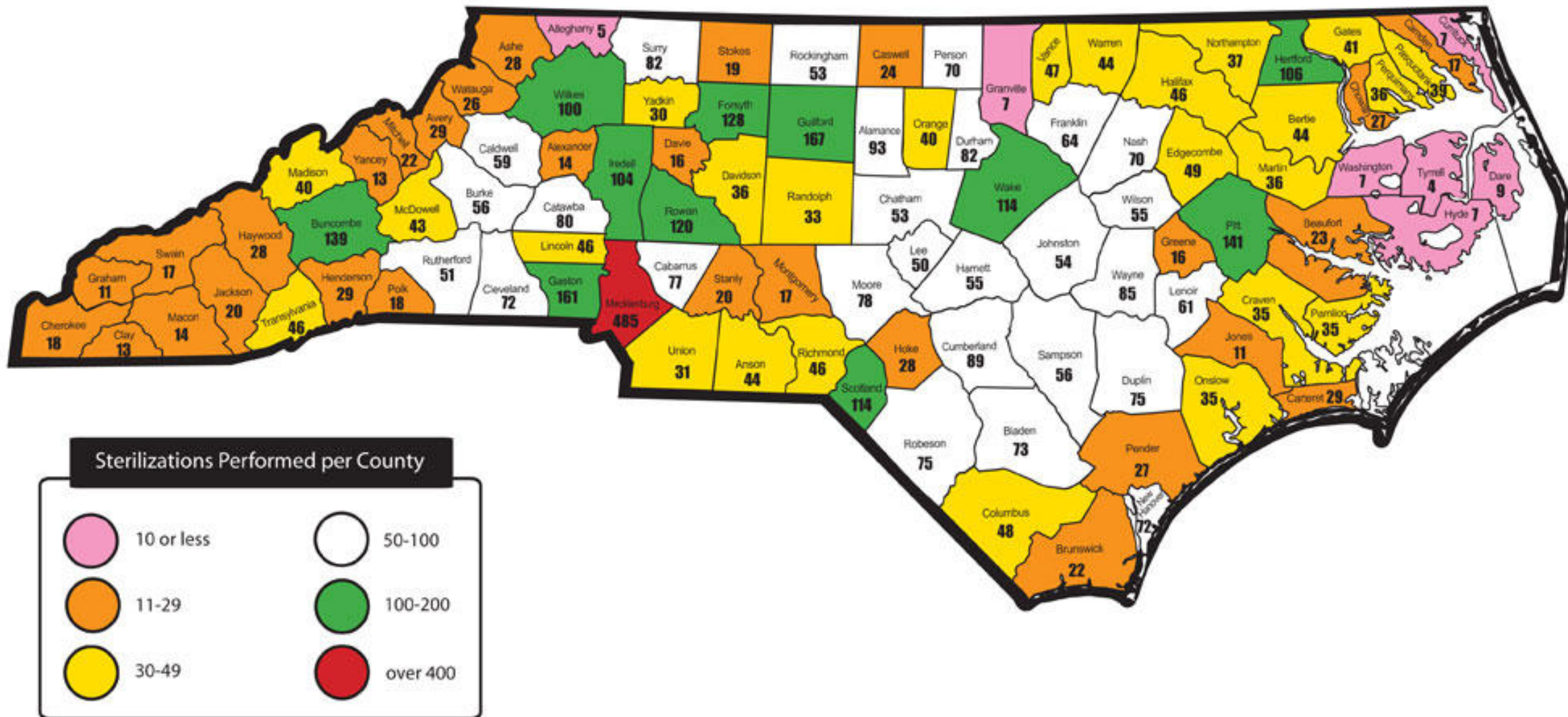
14. [REDACTED]
It was the unanimous decision of the Board that this person is feeble-minded, and sterilization was ordered in accordance with the petition.


Ethel Spears, Executive Secretary

Racial breakdown, percentage of total number

	White	black	Total
• 1929-50	1942 [77%]	594 [23%]	2536
• 1950-68	2364 [55%]	1987 [45%]	4351
• Total	4306 [61%]	2581 [39%]	6887

Peak of Eugenic Program in North Carolina July 1946 - June 1968



“I think it is a sin and Christ never meant for that to be done.”

“She is not more feebleminded than anyone in this building.”

“Kim is not feebleminded...nervous and broken down from being locked up.”

**Elaine Riddick,
sterilized in 1968
at age 14**



They should be protected
from jobs for which they
are not qualified.

NORTH CAROLINA

offers its citizens this pro-
tection in the form of . . .

SELECTIVE STERILIZATION

Selective Sterilization

means the

Voluntary Sterilization

of men and women so they
may live safely outside of insti-
tutions — live without danger
to themselves or to the com-
munity —

The operation is
a simple one which
*removes nothing from the body
and does not change
sex functions or feelings.*
It is *not* barnyard castration!

