

Criminal Code

• (4:40 p.m.)

In the section to which the hon. member was referring, 149 (a), the word "between" is used, and in the English language "between" denotes two ingredients, to adopt the word he used, not three or more. If it were a question of three or more, or if there were a question of an animal being involved with two consenting adults, the word "among" would be used. I do not think the hon. member's arguments that this can be considered to legalize two consenting adults committing acts with a beast is one which holds water.

The hon. member for Calgary North is putting forward amendment No. 7. He is also sponsoring the amendment put forth by the hon. member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade). This indicates to me that he is in favour of either one or the other, or of both, and that should his own amendment fail he would be ready to argue that we should remove clause 7 completely as suggested by the hon. member for Sainte-Marie.

He told us that when he speaks to his constituents he wants to be able to tell them that he opposed this clause because of his Christian upbringing. I should like to ask him whether he would also oppose such other things as we find in paragraph (a) which speaks about acts committed between a husband and his wife. Would he destroy the whole clause and thereby retain as a crime acts committed between husband and wife which are accepted by sociologists, doctors and the informed public in general as perfectly normal parts of conjugal love between a husband and his wife? I think the hon. member for Calgary North, in putting forth these arguments, does so with tongue in cheek.

I should like to make one comment regarding homosexuality. The hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise) spoke at length against any action which would have the effect of taking homosexuality out of the realm of crime. I must say his arguments are not very convincing. One can hardly compare the habit of blaspheming with homosexual acts.

Homosexuality is considered by some people to be abnormal, but among those who are homosexual it is considered normal for them. If these people wish to carry on certain acts in private without bothering anyone else I do not think it is up to us as legislators to try to keep those acts within the realm of crime, thereby causing all kinds of other problems in the sociological make-up of this country.

[Mr. Stewart (Cochrane).]

[*Translation*]

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): My remarks, Mr. Speaker, will be very brief.

I should like simply to point out some essential reasons, in my opinion, for striking out, clause 7 of Bill C-150.

We have been wondering, Mr. Speaker, for the past few years in what direction the present government was heading for. In 1965, capital punishment was abolished. And when our friends argue that by trying to have Bill C-150 adopted they are reflecting the views of the Canadian people, since they were elected last June, I suggest they are wrong because the election campaign was not centered on the omnibus bill but rather on "trudeaumania."

Therefore, when Liberal members say they have received a clear, specific mandate from the Canadian people who are entitled to request parliament to adopt Bill C-150, I say they are wrong.

When capital punishment was abolished, it was supposed to be an improvement. But if you look at statistics, Mr. Speaker, you will see that since the abolishment of capital punishment, the number of crimes in the province of Quebec has increased by at least 20 per cent.

There are good things in Bill C-150, but if the minister thinks the passage of clause 7 of this bill will reduce the number of homosexuals, I tell him he is wrong.

The minister says he is not concerned with the morality of certain crimes. May I remind him that the government is responsible for making laws for the people as a whole and not only to protect a small group within society which, unfortunately—it has been said more than once—commits acts which are abnormal. I suggest that by trying to have this bill passed, he is showing a negative approach to the problem and refuses to face up to it.

If such people are abnormal, as the minister and some government members claim, let us find more effective ways and preventive measures to help them.

I practised law for 19 years, Mr. Speaker, and in my office I met some of those people who were suffering from the ailment known as homosexuality. The only thing we do for those people is to forbid them to practise homosexuality.

The government has never taken any preventive or remedial measure to try to help them out of the situation in which they have wallowed for several years.