

presented to us, a compromise that ensures accessibility, universality and transferability for all Canadian women, no matter in which province they live.

Our study of the abortion dilemma clearly showed that in all the countries considered, the opposition of these two groups led to years of deadlock. In spite of these difficulties, each country developed legislation to fill the legal vacuum that was much more harmful than an imperfect law.

Honourable senators, I know that we are waiting for royal assent but I still could take a few more minutes.

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: You can continue.

Senator David: It seems obvious to me that rejecting Bill C-43 would cause such a vacuum. Courts of law would gradually take the place of parliamentarians who were unable to reach a reasonable compromise desired by everyone.

I believe that such an attitude would be contrary to the sense of responsibility required in our parliamentary system. My personal development and the arguments I have presented to you lead me to vote for Bill C-43. I hope that what I had to say will be helpful to some members of this House who remain undecided on this difficult and complex question.

I would like to submit a few more thoughts. It is difficult for me to accept that such a great number of abortions are performed when birth control methods have become so numerous, so varied and so efficient. We must admit that an unwanted pregnancy in teenagers and adult women is often the result of negligence, mistake, lack of information and irresponsibility. We could include marriage breakup, promiscuity, family problems, insufficient sexual education in our schools, influence of media and many other factors.

Already in its January 1977 report, a special committee chaired by Mr. Robin Badley expressed surprise that more money was spent to pay for abortions than to restrict their number by offering effective birth control and sexual education programs.

It is both surprising and disturbing that in 1985, for instance, the number of sterilization procedures for men and women in Quebec had reached startling levels: 22,041 women, of whom 36 per cent were between the ages of 40 and 44 and 17,981 men, of whom 40 per cent were between the ages of 30 and 44.

These figures, together with the figures on abortion, demonstrate our failure to provide for effective birth control programs. They reflect a deep-seated social deficiency and have helped to keep our birthrate below maintenance levels.

In concluding, I want to stress the need for finding ways to reduce the number of live births. There are two areas that would seem to be essential in this respect, and I am referring to education and better designed social policies. As parliamentarians, we must make people want to have children and be proud of having children.

All our government programs, both federal and provincial, should be designed to provide generous consistent, effective and dynamic support to our families. Promoting and protect-

ing childbirth should become one of our major national goals. To that end, we must eliminate the social and fiscal irritants that are perceived as obstacles by parents who want to have a child or children. The negative right to abortion could then be compensated by a positive right to more and multiple benefits for those who take on the responsibility of providing for the human enrichment of our country.

Thank you for your kind attention, honourable senators.

On motion of Senator Haidasz, debate adjourned.

● (1650)

[English]

ROYAL ASSENT

NOTICE

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received the following communication:

RIDEAU HALL

19 June 1990

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Brian Dickson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 19th day of June, 1990, at 5:15 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

Yours sincerely,
Anthony P. Smyth
Deputy Secretary, Policy

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate
Ottawa

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Is there some reason, Your Honour, for the time being set at 5.15 p.m.? I thought it had been set for five o'clock.

The Hon. the Speaker: I understand that these letters have to be read in the House of Commons, and it is now 5.05 p.m.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

● (1700)

At 5.15 p.m. the sitting of the Senate was resumed.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

ROYAL ASSENT

The Right Honourable Brian Dickson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the