

*Criminal Code*

whereas several other matters and problems command our attention. It would be pointless to list them here but we all know what they are anyway.

The purpose of the amendment is to amend Bill C-150 and, more particularly to delete clause 18 therefrom. And clause 18 says, first that medical practitioners should perform abortions in an accredited hospital. Clause 18 would permit doctors in general to receive the patients and carry out abortions without any consideration as to the consequences of that act which I think is despicable.

Secondly, clause 18 would enable a pregnant woman to get an abortion. If we allow abortion in all cases, for any given reason, serious or not, we are not being wise because, and we have said it time and again in this house, it is not giving security to the person involved, to the therapeutic committee and to the legislators.

Thirdly, this same clause 18 provides for a therapeutic committee to approve cases that are submitted to it and, consequently, tends to the establishment of such therapeutic abortion committees. Well, Mr. Speaker, on what criteria will the doctors base their recommendation to carry out an abortion? On what criteria do pregnant women base their requests for abortion?

On what serious and precise criteria will the therapeutic abortion committee provided for in clause 18 base itself to allow an abortion to be carried out? The answer to these vital questions, having regard to doctors, women and the therapeutic abortion committee, lies in this sentence, a short one but heavy with consequences, which reads as follows in clause 18:

—the continuation of the pregnancy of such female person would or would be likely to endanger her life or health—

Immediately, we see that the serious criteria on which doctors will have to base themselves, on which cases will be examined and on which the committees will have to reach a decision, are too broad, that they will give rise to every abuses, under all pretences, and abortion will be granted in all cases. Therefore, if we adopt this clause, instead of deleting it from the bill, we are opening the door to homicides, to murders, because it is an established fact that the living thing which is in the mother's womb is a human being and tomorrow maybe it will develop into a person, like everyone of us. We must have reverence for life. This is a basic principle and the speeches made a little while ago by the hon.

[Mr. Fortin.]

member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau), the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) and the hon. member for Témiscamingue prove beyond doubt that there is life in the woman's womb, that the foetus is a human being, and this legislation is solely aimed at killing that life.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are fighting against, and we have no electoral or other axe to grind.

As for the rest of clause 18, an odious one in our opinion, it defines the word "board", the words "Minister of Health, as if we did not know what is meant by a minister of Health, that is, a man paid \$18,000 a year and more to do absolutely nothing for the people of Canada.

It defines also a "qualified medical practitioner" and a "therapeutic abortion committee", and all that is said about the latter, is that it will have three members. But the essential words that should be defined to allow for valid criteria that will enable the committee to arrive at a serious and intelligent decisions, words such as "likely", and "health", are not defined in clause 18.

Not only that, but the Minister of Justice himself (the hon. Mr. Turner), his parliamentary secretary (Mr. Cantin) and his colleagues are unable to give us a definition of those words, those crucial and fundamental words that will allow abortions, tens and hundreds of abortions, that will allow murders. Why? Because those words are too evasive, too vague, and the government refuses to clarify them. Those words are criminal and if they are not clarified, if they are left in the bill, those who let this happen will themselves be criminals.

The words "likely" and "health" must be defined if the legislation is to be applied in a proper manner—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. The hon. member will agree with me, I think, that the house has already dealt with the question that the hon. member is discussing. As for the terms "likely" and "would" the house has already decided on those amendments, and I ask him to kindly limit himself to the amendment now before us.

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, I accept your remarks gladly.

However, I would point out that in clause 18, on page 42 of the omnibus bill, amended version—clause to amend section 237 of the Criminal Code—"health" is mentioned and