

L.I. Man Arrested While Distributing Birth-Control Data

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HEMPSTEAD, L. I., May 13.—A 32-year-old former medical student set the stage here tonight for a constitutional test of a state law prohibiting the dissemination of birth-control information and contraceptive devices.

He was arrested and charged with violating this law—as the police had told him he would be—when he handed out birth-control material to a group of women.

The man, William R. Baird of 1269 G Street, Valley Stream, told reporters that he wanted to be arrested to dramatize how “extremely unjust and unfair” the birth-control law was to poor people.

Mr. Baird has been traveling

in a mobile van throughout the state, distributing his material in an effort to get arrested. The police have often ignored him.

He was giving the information and devices in his van tonight when he was arrested. With him were his lawyer, a Methodist minister who said he was offering moral support, and a civil rights worker.

Mr. Baird, who has four children, did not charge for his material, which he offered only to married women.

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