

*Private Members' Business*

It could be an aunt or an uncle. It could be anyone under the terms of the very wording of this motion.

• (2050)

Is that what we want to do? Do we want to have just anyone terminate, execute, kill an ill person? The third part of the definition states: "at the patient's request".

We talk about Holland and the experience that the Dutch have had. Recently there were headlines in the newspapers trumpeting the great news for humanity that the Dutch Parliament approves law sanctioning euthanasia.

Here are the guidelines to protect us from ourselves apparently: The request for euthanasia must be made entirely of the patient's own free will and not under pressure from others. The patient must be spoken to alone to ensure the decision is voluntary. These are patients who are dying, who in many cases are in agony. Are they going to be thinking straight? Are they going to have the ability to determine this on their own? Of course not.

The patient must be well informed about his or her situation and must have been able to consider the alternatives. Oh yes, because of course in the throes of a terminal illness they are going to be sitting there rationally listening and adding up the ledgers *a* and *b* and the debits and the credits columns to make a rational decision.

The patient should have a lasting longing for death. Requests made on impulse or based on a temporary depression cannot be considered. What is a temporary depression? What is a lasting longing for death? Who is going to decide? There is no answer in the Dutch legislation.

The patient must experience his or her suffering as perpetual, unbearable and hopeless. Virtually any doctor will tell you that there is virtually no disease known to man where the pain cannot be controlled. If there is a disease where the pain cannot be controlled, I say doctors should be looking for ways to control the pain, not to execute the patient.

Another guideline: The physician must consult at least one colleague on the patient's request. In other words, if the patient has the wherewithal to say: "Hey, by the way

do you mind checking with a colleague", then the doctor has to check with a colleague.

A well documented written report must be done stating the history of the patient's illness and meeting the carefulness requirements. Note the code words, the carefulness requirements. This is in the Dutch legislation. This is the dramatic jurisdiction that we should be considering as our model.

What happened in Holland? In 1990, 1,030 Dutch patients' lives were terminated. They were killed without their consent under these guidelines. Of 22,500 deaths due to withdrawal of life support, 63 per cent of them, 14,175 living patients, were denied medical treatment without their consent and 12 per cent of them, 1,701, were mentally competent but were not consulted. They were killed without consultation. They were executed without consultation.

The common law provides very clearly that absolutely no one has to accept treatment. If treatment is forced on you against your consent that is an assault against your person and the doctor can be charged criminally or face a civil suit. No one has to accept treatment. The argument that my friend, the member for Fraser Valley West, put forward that we are inflicting life on people is specious to say the least.

We do not have to get into religion. Of course if we mention religion there are those who will say, "You are imposing your religious views on others".

All we have to do is look at the medical facts and we have to listen to some doctors. This is what Dr. Gordon Dickey, President of the Ontario College of Family Physicians says: "Doctors are in the business of caring for patients. Euthanasia as I understand it is killing people and killing people is morally wrong and not something that physicians should be involved in".

The member for Fraser Valley West however did mention the word "God", something that we do not often mention in our society today. He mentioned his God and I know his God because He is the Christian God. I remind him and people listening of precisely what his God has already said in one of His 10 very simple rules: "Thou shalt not kill".

**Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta):** Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the opportunity of at least starting a little speech here tonight to talk on this very fascinating subject.