

believe it is not really the answer. I cannot explain what is left within a person who experiences an abortion; it just does not go away.

I am glad to have had the opportunity to present my personal and private position this afternoon. In general I support the tone of the bill of the hon. member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight). Although my party is criticized as being the abortion party, I think we must look at the entire question and realize that when hon. members to my right were in power they did not change the law which was originally brought in by hon. members opposite.

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of emotion I rise to speak on Bill C-216 to which I agree in principle. I do not necessarily agree with the exact details of it, but I should like to indicate that for two sessions in a row I have had a private member's bill of this nature on the order paper, Bill C-496.

When I decided to leave provincial politics and get into federal politics, nothing concerned me more than this issue. I knew it was an emotional issue, full of fundamental thoughts by different people on the matter. I had sufficient data at my fingertips which indicated that a prairie fire had occurred in the area of abortion and that the abortion law was being abused and used as a means of contraception. Hospital authorities informed me about that and I learned that the hospital committees of many big hospitals were overloaded and simply gave blanket approval to abortions irrespective of need.

This is not a partisan issue. It is moral issue of profound importance. It is an issue upon which each individual must reflect and make up his own mind. I have always lived by the philosophy that it is my duty to protect, enhance, improve, cherish and embrace human life in all its dimensions. I have always asked myself the fundamental question: what is human life?

As one who has experience in the area of nuclear science and nuclear technology of various kinds, let me say that in my estimation human life is a unique form of intelligence. At conception this intelligence is programmed and it evolves with the simple provision of an environment and a means of feeding. It is totally programmed, it is human life right after the moment of conception. So this is a moral issue. It is not a sociological, economic or environmental issue, although it has those implications. It is a fundamental issue of life, and the Parliament of Canada must look upon it as such. When this House passes legislation, it must be prepared to review it periodically to ensure that it serves the intent for which it was brought before us.

I have come to the conclusion that the legislation providing abortions, not only when the mother's life was in danger but because of social and economic conditions, is now being badly abused. Hospital committees are overloaded and simply give blanket approval to abortions.

This is not a choice which a woman makes alone. It is one which involves various people, in fact society as a whole in almost all cases. Today our hospitals are very complex institu-

tions. Abortions involve the services of doctors, nurses and technicians who conduct various tests. It involves taxpayers, it involves society as a whole. Thus it is an issue with which we must all be concerned. Therefore, I am in favour of a re-examination of the law in this regard.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock p.m.

At 6 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BANKS AND BANKING LAW REVISION ACT, 1980

MEASURE RESPECTING BANKING INSTITUTIONS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen that Bill C-6, to revise the Bank Act, to amend the Quebec Savings Banks Act and the Bank of Canada Act, to establish the Canadian Payments Association and to amend other acts in consequence thereof, be read the third time and do pass, and of the amendment thereto (Mr. Rae).

Mr. Cardiff: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. Before I recognize the hon. member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Cardiff) on his point of order, I would indicate that when the debate was interrupted at five o'clock the hon. member for Portage-Marquette (Mr. Mayer) had the floor.

The hon. member for Huron-Bruce on a point of order.

Mr. Cardiff: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister would answer the questions I raised in my speech earlier this afternoon, with the consent of the House. He has had time to deliberate over the dinner hour if it would be proper at this time to answer those questions.

● (2010)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Such a request would require the unanimous consent of the House in view of the fact that an exchange of questions and answers is not normally appropriate during debate. I am concerned that the hon. member for Portage-Marquette may have some feelings on the matter.

Mr. Mayer: No.