

*Criminal Code*

I have decided to say a few words. I believe that I never took up the time of the house unduly. On the other hand, I think that the role of the opposition is nevertheless necessary to bring the government to recognize what is good, and force it to act accordingly, and to question what is wrong. I believe that the government should be responsible enough also to admit the arguments that have been advanced during the past few weeks and, as far as I am concerned, I have no hesitation in acknowledging that some clauses in that bill urgently are required and acceptable. But I should add that it is not honest, in any case, to put in the same package such ill-assorted measures.

In view of the government's behaviour regarding this bill I am forced to vote against certain measures, and to reject, as a matter of principle and of conviction, some provisions therein contained.

It is dishonest to put us in such a position and I think that people and newspapers have brought up this fact many times.

Once again, I would like to ask the hon. minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) to prove that he is acting in good faith. Yet I thought and I still think that he is sufficiently imbued with goodwill and justice to recognize that the clauses, mostly those on abortion and homosexuality, are not acceptable.

In my opinion that bill favours homosexuality unduly. I have already made my views known on this clause and I do not think, in view of the small number of people who could benefit from such a bill, that it is the duty of the government to legalize homosexuality.

In view of the arguments brought in for many months now, I appeal again to the hon. minister's sense of fair play, so that these two clauses as advocated by the leader of the Ralliement créditiste (Mr. Caouette) may be decided upon through a referendum.

Anyhow, it would be unfair not to recognize the disparity of subjects contained in this bill and to force us to vote on it as a whole.

● (9:20 p.m.)

If I decided to speak this evening it is probably to appeal for the last time to the good faith and the understanding of the government.

I am not given to criticizing what is acceptable, far from it, and I think that we must support the government when it is willing to pass good legislation. I think that it is the role of the opposition and I would much rather

[Mr. La Salle.]

er cooperate than fight the decisions of members of this house.

When the legislation under consideration is as important and controversial as this one, I think that it is our duty to rise and ask the government to review its positions, because I am under the distinct impression that the government is making a huge mistake.

I know also that some hon. members are greatly embarrassed when they have to comply with the party policy. But I think that owing to their commitments towards their constituents, they are as justified as I am in adopting a definite position this evening and in asking the minister once again to reverse the governmental position and bring in a divided bill.

I know that the government will maintain that most clauses are acceptable and this is surely true. But it is a thing of shreds of patches, and I do not feel that we should pass it as a whole.

Some people say that the support the government received in June meant that the population wished the bill would pass, although it contained very controversial clauses. It is untrue to say that people voted Liberal because they wished and asked for the legalization of abortion and homosexuality.

I think that is an easy rationalization, which shows up the weakness of those who lack the courage to take a firm stand on those clauses in the house.

In my opinion, even though we have reached the final stage of the bill, to approve a much too blatant legalization of abortion and homosexuality remains out of the question.

I think that legislation will be big with consequences, and the onus of it will lie upon this government. I hope nevertheless that there are enough members of good faith for us to try to bring the government to reason while supporting a lot of arguments that opposition parties wanted to have acknowledged and accepted.

It is a weak point on the part of the government to state that homosexuality is none of our business, since those acts are performed in bedrooms.

Homosexuality is perhaps a sickness in some people, perhaps a vice or a defect in others, but the fact remains that it is possible to rehabilitate those people and to build hospitals that would help them a great deal. This would be much more profitable and much more serious than the legalization of that