

*Abortion*

drafted, should so startle the two opposition groups in this House. I hope that the attitude taken by those two opposition Parties will not become, if you like, a common attitude in the House. In short, this debate, prior to the Government, through its Cabinet, drawing up legislation to deal with abortion, is a vital ingredient of what the country would like to see prior to new legislation being introduced.

That leads to the question, as some Members have already indicated, why we need any legislation. In my opinion, the Supreme Court of Canada decision has left this nation in a totally unacceptable position. That decision means today that we have no law, certainly of a criminal nature, touching on the question of abortion. We literally are in a position of having a woman pregnant in the seventh, eighth or even ninth month and, from a criminal standpoint be aborted by the abortionist with no criminal implication.

Let us just step back and think of where we are. I have just said that a child could be in its ninth month and be aborted and there would be no criminal sanction on the abortionist or any party involved. Let the child be born and, of course, the whole weight of our law would come down on the person who would dare kill that child, and rightfully so. Surely the people of Canada do not expect this House to leave that situation unattended.

● (1900)

Let me go further. This afternoon I had an opportunity to listen to the official spokesperson from the Official Opposition and then to the official spokesperson from the New Democratic Party. With respect to the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan), I was very disappointed to hear how vague his remarks were. He even went to the point of saying that the Charter of Rights must be upheld over any question of abortion. That was never my understanding of the Charter. I thought that the Charter was to guarantee liberties, freedoms, and certainly to guarantee the sanctity of life itself. To have the official spokesman from the Opposition say that somehow or other the Charter is supreme and that even the question of abortion should never be allowed to alter the provisions of the Charter is inherently wrong.

As far as members of the New Democratic Party are concerned, they have made it very clear that they are virtually unanimous in supporting abortion on demand. On hearing the official spokesperson today for that Party, I thought that there was a coldness, an unbelievable coldness in the remarks concerning the subject we are debating here today.

Let me put my remarks into some type of perspective. It is easy, and Members have already made this reference, to say that there are approximately 60,000 abortions performed each year. The figure trips off our tongues very easily. But let us think of what that really means. Since 1970, for example, if we add up the aggregate abortions to this year, we see that this year is a very bad year. This is the year in which we passed the one million mark in total abortions in the country since 1970—

one million future Canadians snuffed out by the system that we have allowed to develop and have tolerated in Canada.

Again let me put that into perspective. What exactly does one million Canadians mean? It is the entire population of Saskatchewan. It is the entire population of Manitoba. It is more than the entire population of Nova Scotia. We are talking about one million Canadians being wiped out, taken out of our future.

If we want to relate that figure to cities, it is approximately one-half the size of Metropolitan Toronto. It is more than the size of Ottawa-Hull combined. I hope that Hon. Members will try to seize upon the magnitude of what we are talking about. To say simply that 60,000 people in the form of abortions are wiped out is one thing. But let us put that into real terms. Let us put it into a real perspective.

The NDP, and in this I often agree, often speak about the horrors of war, the tragedies, the killing and how we must do all we can to ensure that wars will not break out in the future. Again, let us put this evening's debate into perspective. When we say that 60,518 abortions occurred in 1985, let us relate that to the last war, the Second World War. In that entire five-year period the total fatalities suffered by Canadians was 51,992. In short, in the one year, 1985—and I suggest the figures hold for 1988—we wiped out more than the total fatalities suffered by Canada in World War II. In fact, if we want to add up all the fatalities that suffered by Canadians in wars since the time of Confederation we would see that it is less than 120,000. In short, as a result of abortion in two years alone we killed more future Canadians than have been killed in all the wars in which we have ever engaged as far as troop fatalities are concerned.

I say these things because I feel that sometimes we become clouded. We see it is as some type of an academic idea. What could be more real than the fact that deaths are occurring and the fact that the Parliament of Canada is being asked to somehow condone or even to facilitate these deaths?

When one says that there were over 60,000 abortions performed in 1985, one might ask what the comparison of that figure is with the leading cause of death for the same year. The leading cause of death was heart attack. We find that 58,000 Canadians died of heart attacks in 1985. Through our abortion approach we kill more future Canadians than were wiped out by the number one killer in 1985, heart attacks. The interesting thing to note is that about three-quarters of those heart attacks that occurred in later years occurred in persons over 65 years of age. If we wish to look at the 45-year or older level, we see that the bulk of deaths were as a result of heart attacks. Think of the tragedy. Those people are dying, regrettably in their more senior years, while we are allowing 60,000 other future Canadians to be killed before they even have the opportunity to be born. That is what we are talking about in this debate.

In fact, one could put it this way. As far as an infant is concerned, from its point of conception until its ultimate death