What do we owe to the embryo? To society? To ourselves? After a thorough consideration of these questions, the Council unanimously recommended a four-year moratorium on cloning for biomedical research. "It would provide timeto..." We are our brains. "We..."

Some Council members argue that the goods to be obtained from research on human embryos (knowledge and healing) out weigh these concerns. If society accepts this, then cloning will be accepted in pursuit of other yet unmentioned benefits. But virtually all of the members argue that to endorse the creation of cloned human life solely as a resource for research is to cross a significant moral boundary. If society accepts the creation of seven-day-old embryos for their stem cells today, why not three-month-old fetuses for their (arguably much more useful) organs and tissues tomorrow? Where is the natural stopping point? Will we be willing to endorse "fetus farming?"

Hence the unanimous support of the seven-member minority for federal regulation, beginning with a requirement that no laboratory embryo be allowed to develop past fourteen days—"the point at which the embryo’s cells have begun to differentiate into the various organs and tissues of the body and therefore forfeit their ability to develop into other kinds of cells. (The seven-day rule is similar to those already implemented in the United Kingdom, without much controversy, but would surely be more controversial in the U.S., given the consistently large pro-life voting bloc in Congress.) The ten-member majority favors a temporary moratorium and research, partly in part because it would provide time to debate whether society should cross this moral boundary at all.

Whatever course we take, the fact remains that cloning is a temporary research tool that must be separated from others as it is used—sexual experimentation with human embryos...under either course (either an amoratorium or a green-light with regulation) of cloning-for-biomedical research. In his Wall Street Journal article, Dr. Kass characterizes the weighing out of these options..."...and careful in its use of terms, so as to avoid language..."

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