

Even though such problems are not common, we cannot say that "it only happens to others" and no woman can say beforehand that she will be spared.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, abortion is not an exclusively male or female issue; it concerns an entire people that is in danger of disappearing sooner or later if its children, the hope of the future, keep getting killed.

In Quebec, for example, there are only 1.4 children per family, whereas it would take at least 2.1 to maintain the population. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that a society which has no more hope, no more desire to perpetuate itself is bound to disappear shortly.

The bill now before us must be compatible with the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Morgentaler* case. However, this decision does not prevent Parliament from prescribing penalties that would forbid abortion at any stage of pregnancy, unless continuing the pregnancy would endanger the mother's life or health. In this case, most judges said unequivocally that choosing a criterion based on the protection of life and health is not incompatible with the right to security of the person guaranteed by the Charter. Physical, mental or psychological health: a woman who really wants an abortion or believes that it is the only way out for her can easily find herself in one of these three categories, with this bill. That is just what I have trouble with.

While I realize the need to legislate abortion to make it accessible in certain cases, I cannot accept all the terms of the bill. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I fear that with the present terminology, refusing abortion will become the exception, whereas abortion itself should be an exception.

And now we are back at the starting point, the basis of a responsible society which, far beyond its rights and freedoms, would assert its obligations and responsibilities.

But society needs tools, and it is the role of the state to ensure that all citizens can live and grow in a climate of freedom, balanced by rights and responsibilities that must be respected. The role of a responsible government is also to provide everyone with social measures to meet all needs.

The State should open up other avenues, to provide hope and suggest positive and viable solutions.

### *Government Orders*

Mr. Speaker, we see the despair of women faced with an unwanted pregnancy and we also see the despair of thousands of Canadian couples whom nature has not endowed with the gift of fertility. These couples would have no hesitation in spending nine months helping a pregnant woman who cannot keep her child. Mr. Speaker, from a strictly objective point of view, adoption is certainly the most positive and most equitable answer. It releases the natural mother from a responsibility she is not able to assume, and more than meets the expectations of couples who until then had no hope of becoming parents. And I think adoption is a unique opportunity to overcome despair by giving the gift of unselfish generosity.

I realize that many women worry that they will not be able to give up their child if they carry it to term, and they think it will be less painful to have an abortion. This is where we have a responsibility to counsel and help these women.

Besides caring for his patients, a doctor has an obligation to protect and save lives. What would happen if the doctor became the cornerstone of a system for protecting life, for encouraging the woman who is pregnant and for providing hope for couples who cannot have children? If all those who are pro-life were to make a common effort, many solutions would emerge and many lives would be saved. It would mean an ongoing presence at the doctor's office in the form of appropriate literature, resource persons to support and counsel the pregnant mother, a database with names of prospective parents, and so forth. All these couples who despair of ever having children would be delighted to help contribute to the life-creating process.

As a member of a Christian society and of this government, I feel responsible for protecting life. I think it is time we dropped intransigence and systematic opposition in favour of understanding and compromise. It is time society realized where its responsibilities lie, otherwise the state will have to take charge of our collective conscience.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the definition of health will be amended to make it more restrictive. I believe that every doctor who is asked to do an abortion should immediately suggest another alternative. Then and only then will women truly have a choice.