

able to express themselves fully? Scientifically, the process of birth is simply a change in residence for one who has already been living and interacting with his or her protective environment for nine long months.

The fact is that each new human life begins at conception and proceeds through stages identified as embryo, foetus, infant, child, adolescent, and adult. The Charter requires that every human being from the very young to the very old, especially the helpless and defenceless, must be afforded equal protection. Anyone whose rights or freedoms as guaranteed by the Charter have been infringed on or denied may apply to a court to obtain such remedy as the court considers appropriate and just in the circumstances.

Obviously the Charter made these provisions to assure that those who felt their rights being denied were given a fair hearing. Further to this guarantee of the right to life, Section 12 states:

Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.

Today we constantly see new evidence that points to the pain experienced by the unborn child during an abortion. The suction abortion, used up to 12 weeks, disembowels and dismembers the child alive. There are no survivors. The saline abortion, used in the second trimester, consists of the removal of some of the amniotic fluid from the womb. This is then replaced with a saline solution. During the next several hours this slowly kills the child: it burns the eyes, the lungs, and the skin. The mother goes into labour and gives birth to a dead child. Some babies have been known to survive such a procedure. They are simply left to die, unattended and alone.

The issue of foetal pain has become very prominent in the last few years. Medical science doctors confirm that when the lives of the unborn are snuffed out, they often feel pain, pain that is long and agonizing.

Twenty-six physicians, including two past presidents of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have affirmed foetal pain. Their response stated in part: "The ability to feel pain and respond to it is clearly not a phenomenon that develops *de novo* at birth. We all have sympathy and empathy for our fellow man, and even animals that show outward signs of pain and suffering. Surely, if animals can be protected from inhumane killing techniques, the unborn child should have the right not to be subjected to this kind of cruel and unusual punishment".

With the advent of technology such as amniocentesis, we now see abortions being done to assure parents that a child of desired sex is obtained. Most often these sex selection abortions result in the retention of the male and the destruction of the female.

More and more people are beginning to recognize that women themselves are victims of abortion. Women are often not told the facts concerning the unborn child. Women are

### Abortion

often not told about the physical and psychological problems which can result from abortion.

That is why we need and we must have a tremendous increase in services for pregnant women, so that the thoughts of contemplating abortion would be nullified by the thought that good support programs, moral support, and financial support are readily and amply available for women during pregnancy and for some time after the birth of the baby. This is imperative. All of us, including those of us in public office, must work together to make more of these services a reality. I know that the cost for such services would be tremendous, but how can one equate that cost with the present holocaust of killing some 60,000 unborn babies annually? There is no comparison. That is why we must push forward for an increase in these services.

Women today are not given the type of support that is necessary at such a vulnerable time. Decent and reasonable alternatives are often withheld. Some are forced to abandon further education or employment. Then society politely offers abortion and calls it the "women's choice". More and more women are realizing that they are being terribly exploited by our selfish abortion-oriented society. This is discrimination against women and against the very nature of womanhood. I support women's rights, but individual rights top when they affect the rights of another. No man or woman has the right to take the life of another individual in or out of the womb.

In summary, I have just reviewed how many Canadian unborn children are denied basic rights as other rights are supposedly pursued. They have no recourse to be heard on the denial or infringement of rights; they have been deprived of the most fundamental right, the right to life; and they are subjected to cruel and unusual treatment. They are discriminated against on the basis of age, and they are discriminated against on the basis of handicap. We have seen that women are discriminated against as they are not protected from abortion. They are manipulated by society to do the most unnatural thing in the world, to kill their own tiny child.

To have a Charter of Rights and Freedoms is commendable, but how can we say that we will respect and even guarantee basic human rights to every individual and then proceed to devalue and dehumanize an entire segment of our human community? Such thinking is unscientific, immoral, and unacceptable.

● (1640)

I have spoken about the plight of the unborn in Canada today. Surely these abuses go far beyond the respectable intentions of the Charter. I hope that you can see, from this very brief outline, that the plight of the unprotected unborn child and his mother is especially pitiful when we consider what a caring and loving society could do for them. As a just, compassionate and humane society, we must extend to these little ones and their mothers the equal respect, the protection, and the benefit of the law.