

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, that is not the question. The question is, if carrying the pregnancy to term would endanger the mother's life, would you be in favor of allowing an abortion under those circumstances?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, that is the answer I am giving you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, thank you then. I don't want you to take all of my time.

SENATOR HIGGINS: The discussion that I have been hearing is that the reason for abortion is because of abused children and unwanted children (interruption).

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Higgins. I don't want you to take my time.

SENATOR HIGGINS: So taking your idea, I'll just put it back to you that way.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. She didn't understand the question but here is what I will say even to those who understand the question. If you say that human life occurs at the instant of conception when the sperm fertilizes the egg and you have got to make a choice between the life of a hard running old sinner and what we have had described to us as an innocent unborn human being who has committed no wrong and harmed nobody in any way, I don't see how you could opt in favor of killing what you have told us is an innocent human being. You would have to say, "Let nature take its course", and since this is a concept with religious underpinnings, God, whoever that may be and wherever that person or whatever it is may be, would make the determination and the decision. For those who say that life begins at the instant of conception, to say that any human being ought to arrogate to himself or herself the right to make a decision as to who should live I think is a contradiction within itself. You should be against abortion under any and all circumstances. You should never knowingly and intentionally be in favor of the extinguishment of a human life. So it seems to me that there has been an inroad on this supposedly sacred principle anyway. Under some circumstances this innocent helpless being can be slaughtered, boiled, burned, ripped to shreds as we have had described to us. I don't understand principles which are that flexible. I have told you that if you can convince me of exactly the point when a person is in existence, then you have got a stronger antiabortionist than yourself. But I guess the principles are maintained and believed in until it reaches a crucial point and an actual choice has to really be made