

*Criminal Code*

born. I cannot possibly accept such an interpretation of the concept of life. I sincerely believe that God alone creates life, but in His infinite wisdom he associates himself to man to carry out his work. Consequently, a man and a woman become procreators in uniting in the conjugal act to fulfil their mission, and providing there is fecundity, in my opinion, the life of a new human being starts there immediately. I believe that things could not be otherwise since, according to God's will, life begets life. First of all, one must be alive and have life to be able to transmit life according to the law of creation. I have here also a document that was prepared by the Association of hospital medical boards in the province of Quebec, in which one can read the following:

The medical board is the body which in each hospital includes all the practising physicians. Lately, as a result of the presentation of the government bill on abortion, the association got in touch with all its members in writing or at meetings to discuss that bill. The directors have considered all the views expressed and they are pleased to give you their conclusions on abortion and that bill.

The physicians of the Quebec hospitals believe that any abortion is a homicide, because the foetus is a human being. In the present state of medicine, the foetus is a living human being and has the right to live as all other human beings. Even from a legal point of view, the foetus is already considered to be a complete human being, since he is entitled to estate rights and the State still considers non-therapeutic abortion as a crime liable to life imprisonment.

Mr. Speaker, Man is able to conceive plans of all kinds, in various areas, but he will never succeed, once dead, to bring himself back to life. In spite of science, of various discoveries, of the power of human intelligence, there has never been a man who could create something, a simple plant, a humble blade of grass. Man can improve it, help it grow faster and better, but never, in spite of all his intelligence, will he be able to create it, to give it life.

Our presence here as human beings, alive and conscious, is not due to our own will, but to the respect and the protective feeling which our parents had for life, in spite of difficulties that confronted them, and of troubles of all kind they had to endure.

● (4:00 p.m.)

The human capital, the inhabitants themselves are the greatest wealth of our country, and this is so true that we may well ask ourselves—and rightly so—what all the other physical riches of our country would be worth if there were nobody to use them.

All things created were made to be used by man, by human beings endowed with life. Our forefathers fought for their lives and their survival and, by doing so, they managed to build up the Canada of today.

Our ancestors laid the groundwork of our country more than 350 years ago. All levels of government have successively passed pieces of legislation aimed at safeguarding the lives and health of the individuals, by every means, because they have realized that the human capital is the true wealth of our country.

Those who lived before us did not always have an easy life. In the light of present day living, our parents accepted their fate at the cost of tremendous sacrifices and under most difficult circumstances.

In fact, it is only necessary to go back twenty years to make comparisons. Some of us have known what living conditions were at that time. As a matter of fact, roads were not cleared in winter time as they are nowadays for automobile traffic.

Besides, a great many parishes did not even have telephone service. It is easy to imagine what were the sufferings endured by women throughout their pregnancy. Yet, there was no question of seeking abortion as it is the case today. As medical knowledge was less advanced, mothers could not as easily ask for medical assistance and they had to endure the discomforts of pregnancy for several long months. Medical science is now capable of giving pregnant women efficient treatments which enable them to fulfil their motherly role with fewer difficulties and worries.

Furthermore, childbirth would then take place at home. Very few women were fortunate enough to have children in hospitals. Nowadays this is a common event as most babies are born in hospitals. Obviously, mothers-to-be have better chances of having the care they need than in the past.

Society spends tremendous amounts of money for the purpose of saving and protecting human life. In universities scientists conduct research to discover ways of healing diseases which might lead man to his death. Society builds hospitals where doctors, nurses and the whole staff dedicate themselves to the care of the sick. And heaven knows to what extent medical science has advanced over the past few years, because Providence endowed man with the necessary intelligence to discover all the means made available to him in order to ensure his conservation.