

and its Effects in the Human Neonate and Fetus". In the article it states:

Cutaneous sensory receptors appear in the perioral area of the human fetus in the 7th week of gestation; they spread to the rest of the face, the palms of the hands, and the soles of the feet by the 11th week . . .

In other words, from the seventh week on there is a feeling or sensory perception on the part of the foetus. We know that there are live births at 18 and 19 weeks. We know that there are abortions at 20 weeks. Yet for some reason we pretend that that is not murder.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, some people will say that abortion should be allowed when there is a possibility the child may be deformed or handicapped.

I should like to voice my disagreement with this suggestion. As a matter of fact, I express not only my disagreement but also, I believe, that of our country as a political entity.

Indeed, on November 20, 1959 Canada signed the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Here is what Canada signed when it endorsed the declaration.

[English]

I read from this declaration one of the preambles which states:

Whereas the child by reason of physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.

As a nation we signed that Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 which stated that the unborn child, when handicapped, deserved special protection, not elimination.

Canada has also signed other international covenants regarding the issue of the foetus. In 1947 the World Medical Association published its new version of the Hippocratic oath. Canada is a member of that illustrious group. I have here the *Declaration of Geneva*, the modern day Hippocratic oath, which states:

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception; even under threat, I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity.

Again a document that we as a nation signed some 41 years ago.

If we as a nation fail to legislate on abortion, I believe that we are allowing society to crumble and we would be contributing toward it. There is a dangerous situation happening now. I have before me the text of an editorial from *The Globe and Mail* of June 18, 1983. The article is entitled "Life and Death". It states: The City of Toronto's Health Department reported that in 1981, the latest year for which statistics are available, 8,313 abortions were performed in that city and that there were 7,597 live births." There is something dreadfully wrong when there are more abortions in the city than there are live births.

To further this case, I have a chart in front of me that was published by the pro-life movement, Alliance for Life, in which

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it describes the number of abortions from 1970 to 1986. They have identified it on that chart as representing 907,351. That compares to the number of Canadian deaths in the Boer War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War of 99,449. In other words, there were ten times more abortions in the last 16 years than deaths in the last 80 years of warfare.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I spent a good many years as a child in the care of my grandparents. I used to live with them when I was a small child and my grandmother would tell me that it was wrong to break a bird's egg because it contained life, the small bird yet to be born. I think my grandmother was right, Mr. Speaker. The unborn exists not only in a bird's egg but elsewhere as well.

[English]

In conclusion, and unfortunately this is all the time left to me, I urge upon my colleagues the following. In our society, we need strong family policies, assistance for families, assistance for unwed mothers, stronger child encouragement such as child care, but more than that we need a strong abortion law which states our position as a society. We need a strong law to protect a human from the time of conception. I say only one thing to my colleagues that, before they vote, they reflect upon the following, and I ask them to let them live.

● (2040)

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, the abortion issue which, as elected representatives, we have to address tonight is indeed a very difficult and complicated one. Are we for or against abortion? Deep down, is this something that we can wish for? Can anyone, whether a man, a woman, a priest, or just about anybody here hope to live through an abortion? Human life is something we all have in common, Mr. Speaker, and that is what is the most important. An unborn child for a couple or for the continuation of our society is the major principle of human life. As an elected Member of this House, however, I have a responsibility to legislate. The responsibility of the Church is to promote ethics, life and the respect for human life, but it is also the responsibility of legislators to promote the same respect, while considering its consequences. It is these consequences that we, as Members of this House, will have to take into account when we are called upon to vote at 12 o'clock next Thursday.

What did the former legislation say? It said that when a girl had an abortion, she could face a two-year prison sentence, and the physician who procured the abortion could face a life prison sentence. That was the legislation which we had before but which was not enforced and which was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada. That is why we have to deal with this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we should not shut our eyes and refuse to look reality in the face.