

External Aid

The New York experience of 1965 is quite fantastic: a peculiar population explosion occurred nine months after a gigantic power failure, which put the city council on the track of the most likely explanation.

One Berlin town planner admits that there is so little entertainment in Humberstag—this famous plush place which had been built—that the tenants go to bed early, with the result that more babies are born there than in all the rest of West Germany.

In view of the complexity of the problem, I am in favour of intelligent family planning so that we avoid hara-kiri, or putting an end to the white race. That is what is happening with the use of the pill and other contraceptives.

But there certainly could be good, intelligent family planning, at the hands of people who know the problem and who know how best to make available the necessary information so that it can be used. Everyone does not understand what "family planning" is. There are girls in Canada who take the pill. That is not family planning. On the other hand, some women are afraid of taking it because they fear cancer. They believe they may get cancer, grow heavy about the hips, or have various aches and pains; and so they imagine, that they have no information with regard to that problem.

According to the Criminal Code, we may not distribute that information. I do not want to end my days in jail for having told a woman: You have had fifteen children; perhaps you could start taking the pill tomorrow morning and planning your family. I should think that with fifteen children, she has had enough; but I do not want to wake up in jail. I cannot say these things because I much prefer the atmosphere of the House of Commons to that of a jail.

Women should also be given a chance. We should have some sort of planning course similar to the one given by the Montreal Family Planning Association which is really quite advanced and has given excellent results.

In any event, I agree with my colleague. When the Criminal Code has finally been amended, I do think I will give him a helping hand so that together we may work towards that end and, through the World Health Organization, for instance, participate in a worldwide family planning program, because I know some countries are in dire need of it.

Not so long ago, I was speaking to an education minister of Africa and I asked him: How many children do you have, Mr. Minister? I have nine, he replied. I added: Do you not find that nine children is a lot of mouths to feed? To which he replied: That is God's wish. I said no more. But I feel that bill might help those countries; but as I said a while ago, there is a lot of mysticism in those countries. Perhaps, having won their independence—but even that is not too sure—they might approach the problem from a non-sentimental angle. I hope they will do that and become a bit more practical. I think that everybody will benefit from it.

Love will flourish more than ever in Canada, and I know very well that governments are opposed to revolutions, as the Frenchman wrote on the blackboard: When I make the revolution, I make love! The more I make love, the more I make the revolution!

Governments can stop revolutions, but they will never be able to fetter love.

I am sure that with family planning, Canada will become the land of love.

[English]

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy Royal): Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to make love or indulge in a revolution, but I would remind the hon. member for Hull that there is an amendment to the Criminal Code, section 150, which is contained in Bill S-15, passed by the Senate of Canada on November 19, which presumably awaits some activity in this House of Commons. So that his problems, in so far as that quite archaic and outmoded section of the Criminal Code is concerned, will be at an end. It is a rather interesting further example, if we need any more examples, of the public being light years ahead of legislators in so far as amendments to our public legislation are concerned.

I want to indicate my support for the motion and to commend the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) for bringing it forward. It calls on the government to include in its external aid program family planning assistance to developing countries. In requesting such assistance it recommends that the government take a more active role in the United Nations and its specialized agencies in supporting measures dealing with world population problems. I do not have before me a list of statistics about the population explosion in the world. However I have one simple fact, that on the basis of present trends, if