

*Criminal Code*

complete development and fulfilment, we take care of it from the first moments of its existence, which starts as soon as impregnation takes place or, in more precise terms, as soon as there is implantation of the impregnated ovum in the uterus.

Consequently, there are no cases where pregnancy endangers "her life".

A doctor told us of a quite frequent occurrence: cancer of the uterus. When a pregnant woman is struck by such a disease, what happens? She seeks the advice of her doctor who prescribes treatments against cancer and not against the life of the foetus. This is not regarded as an abortion. Besides, it is done even in Catholic hospitals. It happens in three cases per 10,000.

As for renal or cardiac deficiencies, there are as many chances, if not more, of the woman dying through abortion as there would be if she were allowed to reach the term of her pregnancy.

It is facts like those which prompt us to hold our own and we shall continue to do so. And that settles it for "her life".

So, with regard to life, it does not happen. This occurs only occasionally and then a pregnant woman will never be left to die because in giving her such and such care she can be saved. When a patient has a doctor and is in the hospital all attempts are made to cure her and save her life. If that person represents two persons, because she has a foetus in her, a baby, if you prefer, in her body, then what is the doctor's role? It is to save both lives. He must try to save them both.

● (4:40 p.m.)

If, when one tries to save both, the foetus dies, we shall not oppose this. And if abortion was practised in this case, we would agree entirely.

We do not agree about the consequences, and the consequences of abortion are especially shown in the second part of this amendment: "or seriously and directly impairs her health."

The wording is as follows: "or would endanger her life." Of course, I can understand the concern of the hon. member who brings us this amendment when he wants to specify "seriously and directly impairs her health."

At first glance, it seems fine, and I would be inclined to support him if I were formally assured that a serious and direct health

impairment were determined beyond question.

Mr. Speaker, if abortion practically never helps to save the life of the mother nor her health, the consequence is even greater, that is to say that all discussions, all suppositions are possible.

It is for this reason that adding the expression "seriously and directly" does not change anything. There will always be a doctor, a gynecologist, a psychiatrist or a member of the committee authorized in the hospitals to suggest that a girl or a woman who absolutely wants an abortion will always find a way to say that her health is or can be "seriously impaired".

There will always be somebody that will find that her health is threatened "directly" while we know quite well, thanks to medical science, that it never happens.

There may be indirect consequences; a person could become insane, mentally ill, as a result of her pregnancy. Then, this person would have become insane for entirely different reasons, Mr. Speaker. Destroying the foetus will not solve her mental problem.

This again was demonstrated very clearly and decisively: a psychiatrist has indicated that the consequences of abortion, from the psychiatric and psychological points of view, were more serious than those of a normal pregnancy, even when it was not wished for. Although a person could be pleased momentarily with having been aborted, this was only temporary; sooner or later she would develop a guilt complex that would affect her mental health for years.

Mr. Speaker, are we going to vote for something that is so unscientific, so illogical? Are we going to vote for something that is going to increase the number of mentally unbalanced? For, Mr. Speaker, as the number increases of the institutions where abortions are performed, we will also have to enlarge our mental institutions. If anything affects a person mentally, abortion certainly does.

Are we to believe that a normal pregnancy, a most natural thing, related to one of the deepest instincts of the human being, the instinct of reproduction, could really affect the mother's health? We know of no such cases. There are all kinds of treatments, and new ones are discovered every day to help the pregnant woman.

Mr. Speaker, we even heard about a woman who had German measles in the first months of her pregnancy. The popular belief was that