

Adjournment Debate

to the government's sense of justice. I urge that the government ensure that the Badgley report will be debated in the House to give all members an opportunity to express views that have been communicated to us by thousands and thousands of Canadians across the country.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the question of abortion has been raised many times in the question period in the House and in motions. When the hon. member says he would like to have this question debated further, may I point out that the government has said it does not intend to amend the legislation at present. The hon. member knows that if he or his party feels strongly about debating the issue, there are many opposition days when this matter could be debated. As a matter of fact there is one tomorrow. They could use it if they want to do that.

So far as the question about women's clinics is concerned, I am glad he gives me the opportunity to reiterate what was in the statement, which appears to have been either misunderstood or distorted. Women's clinics, about which I have

spoken, are to be completely and exclusively the responsibility of the provinces. It is their decision whether they want to go ahead with them or not. I indicated clearly that they should be part of recognized hospitals, as is the case at present when a therapeutic abortion takes place. There is no question of bringing in abortions by the back door. It is a matter of applying the law as it is at present.

Clinics which are properly set up and run would, I believe, reduce the number of abortions rather than increase them, because they would provide the whole spectrum of services to women. I am afraid that this is something that has not been examined very carefully by the critics. There exists already a women's clinic in Canada which, I am advised, is working very effectively. The question is rather whether we can improve the health services provided to women in this country within the context of the law as it stands at present.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

At 10.30 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.