

Criminal Code

the feminine nature implies a possible maternity. That does not mean that all women must be mothers or must go through motherhood. I think a woman can be a mother without experimenting maternity and giving birth to a child. That is a happy and glorious experience which all women, I think, should hope for, but a woman can also be a mother through adoption.

I think that it is an altogether different thing that the man's body has in itself the possibility of being a father, but he cannot, I think, experiment maternity.

For those reasons, I think it is not necessary to complicate a legislation by giving so many details, when everyone knows that many of our Canadian statutes should be clearer to prevent complications. Maybe such details have been deliberately omitted from our legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that my amendment is well-founded and justifiable, and I cannot understand why the minister and the government would not agree to this amendment which could prevent complications and perhaps heavy expenses later.

Earlier, in his opposition statement, the minister led us back to the question of rape. He spoke about rape itself. I think that as far as rape is concerned, today we cannot consider it in the same light as we did in the past. Today a man can be raped just like a woman because, if I understand correctly, to rape someone is to force that person to perform a sexual act against his or her will.

It can happen to a man. One has only to read the proceedings of certain lawsuits in our largest cities to see that sometimes the charge of rape made against a male person is rejected and the latter, who was charged with rape, is freed. One therefore wonders whether the male person had not been driven to rape.

I think the minister's explanation does not make sense and I still think my amendment—the one we are supporting—is justified and acceptable.

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, following the amendment moved by the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise) to the effect that the omnibus bill

—be amended by deleting in clause 18 the word "female" on lines 28 and 29 on page 42, and the word "female" on lines 3 and 23 on page 43, and the word "female" on line 39 on page 44,

We realize, Mr. Speaker, that the drafting of this bill was done too hastily. We have

[Mr. Laprise.]

been saying so since this debate started. Because of this, there are errors and almost inconceivable nonsense in the bill. Furthermore, that is exactly why 70,000 Catholic parents have asked for a royal commission in order to determine who is responsible for the drafting of this bill and for the gross errors it contains.

• (3:50 p.m.)

A while ago, I was listening to the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) and with him I recognize that, from time to time, some changes take place in the patterns of human life.

Last week, we were told of a human heart living outside the chest of a human body. That probably shows why some people with their heart not within their chest but without, are against an amendment to defend Christianity.

Therefore, in the face of such changes, we are not surprised either to discover in that bill, which was prepared and reproduced too hastily, enormous mistakes such as the use of the word "female" throughout.

I have discussed that famous omnibus bill at home with my own family, and my wife, seeing the word "female", asked me whether the Minister of Justice was afraid that women would change their sex, as some of them have. That happened last year, but it does not occur very often.

However, since it was deemed advisable to repeat the word "female", I believe that it would be more logical, as requested by those having a clear mind, to delete that word from the bill. Before we believe that women will change their sex, we have to await proof that such things will happen more quickly.

Besides, I discussed the matter with my daughters—they are students in a convent—who were wondering in what respect that bill was serious. They asked me the following question: "Is it true that men could imagine that other men would need to be aborted?"

Together with the Serena teams, which studied recently the amendments we have moved, the spokesmen for the University of Sherbrooke support us and state this: Your amendments could at least mitigate the omnibus bill, make it less ridiculous and allow this representative of justice to discuss it better.

Besides, these Serena teams have sent over 238 letters of protest, 7,378 signatures regarding all the amendments and also 49,175 signatures to the Senate in order to kill the bill once and for all.