

*Criminal Code*

that murder be removed from the Criminal Code? There are many women who would be justified in murdering their husbands and to be fair about it, many husbands would be justified in murdering their wives. Does the hon. member suggest that it is all right for a person to take a shotgun and get rid of a marriage partner?

**An hon. Member:** Some would like to.

**Mr. Peddle:** The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre supports the relatively unimportant portions of this bill. I do not believe in gambling, but I am broadminded enough to agree that gambling should be the subject of a free vote in this house which is more than the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has said.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I am proposing a free and separate vote on—

**Mr. Peddle:** I do not know what the hon. member is saying. I cannot hear him. If he is seeking information, he need not ask me because I have been here only six months and he has been here 50 years.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Not yet, but I hope to be.

**Mr. Peddle:** The hon. member suggests his righteous party will not approve of gambling. He mentioned participatory democracy. I suggest participatory democracy means that 264 members can have a free vote in this house on an issue which affects their conscience, upbringing and way of life. The hon. member stated that the approval of lotteries would be a retrograde step. He did not say the approval of abortions would be a retrograde step, he claimed that would be a step in tune with modern society. The intellectuals feel this is all right, and therefore it is all right with his party. I condemn it, Mr. Speaker, without a full investigation and I will do so on second and third reading.

Some hon. member mentioned this evening that the government had a mandate. I say the fact is the previous bill died on the order paper. There was little or no mention of it during the last election campaign. It was not an issue.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. I know that many hon. members wish to take part in the debate, as I gather from whispers and interventions. I can assure the hon.

members that they will have the opportunity to make their contribution later on.

I ask the hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Peddle) to go on with his statement.

[*English*]

**Mr. Peddle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for suppressing that attempted intervention. While you have prevented hon. members from pursuing their line of torment you have not deprived me of the right to reply. The people of Newfoundland have always been noted for their perspective and the vote they registered in the last election was an indication they felt something was radically wrong.

I wish to remind hon. members that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) does not represent the conscience of this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Peddle:** I am speaking as an individual Member of Parliament, Mr. Speaker, and not as a Catholic, Protestant, Tory or Liberal. I am prepared to state my views for the record and let my constituents make their choice in the next election as to whether or not they agree with these views. This is just exactly the way I feel and I say this because I know that in a house such as this, with members from all different parts of Canada and of all different religious groups, they cannot all possibly be of one mind.

● (9:00 p.m.)

Before I conclude I wish to repeat what I said earlier, that regardless of party affiliation or anything else I will vote against this bill in its present form. I will do so not because I agree or disagree with anything in it but simply because I feel the majority of the Canadian public think the bill should be separated into its various parts. For that reason I feel compelled to vote against it, even though I know 95 per cent of this legislation is good.

I welcome this legislation but I feel badly that I am being placed in a position by the government where I cannot vote for it. I honestly feel badly about this. I appeal to hon. members, as the hon. member for Cardigan (Mr. McQuaid) did this afternoon; I appeal to their sense of decency, something which overcomes everything else, and to their sense of being human beings. I know that a majority of the members feel the bill should be separated into parts. I believe those who feel this way should stand up and say so, regardless of party discipline or anything else.