

Mr. PRITTE: In reply to Mr. Howe, all I have said is that if the problem arises, the provinces have adequate power to deal with the matter. I do not see much of a problem arising from the advertising point.

[Translation]

Mr. MATTE: I must say, I will speak in French, this is a problem which is a very delicate one for us, particularly when we envisage it under another angle: that is, from the point of view of the Catholic Church. We are awaiting the studies which the Church has prepared and we will probably have available to us in a short time. That is why we must be very prudent, even though opinions might be very divergent. From the viewpoint of morality, the Church does not accept birth limitation as a purpose, but it does accept the objective of improved health. That is why it is very difficult for the Bill to be accepted at the present time by those who are Catholic. I think this is what killed your Bill last year.

● (12: 20 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. PRITTE: In reply to Mr. Matte, I would simply say if you take the letter of the law as it appears in Section 150, there is a type of contraception which has been approved by the Roman Catholic Church, the rhythm method. They have a clinic called SERENA which gives couples instructions in this method. It seems the way the law stands at the present time, if there is "any means, instructions, medicine, drug or article intended or represented as a method", this would be included.

[Translation]

Mr. MATTE: The Church does not teach birth control as a purpose.

Mr. PRITTE: Yes, yes, I understand.

[English]

Mr. MATTE: It does not teach this as a purpose. This is the purpose in your view.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ballard.

Mr. BALLARD: Mr. Chairman, I think it is all very well to look at bills like this and to theorize on how well these things are going to work. Of course, Mr. Prittie has done very well, and now Mr. Basford has agreed with him that if we do eliminate this section of the Criminal Code, everything is going to operate very well; everybody is going to conduct himself in a most ethical manner in connection with birth control. But I think when we look at these things we should consider how bad the situation could be under a certain bill, and I am speaking now of Mr. Prittie's bill. Mr. Prittie has thrown the door wide open and has stated that there is no restriction at all on birth control. I can well visualize the dissemination of birth control literature and birth control methods from the shelves of the corner grocery store and cigar store. This would be all right provided these methods and devices were acceptable. But if you have no control over it, then it is likely that the type of thing being sold or dispensed as somebody mentioned through grocery stores and cigar stores would not be of a calibre that we would expect. For that reason I think the bill presented by Mr. Basford, to my mind, is more acceptable, as it does limit the people who will be dealing in this particular area, and it is an important area.

Actually, I think Mr. Basford has probably gone a little far in his permissive legislation. I think that possibly this is the sort of thing that should