Abortion

do best in the home. That is the most natural place for them to be, but if that is not possible we have to find other ways of doing it.

We all know that there are better and more fulfilling ways of facing life than through an abortion. But we as a society need to care for them.

For over 100 years the Salvation Army has cared for young mothers who found themselves in distress. Now, having built a chain of hospitals across Canada to help young ladies who are to become mothers, they cannot fill these hospitals with mothers for that purpose. Is it a sign of our health, of our social and spiritual and ethical health that when we have support mechanisms out there to help people like this they get counselling that diverts them from it and counsels an abortion rather than a delivery? Is that a sign of our health?

Why should we deny charitable organizations like the Salvation Army that way of ministering to our society?

I commend to Members the motion that was put forward by the Member for Kitchener (Mr. Reimer) because I believe it fulfils the requirements that the Supreme Court has already strongly suggested it would look for in any kind of legislation. I ask them to resist the lure of thinking that a gestational approach is actually a solution because that motion is nothing but abortion on demand and there is no security of the person in that.

I say to Hon. Members: We need to look for hope, and look at the exuberance of life. Where there is distress and depression, we need to embrace and hold up those people who are in distress and provide hope for them so that this generation and succeeding generations can look to us as those who have saved a generation.

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I intend to echo the comments made by my colleague, the Member for Surrey—White Rock—North Delta (Mr. Friesen). This is probably one of the most important debates to be held in the House of Commons since the constitutional debate. At that time I stood up and voted against the Constitution simply because there was no specified protection in that piece of legislation for the unborn child.

Certainly it is the responsibility of society to protect the unborn, for if society will not do it, who will? The unborn have rights, and that is why this debate is so important.

Part of the problem may be due to a breakdown in our society. While there are probably many causes for that breakdown, one may be due to the fact that people have so much time on their hands in this technological age. I am not sure that we are using that time as we should. When I grew up we had chores to do that did not give us the time nor money that people have today.

We must impress upon society that the abortion question is a problem with which we all must deal. The Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) said she wished there were more young people taking part in this debate. The last person I spoke to before I came into the House was a 22-year old lady who advised me about what I should say and how. She told me what she wanted to convey and that is why I am speaking today on behalf of my constituents. They expect it of me.

At a Mass on Sunday, the priest recommended to his congregation that they get in touch with me to make sure that I was here to represent their views. That is what I am attempting to do now.

We all must recognize that we are part of the process and cannot escape it. Certainly we are our brother's keeper, our sister's keeper and our daughter's keeper. We must accept the responsibility to give help where it is required.

I want to refer to an article in the *Red Deer Advocate* on Saturday, July 2, 1988. The column is called "A Closer Look", and the headline of the article is: "Abortion Trauma Entwines Itself in Women's Lives". It is written by Valerie Starno, a freelance writer and a former correspondent for the *Daily Interlake* in Kalispell, Montana.

● (2010)

One of the problems we possibly have is the fact that sometimes women think this is only their problem. I do not see it that way. I think it is a problem for all of us. We have to accept the responsibility. Perhaps it is because of a lack of discipline in our society, perhaps it is because of a lack of restraint, perhaps a lack of supervision. There could be multiple reasons why we have this problem to deal with. I would like to put this news story on the record:

Five months have passed since the Supreme Court of Canada declared federal abortion laws unconstitutional.

Since the Jan. 28 decision there has been intense debate, most of which has focused on the rights of the woman and the unborn child. An important aspect of the abortion issue which has received less consideration is the effect of abortion on women and society. Yet this aspect surely deserves attention for there is increasing evidence that abortion may be contributing to a plethora of personal and social problems.

According to Tanya Hughson, national co-ordinating director of the Abortion Outreach Centre in Calgary, 75 per cent of the centre's 150 monthly calls are directly related to "post-abortion trauma" counselling.

Hughson describes the trauma as, "sustained emotional denial which produces a variety of physical and emotional responses". She likened it to the clinically recognized Vietnam disorder, which has produced similar symptoms among many Vietnam combat veterans. The basis for post-abortion trauma appears to be the act (abortion), regardless of the woman's personal feelings of right and wrong and independent of society's values.

She said some of the more severe manifestations of the trauma include depression, suicide attempts, chemical dependencies, child abuse and multiple abortions. Hughson's remarks were made during a presentation to 1,200 women attending a meeting with Elaine McCoy, minister of women's issues, May 5 in Edmonton.

The volunteer-run centre is known nationally and has a 24 hour crisis telephone line to provide anonymity and easy access to counselling, Hughson said. The centre is privately funded.

The reason I want to put this on record is the fact that this is women speaking.