

Criminal Code

In the first year, almost half the women who have had legal abortions have been single. Divorcees, widows, and women separated from their husbands account for a further eight per cent of abortions.

[*Translation*]

Which means that 58 per cent of all abortions in England were performed on young girls, divorcees, widows and women separated from their husbands.

Such is the result of the enforcement of the abortion law in England.

[*English*]

A large number of Canadians who value the scriptural and moral foundations of both our democratic society and nation will gratefully applaud your courageous opposition to the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code that would remove the illegality of homosexuality and abortion. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice are being informed of the contents of this message with added protest included.

[*Translation*]

Last Friday, I heard the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) say the following words:

For far too long the minority in this country has held back the majority in this matter. Certainly during past weeks we have seen a demonstration of how the minority in this house has held back the majority. Now it is time that the majority be allowed the right to act according to the conscience—

If they acted according to their conscience, well and good. But it is not according to the government members' conscience, that they act; on the contrary, they act in accordance with the party line. As I said last week: To hell with the country, as long as we save the party. And it is still very much the same.

I know some of the government members whose constituents are clearly against this bill on abortion. Those members have even not the right to rise in the house to express the opinion of their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I am not talking through my hat, but with full knowledge of the facts because I have been informed by the people of these constituencies.

And the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway said also, and I quote:

—while respecting the right of the minority to continue in their own way according to their own conscience. The other night I heard the Creditiste leader say on television in loud and clear tones, "They must respect us as we respect them." We intend to respect them and we have proven that respect. This legislation will show respect for people who do not believe in abortions. On the other hand, those of us who believe in the modernization

of abortion laws are not going to allow any minority in this country to hold back measures which are needed by the citizens of Canada.

It is obvious that abortion will neither improve nor help to preserve the health of any mother. I will say this to the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway: To avoid abortion, she tells us that anybody can avoid it, anybody can pass it by, there is another way. Nothing compels a woman to go to bed with a man. This would solve the situation. A bit of fun and games is all very well, but it is completely irresponsible to try and shirk the consequences. If we want to do as we please, fine, but we must accept the results in any field whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I quoted last week so much evidence. We are indicted, because we are Catholics, but Catholics are not the only ones to oppose abortion. I have a few telegrams here. This one is from Montreal and I quote:

Re *Montreal Matin* omnibus bill May 3rd I approve you hundred per cent and not alone.
Montreal May 5th.

[*English*]

Free Methodist Church
West Ontario Conference
E. A. Cooper, conference supt.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, surely that is not a Roman Catholic, he is a Methodist.

Here is another telegram from Toronto, that congratulates us on the good job we are doing against the legislation on abortion.

In this case, an organization:

[*English*]

The National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, in convention today unanimously adopted a resolution recommending the deletion of sections dealing with abortion from the Criminal Code without exception. This is a private matter between a woman and her physician.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Turner (*Ottawa-Carleton*): That is not what you meant to say.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, that is right. A telegram from—

[*English*]

This is not what we want, it is the opposite. I am reading a telegram which I received from a Jewish organization in Montreal which says it is their business and none of our business.

Some hon. Members: Right.

Mr. Caouette: Why is it in the bill?