

An hon. Member: The offended virgins.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Shefford on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your kindness.

Please note that we shall allow the hon. member for Trois-Rivières to read any editorial he wishes to read, but we shall read ours and you have not heard the last of them.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I point out to the hon. member for Shefford that the Chair has in the past tried to be as generous as possible within the confines of the rules. I would say that that generosity has been extended in ample measure to the hon. members who represent the Ralliement Créditiste. At the same time, I point out to the hon. member for Trois-Rivières that the editorial, in so far as I have been able to hear it, does not really fall within the four corners of the amendment. I wonder therefore, whether it is not in the interest of the house to forgo it at this point. I have not heard very much of the editorial and I do not want to prejudge the issue, but I would caution him along that line.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Speaker, I fully agree that it is your duty to maintain order here. I would be the last one to waste the time of this house. And to show my co-operation, my full co-operation, I will read only five lines and then I will resume my seat. I will not even make any comment. After that, you will be able to decide whether I was out of order.

I quote:

The créditistes know very well what is involved and their filibuster seems much more political than virtuous. They want to annoy the government and have the closure imposed to them, in the hope of posing as martyrs in the eyes of the public and gain new supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I resume my seat. That is enough.

Mr. Charles-Eugène Dionne (Kamouraska): Mr. Speaker, I understand your difficulties in applying the rules sometimes, but I will do all that is humanly possible to keep to the amendment now before us.

I do not know if it is through an oversight or through inadvertence but what would normally be likely to make those who will

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have to tackle the problems arising out of this legislation, proceed more carefully has been overlooked in this bill.

I realize that the amendment moved by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris, seems fully justified under the circumstances.

It proposes to replace paragraph (f), clause 6 of the bill now being discussed by the following:

Therapeutic abortion committee for any hospital means a committee comprised of not less than four members, two of whom shall be qualified medical practitioners and one a psychiatrist appointed by the board of that hospital, as well as a clergyman, or spiritual advisor where this is requested by the patient for the purpose of considering and determining questions relating to terminations of pregnancy within that hospital.

The mover of this amendment to the clause of the bill, and all those who approve it are showing their wisdom. It is quite in order and logical that all precautions be taken.

The member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise) has also moved an amendment along the same lines which was discussed this afternoon. I do not understand at all why the sponsor of the bill is not more understanding when it is a question of taking precautions which he would be quite ready to recommend in another field. It looks as if the clauses of this famous omnibus bill are dictated by some occult influences which try to achieve their nefarious purpose, to amend and to undermine the natural established order.

I do not want to leave the hon. members under the impression that I consider the bill unacceptable, even with this amendment to clause 6. But we could however perceive in the mind of the supporters of this legislation whose inspiration is doubtful that they are not quite deprived of practical sense when it comes to appointing a therapeutic abortion committee, but that they can at least give as many guarantees as possible about the women who would have to undergo an operation in circumstances that are never desirable, but reluctantly accepted in special cases.

The amendment recommends that the committee be made up at least four members. Among the members of the committee, there should be a clergyman or a spiritual advisor at the patient's request. It is not asking too much except that the promoters of the new morality find in this a drawback to the pursuit of their aims.

In any case, I am not influenced at all by the scientific humanists, and I am of the opinion that every precaution should be taken in