

Criminal Code

In fact, the hon. member who spoke before me, just a while ago, wrote in a bulletin which he sent out to his electors some time ago that government members were not supposed to move amendments in committee because they had been given instructions to support the government.

Mr. Speaker, there is no need for me to say any more because I have already stated—and I say it again—that I see no need to legalize homosexuality.

Furthermore, I should like to encourage all those on the other side who still feel free, to join us in order to prevent the passing of such a measure. Therefore I urge them to join our ranks and to object to the inclusion of clause 7 in the legislation and to vote for the amendment now under consideration.

[English]

Hon. Hugh John Flemming (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I rise simply for the purpose of indicating my support for the amendment which will delete this clause from Bill C-150. In my opinion clause 7 is repugnant to the majority of the people of Canada. Hon. members will remember that during the debate on second reading the minister tried to convince the house that he had a case. He did not convince me that he had a case. I fail to understand how he has been persuaded to sponsor this portion of the amendments to the Criminal Code. I fail to understand what pressure was put on him to do so. In my opinion, the minister has not the slightest argument in favour of this section of the bill.

I do not propose to argue this question from a legal point of view. The hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) has dealt with the legal points of this question and has argued beyond any successful contradiction that this provision should not be in the bill. There is no demand for it. The hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Asselin) argued most eloquently this afternoon against the inclusion of this portion of the bill. My hon. friend from Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard) has just finished arguing the point and telling the house that he cannot bring himself to support this amendment.

All these arguments lead one to believe that there is no reason whatsoever for retaining this clause in the bill. The hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto) in his argument a few minutes ago made such a poor case that I doubt the wisdom of his even rising to his feet; he did not convince anybody. Nothing he said had the slightest effect on any person who had a clear mind on this subject.

[Mr. Ricard.]

The minister is mistaken if he thinks he has enhanced his reputation by bringing forward this amendment to the Criminal Code with respect to homosexuality, bestiality, buggery, and all the rest of it, and attempting to get these things legalized by the house. He is tearing down his reputation. I say this to the minister because I have an interest in his reputation. We have been friends for a long time. He spends part of his time in my province. But he is making a mistake in allowing himself to be the instrument used to put this bill through the house, because obviously it will be passed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Flemming: If the members of the government think they are improving their image, they are wrong also. Every member of the government and every member of the house is wrong, too, if he thinks he is enhancing his reputation by allowing this sort of bill to pass. If any member has any respect for the improvement of the general moral tone of the people of this country, he will vote in support of the amendment we are considering to eliminate clause 7. I accept the proposition that this clause will pass.

● (5:50 p.m.)

It does not make me very happy to think that a group of 150 or more people could be persuaded that this measure is good for the people of Canada. It is beyond my comprehension how this could happen, and I do not know how they managed to do it. Neither do I know why they have done it, nor do I know of any reason why they should do it. The minister has never made a speech yet in this house in which he gave any good reason for making respectable and for legalizing the homosexual act. I say that the majority of the people of Canada will be disgusted when this bill is passed by the house in its present form.

I cannot possibly accept this bill. Probably everyone knows that I cannot accept it. However, in case there might be some doubt in someones' mind as to my attitude, I am on my feet at this minute to declare my support for the elimination of the clause which makes respectable and legal something the effect of which would be to destroy, cut down and reduce the morals of our country. This is not a good thing.

I said a minute ago that the minister did not give the house any excuse for bringing in this bill. I do not refer to the bill in its entirety but rather to this particular section.