

Criminal Code

Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) have not deemed it advisable to accept any of those amendments.

That is why we are wondering why the Minister of Justice has not given us any acceptable reasons for rejecting those amendments; why he has so stubbornly refused each and every one of those amendments that were clear, to the point, and which were intended to correct objectively the bill under study.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I should like to remind the hon. member that he may not speak on a decision or decisions already taken by the house, and not by the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your remarks. I was about to deal with the purpose of the amendment.

The house has voted against those amendments. Because the minister has given us very poor reasons, or rather no reason at all for rejecting them, we have had to bring in this amendment which I am sponsoring tonight. All the amendments we have so courageously and brilliantly fought for in this house having been rejected, we have no other choice but to present the amendment now before us, which proposes the deletion of clause 18 from the bill.

Mr. Speaker, our amendments are substantiated by strong evidence, as this bill is of general interest for all levels of our society. Our arguments were based not on feelings but on scientific and sociological facts. We have not had the opportunity as yet to put forth our objections or our views on the moral arguments which are actually indicated in the enforcement of such legislation.

Mr. Speaker, during the last few days we have brought forward arguments from skilled doctors known throughout Canada, so that we can show their value to the committee on justice and legal affairs as well as to this house.

We heard arguments and evidence given by gynaecologists, who are well-informed on that subject, and are very interested in the bill.

We also heard the views and objections from psychologists, psychiatrists and pediatricians, who stated the reasons why they unanimously object to the bill before us.

We also quoted in this house the arguments of associations, hospitals, parents, children's aid societies, and many other valid testimonies against this odious bill received from every part of Canada.

Tonight I would like to bring forward arguments, which have not yet been set forth in this house, because our amendments were not open to moral arguments against abortion.

Mr. Speaker, it is very well to tell us, at the committee on justice and legal affairs, that we should not set forth moral arguments in connection with such legislation, but I claim that morality is important in our legislation and it is important also for a nation.

Not only is morality important, but because justice, which should be part of our legislation, is the basis of our moral principles, we must bring about moral arguments against this bill.

Morality, Mr. Speaker, is the backbone of a people. It is its compass, and the peoples who gave up their moral principles are now under the sign of the hammer and the sickle. I do not believe that the Canadian people is yet ready for legislation adopted in all Communist countries of the world. In the light of public opinion, I do not believe that the Canadian people wish this bill to be passed. This is the reason why we are so strongly opposed to it, not only on moral grounds but for scientific and sociological reasons as well and for the future of our race.

As to the remarks which have been made regarding moral arguments against the omnibus bill and particularly against abortion, I would like to read an excerpt from an open letter from the Reverend Father John Moss, addressed to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) which was published in the *Canadian Register*. I quote:

• (8:20 p.m.)

The object of this article is to protest against the reintroduction in parliament of the legislation called the omnibus bill, which, in my opinion, is designed to amend the Criminal Code to such an extent that it becomes ominous and disquieting for thousands of Canadian citizens.

I am referring particularly to the sections relaxing the laws on abortion, to use the elegant expression, or on generalized infanticide, to use honest language.

These words are from the Reverend John Moss and they reflect the opinion of the Catholic Canadians, who make up half of our population. In his conclusions, he said:

The government whose policy is not to get involved in what goes on in bedrooms should not propose what should be done in delivery wards.

He asked the members of parliament who were to study the legislation not to miss the macabre humour of that American psychiatrist who, on reading a bill similar to our omnibus bill, stated that if one of his patients ever wrote such a piece of legislation, he would never allow such patient to leave the mental institution.