Today, the psychological health of many pregnant women in Canada is affected, because those economic measures do not exist, because there is no genuine family policy, because adoption proceedings have not been made any easier, and because a host of other measures that many Canadian women would have liked to see have not materialized. This may be one of the reasons why the psychological health of certain women who want an abortion is affected.

If we as parliamentarians got to work and considered a number of measures to promote life, to promote births and pregnancies, maybe we would not need this legislation which criminalizes abortion.

In Coaticook, where I come from, Mayor André Langevin and his town council said: We are going to do what we can. So the mayor offers $1,000 for every child born in this town. This decision was very well received by the community, It created a new interest. This modest initiative by a small Canadian town may not change much for the time being, but it may have a snowball effect. I saw this as a signal to the rest of Canada that we must sit down and give some serious thought to promoting life and children in this country.

This legislation is absolutely necessary. I can do without a replay of the circus we saw last summer, and I am referring to Daigle–Tremblay and the Dodd case in Toronto.

I would like to quote from an excellent article by Lysiane Gagnon in the newspaper *La Presse*, which pretty well reflects my concerns and my position on this legislation.

She says, and I quote:

> There is an ideological perspective and a pragmatic perspective.
>
> However, ideology doesn't stand a chance when we take a pragmatic look at the Bill. The proposed legislation practically allows abortion on demand, and ideological arguments do not hold up against an analysis of the realities.
>
> The concept of psychological health is the key element that would allow abortion for socio–economic reasons, in cases of rape or incest, and in fact for any other reason a woman might have for not wanting to be pregnant, because obviously, a woman who does not want a child will be under mental stress if she is forced to have one.
>
> Those Canadians who are ready to mount the barricades and fight recriminalization of abortion should remember that the most violent reactions occurred at a time when abortion was in a legal vacuum, after the Supreme Court decision which rendered the previous legislation null and void. It was last summer, when abortion was not considered a crime by the legislator, that we had that infamous legal circus. Under this legislation, the Daigle–Tremblay case would never have happened.

Mr. Speaker, this legilsation is absolutely necessary. Am I pro–life, am I pro–choice? *In medio stat virtus*. Virtue is equidistant from two extremes, which applies to many situations and also to this one.

Some are opposed to abortion in all cases without exception. Some would allow it in case of rape or incest. Some would allow it for a 13– or 14–year–old girl. Some would allow it in the first 10, 12, 14, 16 or 20 weeks of pregnancy. Recently, I even heard Dr. Augustin Roy say that we should set the limit at 22 weeks.

Some say the woman should see one doctor while others would like a second opinion or a therapeutic committee.

Mr. Speaker, some are in favor of abortion in all cases without exception. The possibilities are endless. There is such a wide range of situations that, if you tried to list them all, you would still be at it tomorrow morning.

We should not crystalize the debate thus allowing the Pro–Life and Pro–Choice groups to corner us into one or the other of those two extreme situations. There are many other things besides that. Indeed perhaps the two groups Pro–Life and Pro–Choice who are lobbying extensively prevent us from realizing what measures we should take to solve the problem in the first place. On an issue like this there are as many opinions as there are heads!

• (1720)

Mr. Speaker, some people call this a hypocritical legislation, but I for one think it is a fair compromise. It is a compromise which is not made against my conscience, which is not made against the basic principles I live by and which were given to me by my family, by those who educated me, and by all those with whom I came in contact during my life.

They say it could be improved. Of course it could. The same thing is being said about Meech Lake these days. However in some cases the word is leave well enough alone, and seek a consensus. That is not easy, considering there are 295 Members from every region of the country, each with his or her own views.