This has been in the form of general assistance, old-age assistance, ADC [Aid to Dependent children], boarding home placement, institutional care in homes for children, free medical care and hospitalization, and employment on the projects of the WPA [Works Progress Administration] and in Civilian Conservation Corps Camps. In addition to this, there is the cost of court hearings, sentences served in the county jail, training schools, state prison, and the road camps.

George H. Lawrence, “A Study Relating to Mental Illness, Mental Deficiency and Epilepsy in a Selected Rural County” (May 1948).

“[Patient] is a state charge and to protect herself and the state we feel that this operation would be for the best.”

Prove that patient “is perfectly capable of taking care of herself or of any children she might have or that any children she might have would be able to take care of themselves.”

“He has got no right to do that...Stanley hasn't been a friend to me for three or four years. One Christmas...I didn't have any funds to buy presents for the children and I went down there and asked them to help me some. Mr. Stanley laughed.”

“Neighbors think it should not be done. Told me to fight it. If anything happened, they would come to my rescue.”

22 of 40 persons were known as sex offenders

19 diagnosed as sexually promiscuous

Other sexual delinquencies: incest, “trespassing including peeing a peeping tom,” “abduction, adultery...bastardy, crime against nature, indecent exposure, prostitution, seduction, using a hotel room for immoral purposes,” and “uncontrolled sexual desire.”

George H. Lawrence, “A Study Relating to Mental Illness, Mental Deficiency and Epilepsy in a Selected Rural County” (May 1948).

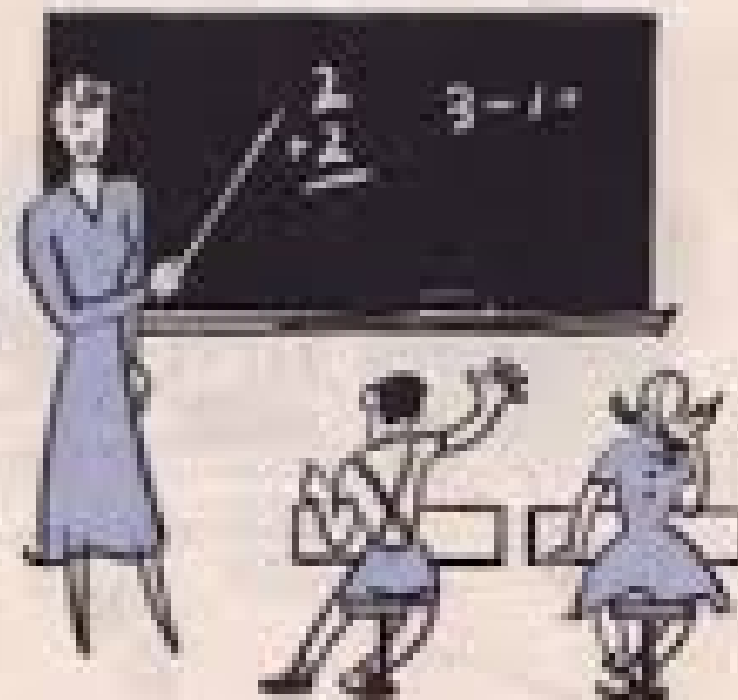
You wouldn't
expect a **moon**

A **moon**¹ to
run a train



¹ A **moon** is a person
whose mind never de-
velops beyond that of
a ten-year-old child.

Or a feebleminded
woman
to teach school



Rita Thompson
Swords

Sterilized at age 21



“seems determined to be promiscuous”

“makes no effort to curb her sexual desires and is very promiscuous with numerous suitors”

“oversexed”

Beulah, 16 years, raped by father at age 12, pregnant by a friend of her mother – her father signs consent form

Leora “had incestuous relationship with her father at age 14, but because she and her mother would not testify in court against him, he was found not guilty. She is now far advanced in pregnancy and her parents refuse to attempt to establish paternity as they don’t want to get messed up in that.” – father signed consent form

Goldie, age 13, pregnant by her brother

“Her brother is the alleged father of her child and has been committed to training school. There is also a feeling in the community that the father has had relations with her, but no proof of this has been secured. According to the brother, Goldie would make an attempt to resist him but would give in each time.”

Parents ask for sterilization, consent signed by father

1/3 of sterilization victims were minors

One 9-year old
three 10-year olds,
31 11-year olds,
67 12-year olds,
116 13-year olds,
226 14-year olds,
335 15-year olds,
406 16-year olds

...

“It isn’t something we would have volunteered to do, We did it because the law obligated us to.”

“Was this a right thing to do? Did we really have all the data at hand?”

“...make things better for...the flow of illegitimate children and the circumstances in which they were brought up,”

“I think our major concern was that here was a mother who has already demonstrated to be incompetent for the raising of children...who was having yet another child, and who, because of her community behavior was likely to have several more. That it was an illegitimate birth was of much less concern than the fact that it was an incompetent mother.”

