

planning information and family planning materials will be readily available through proper health authorities.

I want to refer particularly to what has happened in the Township of Scarborough which is within my own riding of York-Scarborough, where I believe yesterday the first family planning service integrated with a municipal public health service in Canada started operation. The chairman of the Board of Health in Scarborough, Mr. E. O. Gerrow and the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. Alan Bull, have taken this matter to a conclusion, as has been done in no other part of Canada. I think they have done so not thinking that this was against the Criminal Code but within the Criminal Code because it was serving the public good. But they are exposing themselves to the possibility of prosecution. They propose to hold birth control clinics in conjunction with their regular child health clinics in seven churches, and an additional hall throughout the township. They propose to conduct two clinics a week.

Now, there was no great rush of curiosity seekers at this clinic yesterday. I am informed that there were five women who sought information, they were individually interviewed by a public health nurse who explained the various contraceptive devices and procedures that are available so that the women could then go to their own doctors and discuss these matters further. Most of the people who used the child health clinics in Scarborough are from the lower income bracket. It seems to me that these are the people who particularly may find it desirable to consult a clinic and get assistance in paying for these devices, if they cannot afford the kind of advice and devices which people from higher economic groups have had available to them.

There is also birth control information available through the gynecological clinics of, I believe, eight Metropolitan Toronto hospitals and individual counselling in the rhythm method of family planning is sponsored by the Legion of Mary of the Roman Catholic Church in Toronto. I mention these things to indicate that there are a great number of people now attempting to make a constructive professional contribution to the public needs in this field. I think it is wrong to say they are breaking the law, but I urge the committee to accept the fact that, in view of the cases which were cited by Mr. Prittie, these well meaning and well trained people are running the risk of prosecution under the present law, and they should not be.

I think it is essential that the law be changed, not only to free such people from the legal inhibitions that exist now to this kind of responsible professional advice, but also to encourage more active family planning which I do feel is desirable in the community and to give a greater personal choice and a greater freedom in this area than they have enjoyed up until now.

While we are doing that, I hope we will try to ensure that whatever we can do to protect minors and to protect the health and safety of people who might take advice or use devices under the law will be done. That is all.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Mr. Stanbury for a very good presentation. I just want to ask a question or two. I take it from your bill that a person could not go to a drugstore and purchase any contraceptive device without violating the law again. I mean, that is what your bill provides; it does not exempt that sort of sale. A person would have to go to a registered nurse