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Gender Primary Source

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**“Mrs. Sanger Defies Court Before 3,000: Carnegie Hall Mass Meeting Pledges Support in her Birth-Control Fight”**

This *New York Times*  article describes the rally that was held at Carnegie Hall in New York City to support Margaret Sanger and the birth-control movement. It was published on January 30, 1917, about three months after Sanger was arrested for opening the first birth control clinic in the country. The article described Sanger’s speech in a positive way by stating Sanger would continuously fight for the birth control movement even if she was put on trial and put in jail. The article continued by giving a demographic overview of the meeting’s attendees, and it was evident that most supporters of the movement were women. The crowd of women included those that were rich, poor, young, and old, so it was clear that Sanger was gaining support from all women. Attendees were charged admission, and the money collected went to funds to pay attorneys fighting for the movement in courts. In addition to Sanger’s speech, copies of the *The Birth Control Review*, published by the New York State Birth Control League, were sold at the meeting. In her speech, Sanger attacked President Theodore Roosevelt for encouraging Americans to have more children while she “got sixty three letters in one week from poor mothers in Oyster Bay asking for birth control information.” Furthermore, she rebutted the obscenity laws that declared issues and information regarding women’s reproductive health as obscene. The atmosphere of the courtroom consisted of sheer support and delight for Sanger’s speech and purpose, and the article seemed to support the movement. Sanger was not portrayed as a negative figure in the piece, and the speech included in the article gathered support even more support for Sanger’s cause. The article accurately portrayed the support and importance of the birth-control movement and the peak of its popularity and significance; therefore, Sanger gained more supporters to promote her ideas and hopefully sway the judiciary side of the argument to acquit her of charges and rule in favor of women’s reproductive health rights.

"Mrs. Sanger Defies Court Before 3,000: Carnegie Hall Mass Meeting Pledges Support in her Birth-Control Fight." *The New York Times*, January 30, 1917, p. 4.

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