

*Criminal Code*

the reason why we have moved this amendment in order to postpone for six months the study of this bill.

One has to listen, to think, in order to act more advisedly, because the action we will be taking in this house by passing this bill will be most serious and will have serious consequences for our whole population for centuries to come.

Here, in the house, we have not heard any serious, logical and worthwhile arguments that might have induced us to pass hastily such a serious bill.

But we have noted that the party in power introduced this bill and that only two of its members were ready to support it, more or less brilliantly, the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) and the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané).

That leads us to worry even more, considering the arguments put forward by those honourable members.

We believe the house should set this bill aside, in order to give the people greater opportunity to make their views known to their respective members, after which we could vote on it.

I think, Mr. Speaker, we have proceeded the wrong way. Before trying to pass such a bill, we should have taken every possible means to eradicate the causes why pregnant women do claim abortion today.

The government should have, for instance, come up with proper pieces of legislation which would have resulted over a short period of time in less women seeking abortion. For example—and I should like here again to support my arguments on the evidence and experience of experts in this field—the government could have set up an education program in this connection.

I would like to back up my statement that Canadian youth and Canadian people in general have been given a bad sexual education. I refer to Dr. Mongeau's book dealing with abortion. I find on page 120 the testimony of a young girl, a Montreal bachelor and mother of a child, who had this to say with respect to sexual education for the young people:

"It is highly urgent that sexology and psychology be taught in primary schools. Those are everyday facts. Otherwise, young people will keep on hiding to read books and novels which are leading them astray and we all know that. How ignorant are Quebecers! I must say that, having myself been left without such an education by my mother or at my school, I became fond of sought-after books with more or less provocative titles."

[Mr. Rondeau.]

Then, Mr. Speaker, the government could have introduced legislation with a view to completing the education of young Canadians on this topic.

Secondly, the government could have, and still can, train specialists in this field. Those specialists could, through the knowledge they would transmit to the public and to those who would claim their services, avoid that more pregnant women resort to abortion, and I refer again to the same book, on page 115, where it is stated, and I quote:

—that undesired pregnancies were for the most part pregnancies which, later on, after proper counselling by psychologists, are wanted and fully accepted.

Mr. Speaker, by means of training centres, educational centres, we could prevent a very great number of abortions and educate the young people who, because of a lack of education in that matter, will resort to the easiest means, namely abortion, once this bill is passed.

A little further, in the same book, Dr. Mongeau said that the government should, through some program, educate people as to family planning.

On page 116, he says:

Therefore, family planning reveals itself one of the most effective instruments to fight abortions—

In my opinion, before wanting to resort to abortion in the case of a great number of pregnant women in Canada, we could use planning, the most effective instrument against abortion.

And a little further, in the same book, it is said, and I quote:

As a matter of fact, we have come to a situation very well described by "Le Conseil Supérieur de la Famille" in their brief on birth control:

"Let us point out finally that a serious social discrimination is created as to contraceptive knowledge: the most gifted married couples, through fortune and education, have access to such knowledge, even though it is sometimes difficult to get necessary advice from doctors. The poor and less educated people are almost deprived of the information and advice they would need".

Now, Mr. Speaker, we could still, by such means, avoid a great number of abortions and the government, instead of introducing such a legislation, should adopt a prevention policy, providing for the education, the training of specialists in our society, in order to prevent more abortions. But the government is not doing so.