

500. I believe there will be many associations and bodies across Canada that may be interested in this matter, more so than previously because the makeup of our committee is completely different from the last. I think we should be prepared to make an error in publication. After the next session we will be able to reduce it but I think we should not take the chance of not having enough copies printed.

The CHAIRMAN: Would it be the feeling of the committee to say 1,000 English and 750 French copies?

Mr. ROCK: I think that would be proper.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you withdraw your motion in favour of that Mr. Matte?

Mr. MATTE: Yes.

Mr. SIMARD: I second the motion.

Motion agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the purpose of the meeting today is to hear from the proposers of two of the private members' bills we have before us. Mr. Prittie will discuss Bill No. C-71 and Mr. Basford Bill No. C-64. I am in the hands of the committee. It is my intention at this time that we should call Mr. Prittie first. Do you wish both the gentlemen to make their presentations in order and then question them? If you wish you may question each of them in entirety before moving on. It will be the decision of the committee, and we can make it at that time.

Mr. Prittie, would you come forward. I am sure Mr. Prittie needs no introduction to his fellow colleagues of the House of Commons; we invite him to discuss now the bill he has before the committee.

Mr. PRITTIE: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen, I am certainly very pleased that we have reached the point where these bills are receiving serious study by a committee. I think the decision of the committee to separate the subject of birth control and abortion is a very good idea. I suggest that on the subject of contraception there is a general consensus in the country on this but there is not on the question of abortion. I think the question of abortion should be discussed, as it is an important public topic. But it is important to keep the two subjects separate.

● (11: 10 a.m.)

As you know, three of the bills deal with contraception only. The bill presented by Mr. Wahn has two sections, one dealing with contraception and one dealing with abortion. I would like to suggest a couple of things in the beginning that we are not discussing. I do not think the question of the world population problem comes into this particularly. It is a subject I am interested in but I do not think it is really the subject matter of any of these bills. I do not think the question of whether Canada has or has not enough population is pertinent. The question is that it is the right of people to get the necessary information legally, they are now getting it illegally to plan their families. This is the whole point.