

Abortionist speaks at York

"I save lives and dignity," says Morgentaler

By DIEDRA CLAYTON

Softly, almost emotionless, with a hint of anxiety, Dr. Henry Morgentaler spoke to a sympathetic and concerned audience of about 600 at a lecture sponsored by the Women's Centre at Osgoode Hall at York last Friday.

Morgentaler was freed on bail January 9, 1976 after serving 10 months of an 18 month jail sentence for having performed an illegal abortion. Was he guilty? This is a question Canadians have been concerned with since last March when he was imprisoned even though he had been acquitted of the charge by two different Quebec juries.

LEGAL EXPENSES

His legal expenses are in the range of \$200,000 and he owes back taxes of over \$300,000. "Since my assets are frozen," he said, "the expectation of further legal encumbrances only add to my depression."

A Morgentaler Trust Fund has been established to collect money to help pay his legal expenses.

Over \$800 was collected on Friday.

Although free on bail, Morgentaler is not free to talk about his trial or the abortion laws.

"I am muzzled," he said. "There are certain restrictions on my freedom of speech which are not of my making. I am not free to talk to you about everything I want to."

Eleanor Wright Pelrine, the well-known author of the recently published biography Morgentaler: The Doctor Who Couldn't Turn Away, effectively assumed the role of "mouth-piece" for Morgentaler.

Subtly, she related the hard, cold facts of Morgentaler's suffering and imprisonment leading to his recent hospitalization.

"Dr. Morgentaler has been persecuted by fetus fetishists," she claimed.

Morgentaler compared his freedom from jail to health — you only appreciate it once you have lost it. He compared the five years he spent in a concentration camp to five years of youth lost. "I knew



Dr. Henry Morgentaler speaking at York last Friday.

what it was like to be in prison," he said. "It wasn't easy for me to make the decision to help women. I helped many women to obtain safe abortions. I saved them from back-alley quacks and thereby I

saved their lives and dignity.

"This sustained me over the long months of imprisonment — no one can take that away from me."

Morgentaler claimed the five

years of suffering and the loss of members of his family in the concentration camp made him "sensitive to suffering".

"I was left with a sense of mission. When I came to Canada and became a doctor I couldn't be like other doctors and not get involved," he said. "I felt I had a duty to correct injustice and was finally able to practise what I was preaching."

TENSE ATMOSPHERE

The frequent exchanges between Pelrine and Morgentaler over whether or not he could answer certain questions created a tense atmosphere.

However, when asked where does life begin, Morgentaler claimed, "This is the crux of the controversy — a piece of tissue no larger than your finger tip. Surely the health and well-being of a woman should be the most important concern."

Morgentaler is still able to practise medicine, but it is his "dream and hope" to teach other doctors how to perform safe abortions and to establish clinics similar to his own across Canada.

Businessman warns of doom for small firms

By DOUG TINDAL

The next five years could see the death of 100,000 Canadian businesses if government policy does not change, the president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business said Tuesday.

John Bullock made the statement at a luncheon meeting of about 30 independent businessmen at York. The meeting inaugurated the 1976 Small Business Assistance Programme sponsored by the faculty of administrative studies.

Bullock said the burden of government spending falls directly on the small business, leading to a "sellout mentality".

"These are not villains in the trend towards concentration and

giganticism," he said. "Independent businessmen are frequently eager to sell out to large corporations to escape the tremendous burdens they face."

He said business is a result of merger and acquisition and has "nothing to do with the economies of scale. In the past few years, the top 100 Canadian firms increased their share of national output by 20 to 50 per cent."

By contrast, he said the top 100 plants had no increase in the same period.

Bullock referred to the current combination of high unemployment and high inflation as "stagflation". He said this resulted from the large sector of the economy which "responds to power rather than to the market."

He said the power sector is growing and the competitive sector shrinking. "And when independent retailing dies, the whole system crumbles — it's the hub of the independent market."

Bullock called for changes in federal government policy to stimulate the creation of new businesses. "We don't need the alphabet soup of programmes — ERDA and IDAP, PIP, PEP and POP and all that CRAP — we need policy to offset the natural trend to concentration."

He called for a guaranteed loan plan for small businesses, and for changes in unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation. Savings in unemployment insurance totalling \$25 million were obtained in one year

in the city of Kitchener when an experimental programme integrated the Canada Manpower Office and the Unemployment Insurance Commission, he said.

Bullock blamed unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation for the inability of small businesses to secure labour, "the major problem of small business".

He said workmen's compensation, a "progressive and enlightened measure", has now become "a tremendous disincentive to work".

Bullock predicted that Canada's future lies in small, decentralized businesses. "If you don't believe in small business with diffused power, you don't believe in democratic society."

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