

*Criminal Code*

owing to pregnancy. That would be extremely strange, and I would say it does not exist.

As a matter of fact, the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) was pointing out earlier that he could see cases in which a woman who did not enjoy good health could recover owing to her pregnancy.

That is why I am in complete agreement, for instance, with the "Serena" teams who talk about love and fecundity, and who, as regards abortion, said as was reported in the newspaper *La Presse* of yesterday:

The "Serena" teams believe that abortion was not considered with the attention such a serious question deserves. The members of the congress, convinced that abortion is a direct aggression against the developing life of a human being, beg the government to withdraw from the Omnibus Bill clause 18, dealing with abortion and to refer that subject to a Royal commission of enquiry.

The leader of the Ralliement créditiste, the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette), also asks for a referendum and we give him of course our full support.

The Serena teams point out that over 50,000 signatures of protest were sent.

In order to prevent abortions, the members suggest as positive measures:

Let us stop talking about disease, let us stop talking negatively. Let us stop trying to allow indiscriminately something intended for only a very small part of the population. And let us think positively.

Various medical services sponsored by the Quebec government intended for all expectant mothers so that they will find solutions to the problems caused by pregnancy.

We know that we can help—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde):** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

Has the hon. member the consent of the house to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde):** Order. There is no unanimous consent.

Is the house ready for the question?

All those in favour of this motion will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde):** All those against will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde):** In my opinion the nays have it.

Pursuant to standing order 75, paragraph (11) and a special order of the house agreed to last Tuesday, May 6, the recorded vote on the proposed motion is deferred until the report stage of this bill is resumed tomorrow.

**Mr. Fortin (for Mr. Rodrigue)** moved motion No. 38:

That Bill C-150, an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, be amended by deleting in clause 18 the words "a majority" in lines 38 and 39 on page 42 and substituting therefor the words: "unanimous decision"—

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak to amendment No. 38 moved by the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Rodrigue) and which essentially provides that when the therapeutic abortion committee will meet to decide and discuss the specific case of a patient, it will have to make a unanimous decision as to whether the abortion will be approved or if a certificate authorizing the abortion of a patient will be issued.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to support the amendment of the member for Beauce, in order to better safeguard the work of the various therapeutic committees in the hospitals where such committees will be established. In short, the amendment is easy to understand, the bill provides that a mere majority of physicians on the committee can decide if they will deliver a certificate stating that the continuation of the pregnancy would or would be likely to endanger the life or health of the pregnant woman.

Through our amendment, since the provisions of the bill are extremely indefinite, since we are unable to define the word "health" and extensive academic discussions are still going on among physicians as to whether a pregnancy can endanger life or health, since there is no unanimity in most cases, since some doubts remain not only in our minds but especially in the minds of experts, we suggest an amendment providing for the agreement of three doctors, since a life is at stake.

I think, and this is the principle of the amendment, that since a human life is the most fundamental value, the members of a therapeutic abortion committee of a hospital should agree, from a scientific viewpoint, and consent unanimously, regarding the issue of a certificate allowing or refusing abortion.

Therefore, from the physicians who are members of a therapeutic abortion committee,