

*Criminal Code*

Our position is justified. As regards an amendment such as this one, when we ask once more the Minister of Justice and urge him to seriously consider this question, we abide by the standing orders. It is quite logical and it delays in no way the business of the house.

I repeat what I already said on several occasions, Mr. Speaker. Should the minister want a little more time to consider this, should he like to receive other briefs, or obtain further information, let the house adjourn and let us wait. Why such a hurry? Why do we have to pass the bill to legalize abortion? What is so urgent about it?

Who is urging us on? Is there at present such a great number of women at grips with that problem and who are waiting for this legislation to be able to get rid of their foetus?

We wonder why we are being accused of filibuster since we were not responsible for introducing the bill. Since the minister has just told us once again that he would not accept this amendment—and this time he seemed to be a little sad in telling us that—and if he thinks that he is not yet sufficiently informed—we should like once more to adjourn this debate, to wait and to proceed with some other business.

The bill on the official languages should be one of highest priority for the government and I think that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is very pleased to see this debate drag on because it enables him to set aside the bill on the official languages and it provides him with a justification for not introducing it. He will say: the Ralliement créditiste did not want it because they drew out the debate on abortion.

We anticipate all these things and even though the matter we are discussing now might embarrass us politically this is not why we fight for our point of view; our inspiration is the significant principle of life.

● (4:20 p.m.)

That is our position and there is no political capital involved. We are not claiming to be defenders of morality, but defenders of life, of human rights, of freedom and of the human being. And as far as we are concerned, human life begins within a few days after conception.

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, the amendment we want to incorporate today in Bill C-150, reads as follows:

That Bill C-150, an act to amend the Criminal Code... be amended by deleting in clause 18 the

[Mr. Matte.]

words "a majority" in lines 38 and 39 on page 42 and substituting therefor the words: "unanimous decision".

I think it is important to know the big difference between "a majority" and "unanimous decision". This amendment is very serious because the question is whether to end life or not. The difference between "a majority" and "unanimous decision" is most important, because I feel the terms are contradictory, if a decision is to be made by the therapeutic committee in hospitals and clinics for or against abortion. There must be no doubt as to the health condition of the person on whom an abortion is to be performed, because, in my opinion, "doubt" means "a majority".

In this case, I think that "majority" is contrary to "unanimity" because in such a vital matter it is most important that the committee take a unanimous decision. A doubtful decision can be prejudicial to the health and probably to the life of thousands of people.

I would not want, because of some "nearly" or "perhaps", my progeny, which I value more than anything, to be in danger. I have ten children, which makes me very happy, and I would like to have more. Not for anything in the world would I want a therapeutic committee to decide, without being unanimous, the abortion of some of my progeny.

For those reasons, I want such a committee be very serious and its decisions to be unanimous. That is why I fully support the amendment moved by the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Rodrigue).

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is the house ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The question is on motion No. 38 (Mr. Fortin, for Mr. Rodrigue). Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion? All those in favour please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All those opposed please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** In my view the nays have it. Pursuant to section 11 of Standing Order 75 the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.