

*Criminal Code*

**Mr. Blair:** Verbs and adverbs—and would say that the test as to life is endangering life, but the test as to health is merely the impairing of health, qualified by whether health is seriously or directly impaired. I suggest for the consideration of all hon. members that the original text of this bill imposes at least as strict a standard, and in my submission a more severe standard, than that proposed by this amendment.

I also make the submission, which I think will carry some weight with members of my profession in this house, that if we wish to have a law that is clear and incapable of undue confusion in interpretation and administration, the fewer words we use the better. I submit that by using the original text of the bill and retaining the phrase “endanger her life or health”, we are going to have a more clear and understandable law than if we confuse the situation by suggesting that the test for life is whether it is endangered and the test for health is merely whether it is impaired.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to speak on the amendment now under study, but after all that happened, I feel it is my duty to clear up certain points.

First, I shall like to congratulate the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) for his amendment.

As I was listening to him, he taught me a lesson, that we should never judge someone before having listened to him. In order to show that we are gentlemen, I would like to congratulate him, in spite of everything he said against us, for the reasoning he developed and for the arguments he put before the house.

He is accusing us of delaying the business of the house, but I think that we are getting our reward today. After two weeks of fighting, we feel that government members are beginning to move, are beginning to express themselves. If it were only for some amendments, as the ones we are studying presently, our struggle would not have been in vain. While endorsing the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce who is urging his colleagues to vote for this amendment, I must tell him that I cannot understand why he is the only one in his party to oppose those amendments.

I was listening earlier to one of his colleagues and I tell him frankly that he could [Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

at least have been honest when he was opposing the amendment. He has brought out arguments against this amendment, and he has not been honest about it, because he has not quoted all the words spelled out in the present legislation. He merely read paragraph (c):

(c) has by certificate in writing stated that in its opinion the continuation of the pregnancy of such female person would... endanger her life or health—

But, that is not the case, it is not the truth. Let us read the whole of this paragraph which says:

—that in its opinion the continuation of the pregnancy of such female person would or would be likely—

There lies all the difference, there is the heart of the matter. That is why we are fighting with all our might.

—would or would be likely to endanger her life and health—

And it is this word “likely” I am sure, that incited the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Laflamme) to say what he did say and for which I want to congratulate him. It is with this word “likely” that we will come to abortion on request. All the people, all the members who are thinking, who want to pass judgment on this clause, agree that tomorrow, in a few years, with this clause, we will have abortion on request.

The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair), to oppose his colleague, read this clause three times, and each time I said to myself: Since he is a lawyer, will he end up by reading the clause in full?

I am not a lawyer, and he read it in English, but then he did not say “likely”. Hon. members shouted “likely”. He would not say it, and it was intentionally. Hon. members shouted it twice at him—

**One hon. Member:** Dishonest.

**Mr. Gauthier:** —“likely”. It is simply dishonest.

● (5:50 p.m.)

**An hon. Member:** In the English version, the word “probably” does not appear.

**Mr. Gauthier:** The French version that I have here says “probablement”. I speak French. I cannot help it. If there are two bills, I am not to blame. Two flags, two bills, two Ministers of Justice.

Again, I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, since he bothered to sit on the health, welfare and social affairs committee; when he learned that