

I do not know the details of this proposed bill but my question is whether it contains the elements which make Bill C-266, standing in the name of the hon. member for Lambton—Middlesex so similar to Bill C-261, standing in the name of the hon. member for York South—Weston. These two bills, C-266 and C-261, I think, have the identical effect. They both seek to recriminalize abortion. They seek to imprison for life anyone who performs an abortion. They seek to send any woman who has an abortion to jail for two years. They give only one valid reason for abortion and that is to save the life of the pregnant woman.

I do not want you, Mr. Speaker, or the House, to misunderstand my purpose in raising the question of the similarity of these bills. I do not want to see a curtailment in the ability of members to introduce measures, but I do want to ensure that the rules of the House are not being broken or are not being over- generously interpreted in order to allow a large number of near identical bills to be introduced, bills which seek to curtail the rights of Canadian women.

Mr. Wappel: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. My hon. colleague has raised Standing Order 86(5) and I wish to point out that a review of the bills in question would indicate that they do not bear the type of similarity that is shown in subsection (5); that is to say, to be substantially the same.

The bill that I am moving today deals with a number of issues, including putting in a brand new definition of the words, human being, the entity human being, and it also deals with various provisions of the Criminal Code which are not dealt with in the two bills that are already presented for first reading, including the repeal of the word "infanticide" and of the various Criminal Code offences dealing with infanticide. The bill is not in any way substantially the same as the other two.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I thank the member for Scarborough West for his comments and I thank the member for New Westminster—Burnaby. The point raised by the member for New Westminster—Burnaby is a serious matter. I will therefore reserve on this matter.

Just for the benefit of the member for Scarborough West who brought up the bill, I do not intend to rule on this matter today.

Petitions

PETITIONS

RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present petitions on behalf of several hundred people residing in the province of British Columbia who humbly pray and call upon Parliament to formulate and legislate a law to protect life from conception, a law which seeks to save the life of both mother and child. Indeed, it is my pleasure and duty to present this on their behalf.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am presenting the first of several thousand petitions that we intend to present to save the lives of Canadian workers, specifically with the retention of full funding for the Canada Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. Whereas the human and financial costs of accidents in the workplace are a substantial drain on the resources of Canadian society as 16 million work days were lost in 1987 alone as a result of work related accidents and illnesses, for which \$14 billion was spent in compensation, we the undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reinforce the national mandate of the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety by urging the government, if it truly is a government for labour and for management, to rescind all cuts and restore full funding to the centre and, by doing so, I might add, to save lives. If the saving of workers' lives are important to this government, then, for God's sake, let it restore full funding for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present to this House a petition which, as my colleague, the member for Hamilton East has already declared—a petition signed, in this particular case, by over 50 residents of Hamilton and area—is just the first of thousands to come through the clerk of petitions.

It is a petition that calls on this House to reinstate and reinforce the national mandate of the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety by urging the government to rescind all cuts and restore full funding to the centre and to pledge ongoing funding for a centre, a Canadian centre, a national centre of international reputation, one based on trust between government, business and labour.