

*Criminal Code*

already made. There is nothing more discouraging for a young member who wishes his country well and who would like that all legislation considered beneficial to the entire population. I am still waiting for an answer to the question I asked the minister. I am insisting on this for the last time, as we are now studying the last amendment regarding abortion.

Mr. Speaker, about three months ago, I put a question on the order paper. I asked whether some organizations were advocating the passage of the bill on abortion and homosexuality and, if so, which ones. The minister himself told me by a curt "no" that there were none.

On the other hand, he mentioned some 50 to 60 organizations which had sent their opinions on the subject. As he said "no" and as 50 to 60 organizations had sent briefs on the subject, that meant that all those organizations were totally in favour of the bill, or at least had strong doubts about it.

I would like the minister to tell us who are those people, apart from the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway and other hon. members of the New Democratic Party. Who are those people who want the passage of the bill on abortion? Who are those people? We should know that.

Are there people other than a certain Lyse Payette who, on the C.B.C., said that she wants to be the sole master of her body, and that it should be so with all women, and that it is as simple to undergo abortion as to have a tooth out? Who absolutely wants—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde):** Order. It being one o'clock, I must now leave the chair until two o'clock.

[English]

At one o'clock the house took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at 2 p.m.

[Translation]

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, in order not to hold up the debate, I should simply like to close my remarks on these words: I should like all the considerations we have brought up on the amendments concerning abortion to be summarized by the last amendment we have introduced proposing the

[Mr. Matte.]

deletion of clause 18. If that amendment were passed, any debate on the omnibus bill would automatically be brought to an end and this house would have proved to the people that it could take into consideration all opinions, regardless of whose they are. It would give the government the opportunity to prove its fair play, its understanding, and to prove that all the members really participate in the shaping of our legislation; in short, that together we strive towards the goal of giving our country adequate laws, with a view to helping not only a very limited number of individuals but, generally, the whole population for the common good of all. That was the purpose of all our interventions.

**Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova):** Mr. Speaker, it is the first time that I speak on this bill. I would have liked to speak several times but I hesitated for various reasons. First, I am not a lawyer. Therefore, I do not understand all the legal terminology.

Second, I am neither a doctor nor a psychologist. Therefore, I do not understand all the complexities that might present themselves, either on the side of the doctor in relation to the legislation on abortion, or on the side of the woman in relation to her health.

Moreover, I do not have statistics to prove my point, but I wish to say a few words because I am concerned as a legislator, and especially as an individual, by the way in which society is governed.

I might say that I do not speak for all my constituents, because opinions differ in my constituency, as everywhere in the country. I sincerely think that most Canadians are opposed to this part of the bill.

• (2:10 p.m.)

Many government members are opposed to motion of the hon. member for Notre Dame de Grace (Mr. Allmand).

I have, myself, as a representative or simply as an individual, discussed the proposed legislation with my colleagues who are lawyers.

The present legislation authorizes abortion if life is endangered. I discussed this problem with several colleagues of mine and all of them had the same answer. This is perhaps why I have not intervened so far: I was worried. If to procure abortion is a crime—though I know abortion is sometimes necessary—we must do away with all this.