

*Criminal Code*

organized and prepared by the Foyers Notre-Dame which had then invited people such as members of the bar, of the medical profession, of the clergy and of family organizations.

So here is what Dr. Marcel Boisvert had to say on the subject, and I quote:

As a psychiatrist, I believe that this bill on abortion would not be likely to promote health but, on the contrary, it might have a detrimental effect on the health of both individuals and society.

Clause 18 of Bill C-150 is intended to make the legislation stipulate that physicians will be able, if they think that the woman's life may be endangered, to perform an abortion.

According to the wording of the clause proposed by the minister, it is intimated that a certain proportion of medical cases could give the right to procure miscarriages.

And now psychiatrists, gynaecologists, highly qualified physicians, are saying the contrary, and the statement by Dr. Boisvert that I have just stated is further evidence of it. I go on:

He carried on, appealing to psychological arguments: "Biology, as it progresses, is more and more positive as far as the human character of a fecundated ovum, as early as its origin, is concerned. Thus, it is clearer and clearer that to procure a miscarriage means for everybody: to destroy a human being.

And this is the beginning of the psychological problem. To improve the physical or mental health of the mother can we destroy this human ovum? I answer that from the psychological point of view, every abortion is unhealthy in itself;

It is a psychiatrist who is speaking.

—to want and to perform an abortion is a neurotic symptom and cannot be considered as therapeutics."

To back his argument, the psychiatrist asserts that every action is accompanied with and followed by psychological reactions: it is the principle of the equation action-reaction with a proportional value. "Thus, he says, the value of abortion includes the suppression of the existence of a human being—a very important value—which must bring about a reaction of an equivalent value. The fact of destroying a human life brings about a reaction which originates from the instinctive depths of every individual. So, to facilitate abortion, is to facilitate repression, deviation of feelings towards a pathological evolution."

According to Dr. Boisvert, by permitting an abortion for doubtful health reasons much more evil will be created than cured. I continue:

After having also put forward psycho-sociological, professional and practical arguments, Dr. Boisvert concluded: "During my 18 years of medical and psychiatric practice, I have never heard anybody speak highly of abortion as a therapy. Neither

our fellow-members nor our colleagues, nor even my patients have ever reported any kind of improvement as a result of abortion. But I could observe regularly deep and serious complications of all kinds resulting from abortion.

That is the testimony of a very famous psychiatrist who is against adding in the legislation on abortion, that abortion may be allowed for health reasons, especially if they are doubtful reasons, as stipulated in clause 18 of bill C-150.

Mr. Speaker, I think we are right in opposing the principle of this bill.

As for the amendment moved by the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, I had the pleasure, a few minutes ago, to notice that other members had finally decided to express their views, but some are upbraided by the Minister of Justice who defends his argument and his bill.

When he said in his statement that the members of his party are free to study the bill, we never doubted it, but he did not say that they were free to vote according to their convictions.

He said the opposite when he presented the bill on second reading. I said so at the beginning of the debate and, if need be, we will mention it again on third reading. The indications then given by the minister left no room for doubt.

Mr. Speaker, I for one am not completely satisfied with the amendment moved by the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. I would prefer that the word "health" be completely deleted from clause 18.

For that reason, when another amendment on the subject will be moved, and at the first opportunity, I will speak again.

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I know that some people are quite anxious and would like us to proceed with the vote on these amendments. Let them not worry, we will come to that, and even if the government does not want to change its mind, we must say everything we have to say on each amendment.

I do not blame the minister for being impatient, because we are also.

Mr. Speaker, we want to take advantage of the procedure which allows us, not to filibuster but to put on record our objections, because history will prove that this debate was ridiculous and should never have taken place here.

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