

The fourteenth flaw in Bill C-43 is that it does not really legislate, but attempts a shortsighted problem solution. Without solving a dilemma, it seeks to placate a demand for abortion. The defence of the innocent has become a political hot potato.

In general, honourable senators, what we have been hearing in this debate is the unhealthy lauding of but one opinion, that of Justice Wilson—only one of seven in the Supreme Court of Canada. That does not give abortion the title of right. I repeat, even the majority of the people on the Supreme Court found that no such right to abortion exists. To enforce such a vacuous right behind the clamour of abortion activists, unfortunately, the government has sought to fashion a final solution by wording a bill that really serves the good of no one. I say “final solution,” because the Prime Minister said, “Do not expect another abortion bill while I am around.”

It is noteworthy that when the house voted two years ago on the government proposal of five possible alternatives for permissive abortion law, all these proposals were roundly defeated. Yet the pro-life amendment propounded by Gus Mitges was barely defeated by 13 votes.

In the fashioning of Bill C-43 much was made of the supposed direction of the Supreme Court, that it represents a competition not found in nature between what is good for a baby and what is good for its mother. This resulting confusion in Bill C-43, unfortunately, helped to have it pass—albeit by a narrow margin of nine votes—because the cabinet was not permitted to vote according to their informed consciences, and the Conservative government MPs had a carrot dangled before them.

Honourable senators, abortion legislation is the most fundamental legislation before us, because it treats of the right to life. The specific issue of the grave faults of Bill C-43 is so profoundly fundamental for Canadian life, identity, and survival that it must be given the most sober of second thought.

The corresponding consultative process in the House of Commons and its legislative committee accepted too presumptively the nature of this bill, overlooking its seditious effects as law.

Honourable senators, without substantive amendments to Bill C-43 giving full protection of life from the moment of conception of the preborn child and the full protection of the life of the pregnant woman, Bill C-43 will remain a bad law and, therefore, not worthy of our support.

Honourable senators, at this time I think it would be good to recall what Cicero, a Roman statesman in ancient times, stated. He said:

For nothing, surely, can be more inconsistent with a well-poised spirit, than to decline engaging in a laudable action, or to be discouraged from persevering in it by an apprehension of the trouble and solicitude with which it may be attended.

We must, therefore, not forget that abortion is an act of violence. To legalize abortion is to legalize acts of violence. Our whole society, our whole juridical structure, will be cor-

rupted if the law itself becomes an instrument of violence, particularly against the innocent preborn.

Innocence must also be presumed and defended in law. Innocence must be upheld in any “just society.” The right to a hearing, necessity of proof and witnesses are all denied the preborn child in Bill C-43. This bill presumes that the child borne in the womb is not one of “everyone,” as treated in section 7, and treats him or her as less than no one. Even the child’s presumptive innocence is ignored by Bill C-43.

The first rule of good government is justice and compassion. The clamour from certain groups for abortion on demand is strident, but not loving to women or children. On the other hand, to those mothers who are caught up in illegal abortion we should show clemency and measures that correct rather than insult. Many of these women are subject already to increasing anxieties and other manifestations of disconsolate grief. The cause of their grief—abortion—we must deter with all our power.

I urge honourable senators to take up this challenge of protecting our nation’s profound interest in preborn children and their mothers with perseverance and loving responsibility. We must stem the tide of abortion, which kills 72,000 preborn children in Canada annually, for this is national genocide and moral disintegration.

I believe it is our pressing duty, as free, mature, and responsible legislators in this chamber of sober, second thought, to legislate just laws for the common good. Bill C-43 is not a just law. That is why, honourable senators, it must be defeated.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators—

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I wish to inform the Senate that if the Honourable Senator Doody speaks now, his speech will have the effect of closing the debate on the motion for second reading of this bill.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, I will not take much of your time this evening on this bill. I outlined its purposes and need at second reading introduction.

I should congratulate Senator Haidasz on his presentation. I, and his colleagues here in this place, know how sincerely and deeply he feels about this subject. I realize that he has put a lot of work, effort, and time into his speech. I do not think this will be the end of the opportunities for Senator Haidasz to participate in this important debate. There will be committee hearings and third reading debate, and I fully expect a further airing of this subject at those times.

Today, honourable senators, I want to address briefly Bill C-43, the act respecting abortion, and to stress once again the crucial importance of this legislation to our nation.

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In a free and democratic society it is our duty to bring forward legislation that reflects the various views and interests of society and respects constitutional guarantees. The legislative proposals presented in Bill C-43 are the result of a very