

BIRTH CURB BACKER CONVICTED IN BOSTON

BOSTON, Oct. 17 (UPI) — A militant birth control advocate, William Baird, was convicted today of violating the Massachusetts birth control law when he allegedly passed out contraceptive devices to coeds during a speech at Boston University.

Superior Court Judge Donald B. Macaulay granted a defense motion for immediate referral of the case to the State Supreme Court for a test of the constitutionality of the law. Sentencing was deferred pending the appeal.

The 35-year-old defendant, a father of four from Hempstead, N. Y., was convicted by Judge Macaulay after a short trial without jury. The prosecution took only 53 minutes to present its case, and the defense rested without calling a single witness.

Police Lieut. Joseph Jordan, head of the vice and narcotics squad, testified that he arrested Mr. Baird April 6 after a lecture to several hundred students, and confiscated a box of various kinds of birth control drugs.

He said Mr. Baird had announced that he was going to distribute birth control devices, and he had seen several women students holding samples.

Under Massachusetts law, only doctors and pharmacists may disseminate birth control information, drugs and devices.

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