

I was born what used to be called an illegitimate child, a term that from the time I first understood it I considered absurd, because there are no illegitimate children; only illegitimate parents. I was no source of joy when a period was lost and I was found. I was the cause of panic, scandal and shame to all concerned. The simplest, easiest and quickest way to forestall that little problem was by an abortion—me. Fortunately, free-standing abortion clinics were not around back then, and as a result I am here today . . . Had the Morgentaler mentality been free and unfettered by the law in 1939, as it now is in Canada, I undoubtedly would have been “untimely ripped” from my birth-mother’s womb. Instead, because of the conservative laws of the puritanical country and times I was born into, I lived to be adopted by wonderful parents who had already raised nine natural children of their own, and who all loved me as I loved them—as family. I bless them today for what they gave me: Their caring, their respect for life and their name. This man Morgentaler and his ilk are no heroes to somebody like me—a fetus who escaped the abortionists. This man some would place on a pedestal, would have denied me my life, and my children’s lives and their children’s lives. For a fistful of dollars and what I consider a dubious “principle”, abortion on demand, he would destroy generation upon generation . . . But I do believe that those who tout Dr. Morgentaler as one of the great men of his time should take a moment to pause and listen. If they do, they may hear a small voice through the din of all those shouting that they alone have God on their side in this issue. It is a voice crying in the womb: “What about me? What about me?” I say it is a legitimate question to ask.

Honourable senators, let us pause and listen to that voice—the voice of the unborn human being within its mother’s womb. We must never forget that abortion is an act of violence. To legalize abortion is to legalize acts of violence. Our whole society will be corrupted if the law itself becomes an instrument of corruption. We must protect our laws from that terrible fate.

I urge honourable senators and I urge our government to take up this challenge of protecting the unborn human being with unrelenting determination, perseverance and responsibility. This will be our greatness as a nation and our contribution to the dignity of life, the fundamental and ultimate human right from which will flow harmony and justice in our society.

Honourable senators, if there is wisdom among us, and I believe there is, and if there is the will, as I believe there should be, and if there is experience, as I know there is, and if there is compassion, as I am sure there is, then let us mobilize these qualities and employ them as legislators in the best way to defend and preserve human rights and fundamental freedoms. I therefore urge honourable senators to take up this challenge with a deep sense of urgency, responsibility and determination. This will then be, I believe, another great opportunity for the Senate to save and serve all our people.

I call upon honourable senators to support Bill S-16.

[Senator Haidasz.]

On motion of Senator Macdonald, debate adjourned.

● (1510)

## ROYAL ASSENT

### NOTICE

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that the following communication had been received:

RIDEAU HALL

25 May 1988

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that The Honourable Gérard V. J. La Forest, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 25th day of May, 1988, at 4.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

Yours sincerely,  
Anthony P. Smyth

Deputy Secretary, Policy and Program

The Honourable  
The Speaker of the Senate  
Ottawa

[Translation]

## THE CONSTITUTION

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT, 1987—MOTION FOR MESSAGE TO COMMONS—DEBATE CONTINUED

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Frith, seconded by the Honourable Senator MacEachen, P.C.:

That a Message be sent to the House of Commons to inform that House that the Senate has authorized the proclamation of an amendment to the Constitution in the terms of the following schedule, to which it desires their concurrence:

### SCHEDULE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT, 1987 *Constitution Act, 1867*

1. The *Constitution Act, 1867* is amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 1 thereof, the following section:

“2. (1) The Constitution of Canada shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with

(a) the recognition that the existence of French-speaking Canadians, centred in Quebec but also