



## Euthanasia subject of Edmonton meeting

Euthanasia, a friend to the dying or a high execution — that was the question discussed by delegates to a recent symposium in Edmonton, sponsored by the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada.

"At certain times, it is moral and should be legal to take positive action to induce death," Dr. Daniel Maguire, Professor of Theology at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A., declared.

"Good death is a new phrase for murder," Dr. Morris Schumiatcher of Regina, former Chairman of the Canadian Bar Association National Section of Civil Liberties, countered.

Dr. Maguire asserted that euthanasia was an acceptable end to life when the minimal conditions for human living were gone, specially as medical science increased a doctor's ability to let a patient linger on near death. He added that the minimal conditions necessary for life depended on the individual.

Dr. Schumiatcher said that euthanasia was an inhuman way out of social and economic problems that created more problems than it cured.

"Euthanasia doesn't solve problems it creates problems of conscience and faith from an attitude that life can be manipulated and death conjured up at will," he added.

These problems are more serious than the suffering of a few individuals because they lead to an eroding of values and a loss of sense and direction.

Stating that a doctor has no more right to sacrifice a patient by deviating from his obligations to heal than a lawyer has to forsake a client for some

greater social interest, he declared: "A physician is a healer, he is not ever to be regarded as a high executioner."

He added that it was hard enough to make decisions on one's own life without trying to do it with other peoples.

## Canadian women — Canadian law

(Continued from P. 2)

to the outside world. They will provide enormous advantages for the children themselves, as children can be enriched by early socialization. Many can benefit from early exposure to the skills of specialized personnel trained in developing corporal and oral expression, artistic creativity, and other skills and talents.

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### Government initiatives

As a woman who believes that the children of this country are Canada's most valuable resource, I must emphasize the need to act on this responsibility.

The Federal Government has in some way made its presence felt in this field by subsidizing some Local Initiative Program projects which attempt to meet the mandate set by this need. Ottawa also participates in a joint federal-provincial review of social security which has set up a working party to focus on social and employment services.

The Canada Assistance Plan Regulations were amended in November 1972 to allow expanded cost-sharing arrangements between the three levels of government. Also, the Department of Health and Welfare has established a National Day Care Information Centre to provide information on all aspects of day care.

For its part, the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation may provide funds for day care centres in housing projects financed under the National Housing Act or in seriously deteriorated neighbourhoods under the provisions of the Neighbourhood Improvement Program.

Since 1972, the cost of caring for children has been an allowable income tax deduction for a working mother. A father may also deduct if he is the sole parent or if the mother is physically or mentally unable to care for the child.

Following up on its concern in this

area, National Health and Welfare has recently set forth guidelines for the establishment of day care centres. One important principle of these guidelines is that priority should be assigned to meeting the needs of women with low incomes. Given our present reliance on private arrangements, adequate day care is reserved for the affluent.

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Much of this talk, I find, has been about progress made. But I assure you I am not trying to sell you on the idea that the millenium has arrived. The attitudes, the customs, the laws that we live with in our time have been a long-time building.

Law must be the instrument of change. But it cannot be used dictatorially in the absence of a certain minimum of consensus.

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Nineteen seventy five has been named International Women's Year by the United Nations. Throughout the world, nations will be observing the year, in tangible ways we hope, correcting former conditions of injustice, taking new positive steps into the future.

In our own way at Environment Canada, several projects are under way aimed at widening career opportunities and raising consciousness. We will be setting up new training programs to build new potential into public service careers for women already in it. Regional offices co-ordinating equality of opportunity will be established. We are setting up machinery to make more use of part-time help. This is to widen employment opportunities — particularly, for women who are mothers.

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One thought before I close. I have not — I repeat not — spent the last 30 minutes talking to you exclusively about women's rights, even if it seems that way. The subject under discussion is really human rights. The year is really International Human Rights Year. Because, when you limit choice for women, when you arbitrarily dictate a certain role in life for a portion of the human race, you cannot help imposing a sort of reciprocal bondage on humanity as a whole. Men as well as women are victims of inappropriate, outdated, stereotyped views. They too are victims of discrimination against women. Justice is after all indivisible.

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