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**DR. C. EVERETT KOOP
U.S. SURGEON GENERAL
1982-1989**

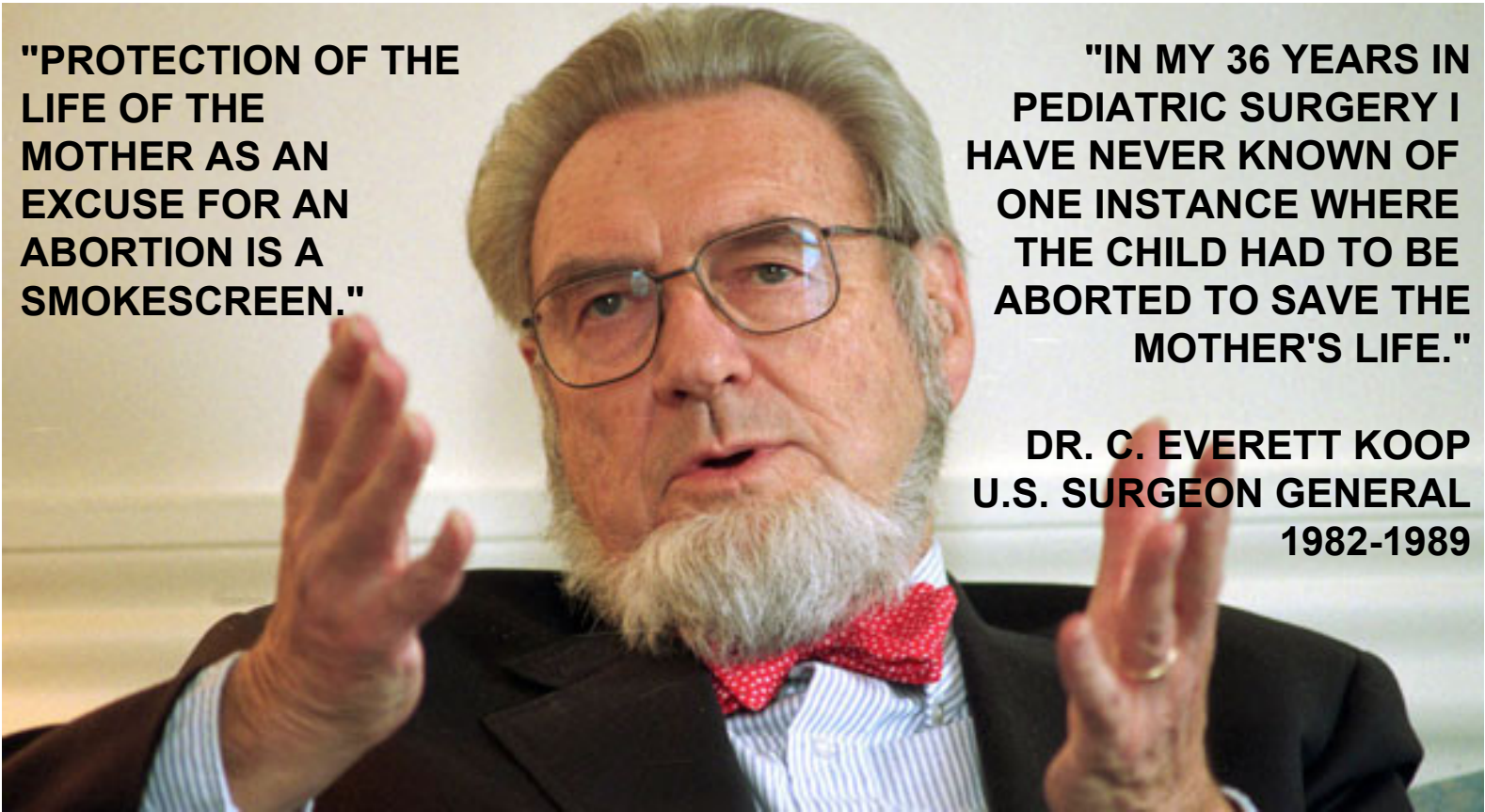


Photo source: <https://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/c-everett-koop-ex-surgeon-general-dies-at-age-96-088050>

How often is abortion necessary to “save the life of the mother”?

Dr. C. Everett Koop, M.D., former U.S. Surgeon General:

“Protection of the life of the mother as an excuse for an abortion is a smoke screen. In my 36 years in pediatric surgery I have never known of one instance where the child had to be aborted to save the mother’s life. . . . If, toward the end of the pregnancy complications arise that threaten the mother’s health, he will take the child by inducing labor or performing a Caesarean section. His intention is still to save the life of both the mother and the baby. The baby will be premature and perhaps immature depending on the length of gestation. Because it has suddenly been taken out of the protective womb, it may encounter threats to its survival. The baby is never willfully destroyed because the mother’s life is in danger.”

C. Everett Koop, M.D., as told to Dick Bohrer, in *Moody Monthly*, May, 1980.

Reprinted in Bohrer’s book here: <http://dickbohrerbooks.com/DownloadFiles/Opinion-8.pdf>

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