

Who Speaks for the Unborn Child?

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to the article in the Gateway (Thursday, Nov. 18, mis-titled "The Price of Love"). We would like to present the pro-life case in the abortion issue, in the face of mis-representation of the facts and the irrational conclusions in the above article.

Major mis-assumption

The major mis-assumption of the article is that the unborn child is not a real human being at all, at least, not within the first few months after conception. The article then justifies abortion, of what Miss Brown assumes to be something like a piece of meat or a glob of protoplasm, by citing concern for the mothers physical and mental health, her social well-being, and, yes, even her convenience.

Science, however, disagrees with Miss Brown's major premise. The First International Conference on Abortion held in Washington, D.C., in October 1967, brought together the most distinguished and qualified body of natural scientists, to date, to discuss the question, "When does human life begin?". The medical group, composed of biochemists, professors of obstetrics and gynecology, geneticists, etc., reached the following almost unanimous (19-1) conclusion:

"The majority of our group could find no point in time between the union of sperm and egg, or at least the blastocyst stage, and the birth of the infant at which point we could say that this was not a human life."

They continued:

"The changes occurring between implantation, a six-weeks old embryo, a six months fetus, a one-week-old child, or a mature adult are merely stages of



Photo: Ed Lilley

development and maturation."

Thus at the moment of conception the human being exists in his entirety. Nothing is added to this being between this time and his death as an old man, except time, nutrition, and oxygen.

If we reject this conclusion and remain doubtful as to the presence of an actual human life in the uterus at a particular time, surely our humanity would resolve the doubt in favour of life. We do not abandon trapped

miners or people caught under collapsed buildings. We do not bury the doubtful dead. We always give life the benefit of the doubt.

Real issue

The real abortion issue, then, is whether society, and us being part of society, will continue to guarantee every human being, regardless of stage of development, the absolute right to life; a right which is fundamental to us all. If we don't then human life will take on relative value, only, dictated by economic and social price tags.

Miss Brown's article would deny this right to life to unborn children and would justify killing them by flimsy reasoning and unsubstantiated "facts".

Seperate organism

Typical of the movement for permissive abortion laws, Miss Brown would argue that the unborn child is part of the mother's body and that the mother should have control of, and privacy of her own body. The error in this argument is that the human being within the uterus cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, be considered part of the mother's body.

This new living being has genetic code that is totally different from the cells of the mother's body. It is a completely separate growing organism and can never be considered part of the mother's body. We agree that she should have the right to her own body, but the child is not part of her body. It is another person's body. The right of that person to live is greater than and supercedes any right that a mother may have to the privacy of her own body. Just as that right to life is guaranteed by society for everyone, so must it be guaranteed for the unborn person.

kind of physical abnormality came about as a result of the abortion. The following complaints were listed:

1. 9% sterility.
2. 14% subsequent habitual spontaneous miscarriage.
3. 400% increase in tubal pregnancies.
4. 17% menstrual irregularities.
5. 20-30% abdominal pain, dizziness, headaches, etc.

These figures are similar to those reported in surveys in England and Sweden.

Miss Brown would also like us to believe that legalized abortion would eliminate back-street abortion and its

Letters

All letters to the editor should be typed double space, not more than 250 words. Otherwise they may be abridged (exceptions will be considered). The writer is asked to include his name and telephone number with his letter. Pen names will be used at the writer's request. Letters should be sent to THE GATEWAY, Room 282, SUB, Edmonton, or should be dropped off at our offices, no later than 6:00 P.M. Tuesday and Friday, if they are to appear in the following issue. THE GATEWAY shall not be held responsible for any libel or damages incurred.

Abortions after-effects

Miss Brown's suggestion that the threat to the physical and mental wellbeing of a mother, posed by an unwanted pregnancy, may be eliminated by abortion is hardly substantiated by the facts. Studies in England, Sweden and Japan (Ref: "Handbook on Abortion". Dr. and Mrs. Willke, Hiltz Pub. Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, 1971) show that a woman who has recently had an abortion is eight times more likely to commit suicide than a pregnant woman. This would imply that killing her unborn child is a more traumatic experience for a mother than carrying the child to birth. In 1966, the council of the Royal Collage of Obstetrics and Gynecology in England reported on a survey of this problem and said:

"The incidence of serious permanent psychiatric aftermath from abortion is variously reported as being between 9% and 59%"

Statistics from these countries show that the death rate due to legal abortions was more than double that due to delivery of a baby. Also, legal abortions caused much more physical complications. In the 1969 Survey by the Office of the Prime Minister of Japan, 31% of women who recieved legal abortions indicated that some

dangers. Again, experience in England, Sweden, Japan and the U.S. has indicated that this is not so. Dr. C. Tietze, one of the worlds outstanding biostatisticians, has written in the U.S. Journal of Public Health (Nov. 1967):

"One of the major goals of the liberalization laws in Scandinavia was to reduce illegal abortion. This was not realized. Rather, as we know from a variety of sources, both criminal and total abortions increased. It survives because of the relative lack of privacy of the official procedures."

In Japan where legal abortions are very inexpensive and have been available for 22 years, a full one-third of the 50 million unborn children that have been killed in this period have been killed by illegal procedures.

Contraception

Finally, the concept of abortion as an alternative form of contraception must be rejected. Contraception tries to prevent fertilization whereas abortion kills the life of the human person already conceived. The "pill" is 100% effective and poses less danger to life than abortion. For those few who cannot use the pill, alternate methods ("Birth Control Handbook") are highly effective if individuals take care to properly understand and use them. The life of an unborn child cannot be the price for individual neglect.

Thank you.
Theresa Bryson
(Housewife and mother)
John Bryson
Dept of Civil Engineering.

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