

Criminal Code

has been taken into account as yet. So, Mr. Speaker, we could say many things but I will limit myself to asking the minister, as the Lord, through him, is helping the nation and guiding future generations, not to go too far.

For, when it comes to analyze the divine act of creation, I believe that nobody is in a position to oppose the laws of creation. We should let the Creator fulfil His views for what He has done is well done and it does not befit us to interfere with his divine laws. I do not think we are at all qualified to interfere in the rules and commands of the Lord.

• (8:50 p.m.)

[*English*]

Mr. Oza Tetrault (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, before I am asked to vote on Bill C-150, which will legalize the destruction of human life, I wish to make a few comments. I have come to the conclusion that the passage of this bill would create more social evils and injustices than it would cure. Killing can never be a cure. It can only be a denial of the basic right to life which we all enjoy equally before the law. To deny this right, even to so small a human being as a foetus in the womb is to deny it, in principle at least, to every citizen in Canada.

To deny that, a foetus is a living human being is to deny the scientific evidence of biologists who without exception say that human life begins at conception. This is no longer merely a religious belief or opinion; this is a proven scientific fact.

Secondly, this matter involves a change to the whole basic concept on which our laws of society are founded, the equality of all human beings before the law and the dignity of human life. It is useless to have a conference on human rights if we are about to deny the primary right of the dignity of human life, and if we are about to deny the primary right of life itself. The measure of a society is in direct proportion to the protection it gives to its weakest members.

Surely, in this great country we cannot accept the suggestion that we have no room for these innocents because we cannot feed or clothe them. What is always overlooked, however, is the experience in other countries which already have permissive abortion laws. When a country legislates to permit abortion, the demand for it is always increasing. Women become abortion-minded to such an extent that doctors and hospitals find it impossible to respond. Let us look at some of the figures from Japan.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the hon. members refers to the Japanese figures I should like to remind him, as I have tried to remind other hon. members who have spoken during this debate, that it is not the whole bill which is before the house at the present time but just that portion to be amended by those amendments proposed at the committee stage. These matters are open to consideration, but I must remind hon. members that their remarks must be relevant to the amendments under consideration. The hon. member should direct his remarks to the matter which is under consideration.

Mr. Tetrault: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will not continue my remarks.

[*Translation*]

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the floor just for a few minutes.

I intended to speak only for two or three minutes because the Speaker seemed slightly exasperated by all those speeches which are so very much alike but like his assistant seems quite fit, I guess I will take a few minutes more.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I had not planned to take the floor about this bill for I had already done so to discuss Bill C-196. Here is the reason why I now want to take part in the debate: the amendment now before us is rather short but it is worth being considered, especially since it is introduced by a Liberal member, and a French Canadian.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Gauthier: I congratulate most warmly the hon. member for Gatineau (Mr. Clermont) who had the courage to oppose his leader and to introduce this amendment. At the outset very strict orders were issued and we were hoping that the new Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) would show a little more understanding, but that is not true, he is following the others blindly, as in the army.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Gauthier: We have here in front of us a military government and a dictatorship. I am sincerely sorry for our hon. friends opposite, for they cannot express their feelings as freely as the hon. member for Gatineau did a moment ago.

We have received many recommendations concerning this bill. I shall certainly not read