

*Adjournment Debate*

The federal government, the CBC and the Council of Women notwithstanding, there is a very strong anti-abortion opinion in this country which will soon be dramatized by the presentation to parliament of one million signatures collected by the Alliance for Life. What I find especially sad is that the Council of Women, which has so much positive work to promote, has become so entangled with pro-abortion that it has made such an outrageous proposal to free a notorious criminal abortionist.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Marceau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice):** Madam Speaker, I would say to my hon. friend, the member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche), that I entirely agree with him and I am now expressing my personal opinion when I also deplore the increasing number of abortions.

Whatever our religious beliefs, whether we are Catholics or not, some basic principles must remain among which the conservation and preservation of life.

I am indeed giving my personal opinion and it is not proper for me to condemn those who do not share that view, but I wanted to express it publicly as I have already done so in previous years.

I now want to answer the question of my hon. friend when he asked on December 12, 1974 that an investigation be held on the reasons for the high rate of abortions in British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta.

There is no doubt that the great difference in statistics concerning the number of abortions performed in various parts of Canada would lead to the conclusion that in some areas, the clauses of the Criminal Code on abortion are too freely interpreted. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) has, on various occasions, expressed his concern about the matter, and made known the intentions of the legislator. Still, one must understand that the federal government, though it edicts the regulations concerning penal law, does not implement nor apply them. The governments of the ten provinces apply all the provisions of the Criminal Code, including those on abortion. Consequently, the implementation of penal law in the provinces depends on their respective attorneys general.

As for us, it is clear that the justification for abortion Parliament inserted in the act rests on life and health, and I feel it would be better to rely on the judgment of experts in the matter. If medical committees accept that responsibility and endeavour seriously to determine whether the motives authorized by Parliament are present in a given case, then, to my mind, the act will achieve its purpose. I thank my hon. friend for having brought up that matter; I can assure him that to my mind, and I repeat this, we agree totally with the efforts we have made to stir in the public an awareness of the fact that the problem of abortion may be a determining factor for the society of tomorrow.

[English]

**NORTHERN AFFAIRS—REASON FOR REMOVAL OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT FROM FORT SMITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL**

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Madam Speaker, prior to raising the question on March 21, 1975, with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Buchanan) regarding the removal of some heavy equipment from the vocational school at Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories to a site higher up north, I gave the minister notice that I would raise it, as I also did after his reply, with which I was not very satisfied, when I gave plenty of notice that it would be transferred to the adjournment debate. I believe that the minister has now had sufficient time to look at this matter in detail and, I hope, to provide an answer that will be satisfactory to the people in the Northwest Territories.

The question involves two pieces of heavy equipment, two scrapers, which were removed and sent to the Mackenzie highway construction project. My comments on this matter will be brief and I hope that the minister now has an answer.

The general principle of having on the job training on a construction site is not a bad idea, but I do not think this should be done at the expense of a government school that is well run and is paid for by the taxpayers, a school for which the government can take a certain amount of credit.

A number of vocational courses were started in the vocational centre at Fort Smith which have met with a certain amount of success, for which the government can rightly take credit. However, I do not think that move to take the equipment away was very wise. It was to the detriment of the training centre at Fort Smith. I would much rather have seen another plan put into operation which I believe would have been more fruitful and less costly. That plan would have been to move the students, after reaching a certain level of training at the vocational school, to jobs at such places as the Hire North project.

● (2230)

Those are the main points I wanted to raise, and I hope that the minister now has a satisfactory answer.

**Mrs. Iona Campagnolo (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Madam Speaker, in response to the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth) I would point out that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Buchanan) stated in the House that Assistant Commissioner Hancock met with the Fort Smith council to discuss the matter of the two pieces of machinery. To add further to the reply of the minister, the function of the school at Fort Smith is that of a training centre, and it is planned as a place where native peoples may learn to use implements and equipment which would be regularly found on reserves.

In regard to the two scrapers which have been taken with the permission of the school at Fort Smith to the area of Willowlake River and the Hire North training section, the salient fact is that these are very large pieces of equipment and only required for advanced training. A scraper is generally used with a bulldozer, front and back,