“I never for a moment felt that anyone on this board was doing this as a matter of punitiveness or vindictiveness or ‘this is what these people deserve.’ Never, never! Or a matter of discrimination of any kind...Most of us felt it was a very sad situation, felt, knew that there were hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of others just like this that never came to our attention. We were sometimes thanked for having done this – parents were glad.”

“We would usually have a brisk discussion, think about our own background.”

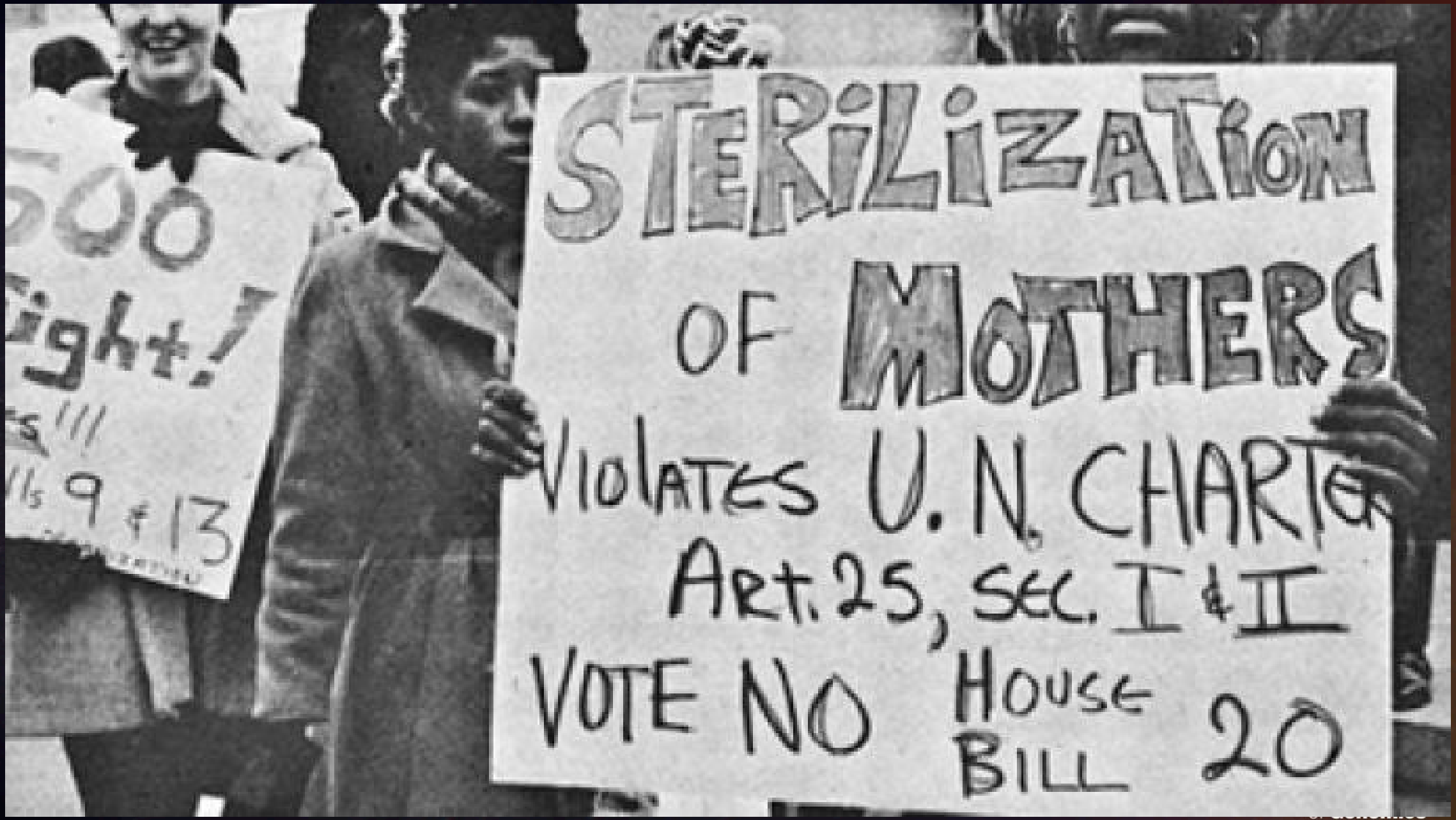
“We may well have sterilized some folk who weren’t that much retarded,”

Willis Lynch,
sterilized at age 15
in 1948





Charles Holt, sterilized at age 19



STERILIZATION

OF MOTHERS

VIOLATES U.N. CHARTER

Art. 25, SEC. I & II

VOTE NO HOUSE BILL 20

...ght!

169 & 13