

*Criminal Code*

with a human being, the minister must recognize with us—for this is not stated in the text of the legislation—that he is forcing the doctors, the therapeutic abortion committees and hospitals concerned, to practise homicide, no less.

The situation is all the more serious as the foetus, from the stage of implantation, is a human being, and is not only completely dependent on his mother and on her psychic and physical behaviour, but is also innocent and defenceless.

This is why, if one follows this argumentation, one will admit that the minister is unable to show up its weakness—and I tell him clearly—without running the risk of making himself ridiculous and contradicting everything the Prime Minister might have said, because he knows as well as we do that the foetus is a human being and that to destroy it after the period of implantation would be nothing short of compulsory murder if the bill proposed by the minister were passed.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard) said that the passing of such a law in other countries had increased the number of abortions. I think that in view of the foreseeable consequences—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but I must ask him first to restrict his remarks to the amendment under study and secondly remind him that his time has expired.

**Mr. Fortin:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect, I would like to tell you that you would find it very difficult to show the house that I am out of order because if I am, other hon. members have been so for a long time.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. The last words of the hon. member were in fact out of order.

• (4:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to speak on this amendment but having listened to the arguments for or against from the hon. minister, I suggest they failed to convince me and I find this amendment perfectly logical.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to express my opinion on the amendment which reads as follows:

—that those means are employed before the period of implantation.

[Mr. Fortin.]

This amendment, which allows abortion “before the period of implantation”, will inevitably lead—as pointed out by the hon. minister and on this I agree with him—to the avoiding of abortion. It is precisely for those reasons that we are in favour of applying “those means before the period of implantation”.

I said in my remarks yesterday before the committee on justice and legal affairs that 12 weeks after the period of implantation a baby could suck its thumb. Now I know government members who have been in this house for twelve years and have done nothing else yet than sucking their thumbs.

Mr. Speaker, I have here a statement from a doctor, which impressed me very much and describes an abortion performed after the period of implantation. I refer to Professor Ian Donald, professor of gynecology at the Queen Mary hospital of Glasgow University in Scotland, who is not Catholic but Anglican. In the 1967 July edition of WAY magazine, he describes the killing of a foetus, perpetrated “after the period of implantation”.

Here is a doctor who takes us to a hospital in order to witness an abortion practised “after the period of implantation”. This is what he says:

I must resist describing the disgusting details of an operation designed to put an end to a pregnancy. Within a few minutes, you would feel sick and go out vomiting.

An abortion can be performed through a tiny Caesarian section—

—that is to say “after the period of implantation”.

However, you have a baby alive in your hands, a baby who stirs, who kicks and who wants to live. But you have to kill it...you hide it from the nurse...it is a depressing sight. There is no mistake about it, it is a murder in slow motion. Besides, the baby can be killed while still in his mother's womb.

Is there such a big difference? The intention is still the same: to destroy the child.

Mr. Speaker, if we are in favour of that amendment, it means that we approve of abortion induced “before the period of implantation”, that is to say before life begins.

In the *Way Catholic Viewpoints*, July 1967 issue, Dr. Edward Cossel, a biologist, says, and I quote:

In my opinion, scientific evidence shows conclusively that every human life begins at the time of fertilization of the ovule by a spermatozoon to form the child at his primary stage. At that stage, according to biologists, the individuality (character, qualities, shortcomings) is created in animals.