

Criminal Code

In Canada, we also have tax assessments but they are not high enough to enable families to live decently as human beings.

Mr. Speaker, several measures, before and at the time of birth, have been enacted to help women carry through their pregnancy.

Further provisions have been made, including three free consultations during the third, sixth and eighth month of pregnancy. In the course of the first month, a complete check-up must be made free of charge by the physician. If the husband or wife works, prenatal allowances are granted after each medical examination.

Mr. Speaker, Canada has no such plan. This is one of the reasons for today's complications. One of the reasons why the famous Bill C-150, and particularly clause 18, have been introduced is that we are unable to provide the people with sound economic conditions.

Such a situation would call logically for the deletion of clause 18 from the bill. It is logical, Mr. Speaker, that we take the time required to adopt economic, social and humanitarian measures for the benefit of our Canadian families to whom our country owes its greatness and its splendour.

So, Mr. Speaker, about first child allowances in France, it is said, and I quote:

—are paid only if the birth occurs in the first two years of marriage or before the future mother is 25 years old. So a single woman who becomes pregnant after the age of 25 does not receive this allowance. It would seem desirable, on the contrary, that she benefit from this allowance even if she is above the age limit, to encourage her to keep a child of whom she will be the sole supporter.

A nursing bonus is payable from the thirtieth day following birth; it is equal to two thirds of the amount of the monthly allowance.

What special steps are taken for single women? In order to increase the marriage rate, some countries have established a marriage loan—

—in Sweden.

It is a loan bearing current interest but requiring no guarantee. The marriage loan with partial refund at each birth promotes the regularization of common law marriages and early procreation.

A preventive allowance for desertion. But the payment of a small amount is an inadequate palliative, and is therefore ineffective.

Maternity homes provide free care. Women can stay there up to three months after delivery. (At Fontenay-les-Roses, women can remain there up to a year after their delivery; during the day, they look after their child and do housework.)

Therefore, the principle is excellent. Unfortunately, there is not a sufficient number of those maternity homes. In France—

—and in many other countries—

—the homes are financed by the state in a proportion of 20 per cent and social welfare

[Mr. Latulippe.]

provides the remaining 80 per cent. In that area, the Salvation Army is very efficient—

—and plays a very important and productive role.

Mr. Speaker, faced with all those possibilities, once again we must logically and seriously think about what we are doing. The changes we are bringing to the Criminal Code will not be useful to Canadian society. The measures contemplated provide for the legalization of atrocities which are absurd—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Latulippe: —terrible—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

[English]

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, the effect of this amendment would be to wipe out the proposed new section 18 which seeks to broaden in some measure Canadian abortion legislation. For this reason I and the party with which I am associated must oppose it as we have opposed many other amendments which have sought to prevent any modernization of our abortion laws.

For many days now a number of us have sat quietly while a minority of members of the house have voiced their opinions, often in very passionate opposition to what they believe to be wrong. That is their right. They have exercised it to the full, and those of us who believe in civil liberties have been glad to let them exercise it to the full. But now, Mr. Speaker, it is time that the majority should be heard. It is time that something should be said in support of the opinions of the majority of people not only in this house but across Canada.

Less than a month ago a Gallup poll was taken in this country and this question was asked:

It has been suggested that abortion be legalized as well, to preserve a mother's physical or mental health. Would you approve or disapprove of such a step?

Some 73 per cent said yes. Nearly three-quarters of those polled were in favour of legalizing abortion to preserve a mother's physical or mental health. That is exactly what the amendment that the government has put before us in this omnibus bill proposes.

I feel that this legislation does not go far enough, and I shall explain in what regard it falls short in a moment. However, I believe that the significance of this legislation lies not