

Criminal Code

I thank hon. members who have been good enough to enlighten me and to advise me, but I must say I am in full agreement with the arguments of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I have not had the opportunity—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member having already taken part in the debate on this amendment can not speak a second time of course.

Mr. Clermont, seconded by Mr. Comtois moved that Bill C-150, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act be amended by deleting in clause 18 the words "or would be likely to" on line 4 on page 43.

[*English*]

The question is on motion No. 26 (Mr. Clermont). Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 75(11) the recorded division on the said motion stands deferred until after consideration of proposed motion No. 28.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi) moved amendment No. 27:

That Bill C-150, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, be amended by deleting in clause 18 the words "a female person who, being pregnant," on lines 29 and 30 on page 42 and by inserting the following words:

[**Mr. Speaker:**]

"—a female person who is married or of the full age of twenty-one years, or a female person who is under the full age of twenty-one years, with the written consent of her parents or guardian."

Mr. Speaker, I moved another amendment to clause 18 of Bill C-150, in another attempt to clarify the bill. I want to replace the words "a female person who, being pregnant," in paragraph (b) subsection 4 of clause 18 of the bill, by the words "married or of age or a female person under age, with the written consent of her parents or guardian".

• (9:50 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, that amendment stipulates that only married women or those of full age will be allowed to call, on their own, on a medical practitioner or an abortion committee, should clause 18 be agreed to. However, if the pregnant woman is a minor, she should first get an authorization from her parents or guardians.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask parliament to agree to that specific point, so that the relaxing of the law will not cause a mad rush for abortion. We are told already that many people seem to believe that the amendment to the Criminal Code now under study will open the door to various types of abortion for any person wishing to get an abortion. That is the common belief among the public. The same belief prevails, among the public concerning the amendment to clause 7 of bill C-150: homosexuality would be quite legal and allowed. That is what the bill led the public to believe, and people are already talking about it in Montreal.

The same thing will happen, Mr. Speaker, as concerns the relaxing of the abortion law. I believe that clause 18 should spell out that only married women or persons of full age could ask for an abortion on their own. If they so wished, they could, under the provisions of the act, meet a responsible and qualified medical practitioner and be directed to a committee made up of two or three medical practitioners—I know that other amendments on the same subject will be discussed a little later on—who could then decide whether they may get an abortion.

That concerns a married woman of the full age of twenty-one years or a single person of the full age of twenty-one years. However, the unmarried girl under the full age of twenty-one years, will have to get authority from her parents or guardian, that is to say that the committee, it it must decide to procure an abortion for her, should get the written consent of her parents or guardian.