

or medical doctor if he desired to purchase contraceptive devices. Those individuals would be the only ones who could sell those items, is that right?

Mr. STANBURY: As the hon. member is aware, the sale of contraceptives in drugstores is at least masquerading under the description of hygienic devices, devices for the prevention of disease rather than prevention of conception. It is certainly not desirable that this sort of masquerade be continued, and perhaps that is a weakness of the bill. I am prepared to accept that fact. I am concerned, though, that even through drugstores devices not be available which in medical opinion require medical advice for their use. For instance, I think that there is no law now, other than this provision in the Criminal Code, if it would cover this, preventing the sale of any kind of intrauterine device, from any country, in a drugstore without a prescription. I feel perhaps the law should be more strict than it is about the sales through drugstores. Of course, one comes back to the question of whether this should be by provincial legislation or by regulation, and perhaps it need not be in the Criminal Code.

Mr. BRAND: Mr. Stanbury, could you advise me, so I do not have to go back to Mr. Basford's bill, what is the actual difference between your bill and Mr. Basford's bill?

Mr. STANBURY: There is little difference. I think the only difference is the inclusion of pharmacists in Mr. Basford's bill. I have an open mind on this subject, but I do not feel that either of our bills, or either of the other bills is a complete answer to the reforms that probably should be developed by this committee.

Mr. BRAND: Thank you.

Mr. CHATTERTON: Mr. Brand's question is very much the same as mine. I was looking at it from the practical point of view, and I was wondering whether you could amend your bill to such a degree where pharmacists could dispense those devices but only on prescription?

Mr. STANBURY: I think this is an interesting suggestion.

Mr. PRITTIE: You talk about control being in the law. I do not know what controls are on drugs, but I cannot go into any drugstore and purchase penicillin or antibiotics. I cannot do this unless I have a prescription. Is there a law governing this matter or is it a question of a code of ethics within the medical profession? What governs it? My point is that drugs are not freely available because they are controlled. Is it by the profession or is it by the law?

The CHAIRMAN: This is controlled under the Food and Drugs Act. The Food and Drugs Act of the federal government.

Mr. BRAND: I point out to Mr. Stanbury that devices are not controlled by the Food and Drugs Act.

● (12: 10 p.m.)

Mr. STANBURY: Perhaps they could be. This is something that Mr. Prittie, in fairness to him, has suggested. I do feel that we cannot examine these bills in a vacuum. None of the bills is a complete answer to the problem in my estimation. I think the business of this committee will be to find that complete answer.

Mr. CHATTERTON: If the Food and Drugs Act can be amended to control devices, then this amendment may not be necessary.