

and education programs necessary to alleviate women of the traditional male-female economic disparities.

It must therefore be our responsibility as a caring and just society to protect and nurture mother and child through the full development of human life, both before and after birth. To merely impose an ethical judgment on the backs of the vulnerable members of society without compensating social support would be both cruel and irresponsible. Those of us who are compelled to champion the unborn cannot be indifferent to the needs of those who have survived birth. We cannot make our ethical and social decisions in a vacuum.

Sadly, the proposed legislation is seriously flawed because it makes no attempt to balance the rights of the unborn with those of the mother. The bill before us sets such a small bounty on the life of the unborn that even the lamest excuses of the mother will be accepted. We, as legislators, must learn to embrace the foetus as an equal member of society. To imperiously determine which life should be afforded protection of the law and which should not would leave our society extremely susceptible to the social decision-making characteristic of the genocidal policies of certain Third World nations.

We must not allow ourselves the arrogance of so easily denying life. We do not have that right. No one carries the truth in his pocket. If we are to err in our judgment let us err on the side of life.

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## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Before I recognize the Hon. Member for Medicine Hat, it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for Saskatoon-Clark's Crossing (Mr. Axworthy)—Proposed Goods and Services Tax; the Hon. Member for Drummond (Mr.

### Government Orders

Guilbault)—Dairy Industry; the Hon. Member for Dartmouth—Auditor General's Report.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### CRIMINAL CODE

#### MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lewis that Bill C-43, an act respecting abortion, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Mr. Bob Porter (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, at this stage of the debate on Bill C-43 there is probably little else that can be added to the substance of either side of this sensitive issue that has not already been raised.

During the last two elections there was probably no question put to candidates running for office more frequently than "What is your position on abortion?" I stated my pro-life views clearly in 1984 and again in 1988 so that my constituents knew my position before they voted for me. I was among the members in this House who supported the pro-life amendment on motion M-37 during the last Parliament.

Those of us who sit as members in this House come from every area of Canada. We come from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We come from different walks of life and different religions. It is because of these differences that this place is interesting, challenging, frustrating and, at times, most difficult.

In dealing with the abortion issue it is these differences, personal views and family values that each of us has developed which shapes and determines our individual position on this issue. Despite the eloquent debate on either side of the abortion issue—and I have been listening to the many eloquent speeches on either side—few, if any, members I am sure will be persuaded to change their position.

The difficult decision for many of us is whether or not we can support a bill that is not our preferred choice in legislation. This bill does not contain everything most of us would like to see encompassed in legislation. It contains clauses that I am personally uncomfortable with.