

previous to that. I am very happy that now at least we have a method by which at least it will be discussed at length in committee.

Mr. PRITTIE: You misunderstood me as Mr. Basford, among others, helped me in the work done on the bill at that time.

The CHAIRMAN: Any questions, gentlemen?

Mr. CHATTERTON: Mr. Chairman, have you decided to have questions asked now?

● (11: 40 a.m.)

The CHAIRMAN: I am in the hands of the committee. I wonder whether it would be better to hear Mr. Basford. Mr. Prittie is free to remain as it may very well be possible that hon. members would like to ask them the same questions.

Mr. KNOWLES: There is one question, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to ask perhaps not just Mr. Prittie but the entire committee. I think most of us who heard the hours of debate on Mr. Prittie's bill in 1964 were aware of the utter misunderstanding on the part of the two Creditiste members who spoke. They thought because the word "abortion" appeared in the text of Mr. Prittie's bill that it was a bill to legalize abortion. Mr. Prittie has made it clear that what he has done is simply to redraft that section of the Criminal Code leaving in it all the things that are now there except the word "conception". The question I put to Mr. Prittie is, is he satisfied that that misunderstanding has been cleared up, and that this committee understands and that the public generally realizes, that whatever views he may have on abortion, this bill does not touch on that subject at all.

Mr. PRITTIE: Yes, I tried to deal with that matter in my explanatory notes. When I redrafted the bill this year I changed the explanatory notes to try to make that point clear.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Thank you very much, Mr. Prittie.

The second colleague I wish to call before us this morning is Mr. Basford who will speak to us on his private member's bill, C-64.

Mr. BASFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I find myself in a rather unusual position of being a witness before a committee and wanting first to say that I urge you to support Mr. Prittie's bill rather than my own bill. Mr. Prittie reviewed the legislative history of his own bill and the co-operation he received from some hon. members from other parties toward the passage of his bill when it came up for debate in September, 1964. As a result of that debate, some of us were quite pessimistic of anything being done in this area. Nevertheless, it was the hope of some of us, including Mr. Francis to try to draft a bill that would meet with more general acceptance in the House of Commons. That was the reason for Mr. Francis' bill in the last parliament and for my bill in this parliament. My bill was drawn simply in an attempt to get a bill that, in the face of what seemed to be great opposition on this subject, would meet with the approval of more hon. members, and to possibly obtain passage in the house. In so far as my own view is concerned, I would urge on this committee that they consider Mr. Prittie's bill in preference to mine, which calls for the elimination of the subject of family planning and contraception from the Criminal Code altogether.

There is one weakness in my bill, and I suggest in Mr. Stanbury's bill, which the committee must examine if it is interested in the approach taken in