Abortion

It must be stated clearly, though, that many women are forced to look at abortion because of men or boyfriends who are not willing to accept their responsibility and offer love, understanding and financial support to see this pregnancy through. In stating the obvious: "It takes two to get pregnant", it is not just a woman's problem.

Essentially, we are only maintaining our population through increased immigration. In Ontario in 1969, official agencies processed the adoption of 5,400 children. In 1979, this figure had dropped to 1,248. By 1984, 862 children were adopted through provincial agencies in Ontario. In this same time frame, abortions have increased over 600 per cent. As a Government, it is important to see that those women faced with unexpected pregnancies have available counselling services and possible financial assistance.

One of the basic debates in this very difficult and emotional issue is, when does life begin? I believe, if one is totally objective, that medical evidence clearly shows that life begins at conception. Did you know, Mr. Speaker, that four days after conception the sex of the unborn can be determined under a special microscope, or that after 24 to 25 days the heart begins to beat and pump its own blood, or that 43 days after conception brainwaves can be determined? Did you know that 30 days after conception, foundations of the brain, spinal chord, nerves and sex organs are completely formed?

All of the following occur even before the mother knows she is pregnant. Nerves and muscles begin working together, lips become sensitive to touch and the shape of the body is unmistakenly human and possesses all the internal organs of an adult.

In fact, the stomach produces digestive juices, the liver manufactures red blood cells, and the kidney eliminates uric acid from the body. Even the legs, arms, fingers and toes have already been formed. From this point on the only changes will be in size and sophistication of use of the unborn's parts. When we consider the abortion procedure, it becomes very clear that if the unborn foetus were not a living being there would be no reason for terminating its life.

I think it is important for Canadians to realize just what happens when a baby is aborted in its mother's womb by an elective abortion procedure. I realize there are those who are offended by such descriptions, yet I think in many cases people's consciences are pricked when they see and hear what really happens when an abortion is performed.

The first procedure is the D&C or the dilation and curettage abortion. This method is most often used in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy. A tiny hoe-like instrument, the curette, is inserted into the womb through the dilated cervix, its natural gateway. The abortionist then scrapes the wall of the uterus, cutting the baby's body to pieces. This is now used less frequently than suction.

The second procedure is suction abortion, the most commonly used method for early pregnancies. The principle is the same as in the D&C. In this technique, which was pioneered in Communist China, a powerful suction tube is inserted through the cervix into the womb. The body of the developing baby and placenta are torn to pieces and sucked into a jar.

The third procedure is salt poisoning, or hyper-natremic abortion. This method is generally used after 13 weeks of pregnancy. According to Statistics Canada, in 1985, 1,715 babies were aborted between 17 and 20 weeks, and 181 babies were aborted after 20 weeks.

In this procedure, a long needle is inserted through the mother's abdomen and a strong salt solution is injected directly into the amniotic fluid which surrounds the child. The salt is swallowed and breathed and slowly poisons the baby, burning his or her skin as well. The mother goes into labour about a day later and expels a dead, grotesque, shrivelled baby. Unbelievably, some babies have actually survived this "salting out", and were born alive.

As graphic and distasteful as these descriptions are, I believe Canadians must have awareness of the medical procedures involved in an abortion if they are going to continue to voice partial support for abortion in this country. When the abortion issue becomes a question of respect for human life, and it always does, it not only refers to the lives of unborn children, but to the lives of the elderly, the sick and, indeed, our own lives. Abortion is only the tip of the iceberg as we see today in our society euthanasia being discussed and even practised in moderate form. Does this mean in the final analysis, as Dr. Harley Smith at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto stated:

> There is relentless pressures on Governments to govern and physicians to practice on the principles of pure utility. In this view, what is good is not what is just or what is right, but what is useful. What is strong will survive. Who is wanted will be welcome.

I find it ironic that we live in a country that protects eagles' eggs and baby seals under law and yet allows abortion on demand. Throughout the abortion debate, we cannot get away from the fact that we are talking about the protection of or the taking of the life of the innocent unborn. We are living in a different world since Mr. Trudeau brought in his Charter, Section 15 of the Charter in particular. We hear an emphasis on rights, but what about responsibility and accountability?

● (2130)

In the abortion debate we constantly hear that women should make the choice over their own bodies. I agree that women should have the choice, but that choice should come before she enters into a sexual relationship with her partner. Grown men and women know that by entering into a sexual relationship there is always the possibility that a pregnancy could occur. Surely, abortion should not be considered a solution in that situation, like removing a troublesome wart. Margaret Eihler, one of the leaders of the radical feminist movement in Canada, stated: "Thanks to the feminist movement, the traditional or nuclear family is a goner". The radical feminist lobbyists, supported strongly by taxpayers' money,