

are already sexually active. One out of five 14-year-olds and half of our young people 16 years of age and over are sexually active.

Among teenage girls, one out of five will become pregnant before the age of 20. Imagine, Mr. Speaker, before these girls are 20, one out of five will be pregnant. This is incredible. We always think this is something that happens to other people, to those who did not get a good education, to people who are stupid and do not understand. Not at all. It can happen to anyone. One out of five of these young girls will become pregnant before they are 20 years old.

We could also talk about sexually transmitted diseases. Here again, people tend to think it only happens to people who are stupid or sexually promiscuous. We always think it will not happen to us. But do you know how many people are affected by STD today? One out of 100? No. One out of 50? No. One out of 25? No. When I saw the statistics on people affected by what used to be called venereal diseases but are now referred to as sexually transmitted diseases, I was astonished.

In Canada, one person out of eight is affected by STD. One out of eight is a lot. It is not just people who are stupid or ignorant. It is not just the poor. Just talk to our hockey players today. They are pretty worried. This is something they cannot—

Ms. Black: Talk to Magic Johnson.

Mr. Edmonston: That is something they cannot skate around, because there are no two ways about a sexually transmitted disease: either you have it or you do not. Talk to Magic Johnson. Talk to the athletes, the guys who look big and brawny, and I am sure that with all the money Magic Johnson made and all the girls he met, today he is sorry. He is sorry now. He happens to have a sexually transmitted disease called HIV positive, which most people call the first stage of AIDS.

• (1800)

Mr. Johnson is not poor, and he is not stupid. Today maybe he thinks it was stupid to forget to wear a condom. Sure. This was one of our most respected and nicest athletes, someone we could call a role model. Some role model. This is exactly why we desperately need to educate people.

Adjournment Debate

Instead of doing what the Liberal Party did and gradually cut grants to family planning organizations, we should increase those grants. It is not a matter of educating people about a subject they can choose to ignore. It is a matter of life and death. It is a matter of being sick or not. In the case of girls who become pregnant, it is a problem that concerns future generations. Do we want to people the earth with unwanted children? Come on. Do we want to people the earth with children who will be abused because they were never wanted by their mothers? I do not think we do. To some extent I respect people who say: "I am against abortion. Abortion is terrible, and I cannot condone it". I respect those people because we must respect the opinions of others.

A mature society should give information on family planning to people who want that information, and that is what we are trying to do with this motion.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am sorry but I must interrupt the hon. member.

The time set aside for Private Members' Business has now expired.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

THE ECONOMY

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Madam Speaker, on October 1, 1991 I asked the Minister of Finance if he was going to abandon the high Canadian dollar policy that is hurting so many of our primary industries. I asked this because I had just learned that the Rio Algom tin mine, the only tin mine in North America, would have to close.

I had just received a letter from the president of Rio Algom who blamed the decision to close the mine on "the ongoing problems of the international tin market and the strong Canadian dollar".