

Criminal Code

generations. Why? Because then people will witness a definite, complete and evident deterioration of the Canadian population. We should encourage a high birth rate instead of advocating abortion, as proposed in clause 18 of Bill C-150.

• (9:10 p.m.)

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Badanai): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Carry on.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Badanai): Has the hon. member the consent of the house to continue?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Caouette: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I shall not abuse the generosity of my hon. colleagues on both sides of the house who are giving me the opportunity to conclude my remarks.

[*Translation*]

The stand we shall continue to take on this bill is well understood, I think, and I hope it will be by the Minister of Justice, the government and members of all parties. We have at heart the people's well-being.

Before you interrupt me, Mr. Speaker, to tell me that my time has expired, I should like to say that instead of bringing in legislation to legalize abortion, the minister should introduce a measure to encourage births in Canada and create economic conditions which would enable parents to raise their children properly, make families happy rather than disrupt them, since abortion will have positive effects once it is legalized and within the reach of the whole population.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to speak any longer tonight on this matter, but I am appealing to the minister before this bill or this clause 18 is passed. Let the minister discuss with the Prime Minister and the cabinet the wording of clause 18.

Up to now, nothing prevented a doctor from resorting to such a method if a mother was going to die. But today, they want to legalize it without reservations, not only if her life is in danger, but even when her health may be impaired. I say that this bill does not serve the best interests of the Canadian nation. This clause 18 runs counter to the rights of the human being. It does not respect the identity of the human being.

We ask parliament to delete it. I appeal to all members of other parties, so that we all assume our responsibilities as members of parliament, and not as servants of a political party, whichever it is. Let us have at least a free vote with respect to this clause 18. The vote being free for all members, I firmly believe, Mr. Speaker, that hon. members have enough morals to fight this clause 18, and delete it forever from bill C-150.

Mr. Speaker, we are not being discriminating. We merely ask that morality be respected, even if some hon. members believe that we should not attach any importance to morals when it comes to passing a clause like this one, dealing directly with abortion. We fight against this principle. We are against legalized abortion in Canada, because other countries that made the experiment bitterly repented it. Today, in our so-called civilized countries, our civilization rather prompts us to destroy the nation. It is not civilization any more, it is extreme barbarity.

Before concluding my comments, I say that our position as federal members was aimed at drawing the attention of the government and enlightening the Minister of Justice on several points of which he was perhaps unaware. My colleagues have quoted profound and responsible testimonies. The Minister of Justice learned something from my colleagues of the Ralliement créditiste when they spoke of that very thorny and serious question of abortion.

I am asking parliament to authorize a free vote and to let each member deal with abortion as it must be dealt with, in order to get rid of abortion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[*English*]

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I shall be brief, as I was last evening. I should like to make sure that the house understands the mood of what is before it. Basically, this motion would wipe out the amendments in respect of abortion which are included in the bill. We have read in the newspapers that the passage of this bill has been delayed. We have read in the newspapers that this delay is preventing the house from considering those matters which I believe the government should be dealing with at this time, namely, coming to grips with the most important economic problems which this country has ever faced.

It is most relevant at this time to discuss for a few moments exactly what has happened. Tonight, a great nation is bleeding. It