

*Criminal Code*

with the utmost respect, and this respect requires that hon. members be offered or given this freedom of conscience.

Mr. Speaker, I know perfectly well that because of their commitment towards their party, several members will feel badly when the time has come to vote on this bill. They will not say they are forcing them, but they will force them just the same to find reasons for not being at variance with the right hon. Prime Minister and for not placing their party in an awkward position.

I believe opinions expressed by important newspapers, those from counsellors and the representations made here in this house, should prompt members to require that the bill be split so as not to put some of us in a position that would be embarrassing to some members.

Sure enough, this bill includes provisions we are willing to support straight off. However, the bill as a whole does not permit me to accept its present wording, for it deals with lotteries. It deals with lotteries, the carrying of firearms, as well as with a very controversial subject, namely abortion. In the case of abortion a committee of three medical practitioners will have to decide whether abortion is to be proceeded with, in order to protect any person who is seeking one.

There is a section I am far from agreeing with, it is the one dealing with homosexuality. It is well recognized that there is a mental aspect, to consider. It is recognized that homosexuals are probably sick people. Personally I would like to believe they are. Therefore we should suggest the building of certain hospitals where the government would do its utmost to provide the services of certain specialists, who could take care of such people whose behaviour, to me, is completely abnormal.

Figures up to 10 per cent have been mentioned. I dare not believe it. But the fact remains that this bill will be discussed and passed by men, in this house. I have the distinct impression that they are not half men and because I am certain that they are men, we shall be able to deal with the bill humanly, of course, but realistically. I will certainly not accept to vote on this bill blindly, especially when we know that the situation at the present time in our society is most disturbing.

There is a danger of corruption and rot in society and I think that the government should—and I would subscribe to such a measure—work so as to be able to treat homosexuals and care for them.

Reprisals are out of the question or sending them to prison. Instead of reprisals against

those individuals, who are a danger for society—we must admit it, and I think that we all do—I think that it would be fairer and more useful to send them to hospital to be treated.

I think that is the measure we should support. This is a way which enables us to improve society; however far be it from me to accept this thing as natural or normal.

I know that some will say that a complete improvement of society is impossible. That is obvious, but I cannot accept the bill, because it is against my principles and my nature.

I shall dispense with statistics. Several hon. members have quoted some earlier. I shall ask simply the government and the hon. members not to turn a deaf ear to the representations that are being made, especially if one takes into account the opinions that are expressed from one end of the country to the other and the fair amount of mail that the members receive from people who are qualified and serious.

The duty must always be performed in the common interest. We must try to give our society laws which tend to help it. To ignore those representations will simply mean refusing to listen or to meet the wishes of the people.

I think that when any legislation is introduced in the house, normally there is always an important part of the population that wishes for and wants its adoption. Now, it would not be true to say that the majority of the people wants the bill passed as it is drawn up, and personally, I have proof to the contrary. I know it is not a question of the majority, when we talk of 10 per cent in relation to a particular field, and I do not think that a majority must subscribe to such a legislation. Once again, while analyzing in depth all the clauses of the bill, we must first act freely about it. In this way, we will give to parliament an opinion that will be more accurate, more sincere and more concrete.

When we dealt with the question of the death penalty, nobody objected indeed everybody was pleased I think to have a free vote, in parliament and freedom of thought according to one's conscience.

By its very nature, the bill under consideration now requires this same freedom and I am pleased to say that we are given this advantage of voting freely, according to our own conscience, on this bill. I am convinced that all hon. members, including the government members, would like to enjoy that same freedom.

Therefore we recommend and hope they may enjoy such freedom, as I am convinced