

*Criminal Code*

The same is true for human beings.

Failure to apply the same principle to the development of the human being would not be scientific. Therefore, destroying a child at that stage, that is from his conception to his birth, is contributing to destroy a human life.

It is precisely because we do not want to destroy human lives that, in our opinion, these means should be employed before the period of implantation.

We were given several reasons why we should object to the legalization of abortion, and why means of abortion should be employed before the period of implantation. In that connection, there is no consensus among medical practitioners and biologists. We are convinced that the foetus is a human being, however imperfect it may be, from the moment of conception.

As the human being is the most valuable creature of any organized society, it has undeniable rights to temporal property which must be fully respected and protected.

Now, natural rights involve duties because natural law, even though it confers rights, imposes corresponding duties.

In fact, we recognize and favour the right to life. We want these amendments to be accepted, and abortion means employed before the period of implantation.

For instance, the right to life entails the right to maintain it. The right to a decent existence entails the duty to act with dignity. Moreover, if the right to start a family derives from the natural right of man to choose freely his state in life, members of parliament then have an obligation to take financial, social, cultural and ethical measures to consolidate the general stability of man's environment and facilitate the uneasy role that rests with him.

Mr. Speaker, we favour the use of such abortion methods before the period of implantation, and we say so in the house as we have been requested to by the physicians of the province of Quebec and the Association of French-speaking medical practitioners. Indeed, immediately after implantation, life exists. Doctors do not wish to have to procure abortion contrary to the basic aim of medicine, to wit, the protection of the human being, of the individual and of the foetus inside or outside the uterus.

Also on the basis of those very principles of the protection of life and of the right to life, of the human being or of the foetus, the government must be at the service of man.

Therefore it is incumbent on us to pass legislation likely to protect the weakest. We should protect the most dispossessed and without the means to defend themselves. We should protect the human being still in the mother's womb, the foetus.

Some time ago, the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) made recommendations to the house concerning the killing of baby seals. The baby seals, he said, cannot see. To insure their protection and the survival of their species, the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry introduced legislation to that effect. He showed much solicitude for the baby seals that cannot see; and yet he displayed flagrant inhumanity towards the foetus that does not see and is unable to defend itself.

• (4:10 p.m.)

It is the government's duty to comply with the people's wishes, provided it is physically possible and morally desirable to do so. It must therefore find and retain a truly democratic formula of life in society, based upon just laws. This is why we are opposing the bill.

We want those abortion methods to be applied before implantation because we are in favour of fair legislation based on fair principles which will permit every individual to enjoy social, economic, political and religious freedom.

Through a collective effort, prosperity, security and cultural progress will be assured.

Mr. Speaker, I could quote several other doctors who have submitted briefs to us, as well as to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner), but it seems he does not want to take them into consideration.

Mr. Speaker, we are certainly in favour of applying those methods before the period of implantation, since I have in hand an article about the life of a foetus. It is a note appearing in an article written by Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, and I quote:

This story was issued by Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski as a pastoral aid to help resist pressure from the Red Polish government for abandonment of the church's stand against abortion.

The Communist government of Poland was then exerting all kinds of pressures on the Church in order to prevent the government from opposing the abortion law. In Canada, unfortunately, a so-called Liberal government which advocates the establishment of a just society wants to force on us what the Communist government wanted to force on Poland.