

*Criminal Code*

in 90 percent of the cases a woman affected with German measles would necessarily bear malformed children. As a result, in many countries a woman who caught German measles in the first months of her pregnancy could get an abortion. This was 15 or 20 years ago.

Today, following experiments in laboratories, experiments in hospitals and the discovery of hard facts it was found, Mr. Speaker, that 10 to 15 per cent only of women with German measles gave birth to malformed children. It can thus be said that by authorizing abortion in all those cases, 80 to 85 per cent of the foetuses killed could have become perfectly normal people.

The newest developments in medical science do not allow us to legislate today on things we do not know about with certainty. To postulate that health is seriously or directly impaired would encourage abuses, though this amendment was brought in with the best intentions.

There will always be some woman or other who considers that her health is seriously impaired or that her health is directly impaired. That is why it does not behoove us to determine this point, under the pretext of doing away with illegal abortions. This has been pointed out and doubtless others will mention it later. It has been pointed out that it does not solve the problem in any way. In every country where abortion has been legalized there has been a fairly marked increase in illegal abortions. It is quite understandable. Most of the female persons who are waiting for the passing of this bill, in order to resort to abortion, have some hope for they do not understand what reservations the act may stipulate. They hope that once the bill has been passed they can go and consult the therapeutic abortion committees and have their abortion authorized. That is what they are hoping, Mr. Speaker. And when the bill is passed, they will want that hope to be fulfilled. They will try to be aborted, even if their health is neither seriously nor directly impaired. What will they do? Resort to illegal abortion.

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I am afraid the hon. member's time has expired.

[Mr. Matte.]

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE  
DEBATED

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment tonight are the following: The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis)—Consumer Affairs—Lumber—Request for investigation of price increase; the hon. member for Frontenac-Lennox and Addington (Mr. Alkenbrack)—Public Service—Undue extension of bilingual requirements; the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart)—Finance—Northern Ontario—Alleged investment discrimination.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### CRIMINAL CODE

#### REPORT STAGE

The house resumed consideration of Bill C-150, 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, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, and motion No. 34, Mr. Allmand.

• (4:50 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Ovide Laflamme (Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, I shall deal briefly with the amendment under study, the purpose of which is to qualify the word "health" in connection with permissible abortion, that is, abortion that will not be considered a criminal act in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I have already expressed some doubts about leaving the word "health" unqualified in the legislation. That could lead to abortion on request and could also lead to legal abortion for psychiatric reasons.

I respectfully submit, Mr. Speaker, that the purpose of qualifying the word "health", used in conjunction with other words as suggested