

Criminal Code

our imagination, of inventing or doing anything, without looking at what our neighbour is doing, because we are not controlling anything.

Mr. Speaker, I am now returning to the serious problem of homosexuals of whom, I understand, there are many in Canada. As far as I am concerned, I have not received any request from Canadians to support this legislation, but I have received hundreds of letters asking that we oppose it. Most people are themselves against it. Can the minister sincerely tell us that the Canadian people is in favour of this clause? He is unable to say so, unless he betrays himself. Does he want me to give him some examples of people who are against it? I have here almost 500 letters that I shall send him; they are signed by people from Victoriaville, who may not possess the qualifications to become Prime Minister or Minister of Justice, but who have enough conscience and common sense to think about tomorrow's society, although it may be a pluralist one, and to realize they still must hold on certain principles.

I shall, therefore, send the minister these letters and ask him to read them, because it is of the outmost importance. Perhaps he will be unable to go to sleep tonight, which would be that much gained.

Mr. Speaker, homosexuality is an illness, not a crime nor a vice. It could become so through abuse or habit, but then it would become a chronic illness. Nevertheless, it remains an illness, perhaps more difficult to cure than an ordinary one, but it can be treated. The greatest specialists recognize it.

Although I am not very old, Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity and the chance to militate for 4 years in an organization called l'Association Lacordaire. I have discovered in this organization some fantastic things from a human point of view.

I had always been taught, like everyone else, all kinds of prejudices against alcoholics. Even governments, federal and provincial, were taxing alcoholics of being vicious, degraded, heartless people, who were not taking care of their family. And that went on until experts wondered why those people drank too much. Finally, it was discovered that all alcoholics were not vicious or debased or criminal but were in fact sick, and likely to be rehabilitated, for instance, through the Domrémy clinics, the Alcoholics Anonymous or other channels. Rehabilitation is possible

and today anybody will recognize that an alcoholic is not a degraded but a sick person that can be treated.

Mr. Speaker, we have known in the past prohibition laws. Public opinion has envolved, we now live in a pluralistic society and it is agreed that the human being deserves respect.

Instead of broadening the laws, instead of condemning such people, the governments more and more take positive measures to have them treated. Today, it is possible to recuperate the sick people that the alcoholics are, to return the father or the mother to their family, to give a start in life to the young, even if previously they have made an immoderate use of liquor—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order! Order! I must interrupt the hon. member since his time has expired.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I would have a few more remarks to make.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order! The hon. member cannot carry on unless he has unanimous consent from the house.

• (9:30 p.m.)

[*English*]

Has the hon. member the unanimous agreement of the house to continue his remarks?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. colleagues for their kindness.

I apologize if I should hurt some of them occasionally, but I find such a situation revolting. I should like also to avoid making too many enemies however, I wish they would consider seriously the position of young people in that respect.

It is not enough to enact laws or to broaden them if tomorrow we have to face a more serious problem. It seems to me that we have so many important laws that we could avoid getting into such a predicament! Why not speak out in a positive way? Why not try and put the Canadian family in its true place? Why not help the Canadian family to bloom instead of destroying it?

Love, Mr. Speaker, has not been created for two men or two women. It has been created for man and woman. It has been so through all times. It is not, as an hon. member said jokingly, because morals were