

*Criminal Code*

We want the law to be more specific, in order that abortion be allowed, but before the implantation period.

In support of my assertion, I will quote an excerpt of the interesting, scientific and conclusive testimony of Dr. René Jutras, who lives in my constituency, since he is a member of the pediatrics service of the Hôtel-Dieu of Arthabaska. Several members apparently have this next on hand.

This is why I am pleased to make use of his knowledge, in order to give fuller details.

Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with the life of the unborn child before and after implantation. But let us see rather what science says in that connection. Dr. Jutras stated on March 25, and I quote:

The chromosome contains in itself all the genes. There are 46 chromosomes and in the deoxyribonucleic acid there is a complete code which is the code of heredity. This code contains, according to present research, about 100,000 special characteristics, descriptions or connotations determined in advance which will lead the impregnated cell to its final state of man at the age of 20.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, this merely means that there is an evolution from the time of sexual intercourse to the time of birth and even up to 20, 30, 50 and even 70 years of age. That evolution at the various stages of life will only stop at the time of death.

Mr. Speaker, we are now discussing a bill which seeks to establish as a fact that there is no life during the time the foetus is in the woman's womb, while science states positively the contrary. In fact, science says that not only there is life then, but that as soon as implantation takes place the chromosomes are perfectly arranged and the deoxyribonucleic acid contains already all the genetic information regarding the future physiological and biological characteristics of the man at 20.

Some members, the hon. member for Mercier (Mr. Boulanger) for instance, if I am correct, do not speak often, not to say never. Well, at the time of his conception, it was already settled that the hon. member for Mercier would never say a word. The die was cast.

Now, let us go back to serious business. I think there is continuity and this fact has been established scientifically.

Dr. Jutras says and I am quoting:

This is to tell you that we are facing a real challenge. It is more than a negative.

[Mr. Fortin.]

This is what the person I referred to earlier had to say on this subject, and I quote:

It is more than a negative. Everything is codified and sealed in advance. And what is fantastic in all this is to see that before impregnation—

Mr. Speaker, I hope I am not out of order. I continue the quotation:

—there is a phase of immeasurable hazard.

More than 400 million spermatozoa are participating in a frantic race to reach the ovule. Only one reaches it, and thus the foetus begins to take form. Therefore, it is a race to the finish.

In examining the bill introduced by the minister, it is useless to wonder why the spermatozoa are racing, Mr. Speaker. They do not want to be overtaken by the omnibus bill.

Dr. Jutras went on to say, and I quote:

But there is one thing about which human beings do not often think. It is that once the head of the spermatozoon has penetrated into the ovule—

At this stage, I ask the hon. member for Chambly (Mr. Pilon) to listen carefully—

—the hazard has ended.

Well, Mr. Speaker, from then on, it is scientifically possible to foresee what the future human being will be like. It is possible to know what his defects, even the smallest ones, will be, his qualities, the colour of his eyes, the shape of his ears and of his nose, etc. It is possible to foresee everything, even his mental or physical deficiencies. Biologists and scientists are saying so, not me.

—there is no more chance happening.

Dr. Jutras states, and he says so on the basis of studies he has been conducting on the subject for eight years, particularly in the United States. And I continue:

After that, the setting into motion is extraordinary, if one reflects on it.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that this question can be treated lightly, for this is a matter of life or death. Ultimately, we have to know whether after implantation the foetus can be considered as a human being. If not, abortion raises no problem, but otherwise, the problem is immense.

I said a moment ago that there was continuity from the moment of fecundation until the human being reaches the age of 20. This continuity will only end at death.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we are to-day at the age of 20, 30, 40 and 50 years could be found not only as a mere potentiality, but in an