

Criminal Code

ing. That is not a matter of contention. Matters that we feel should be separated in this bill are those of abortion, homosexuality and lotteries.

Let me try and point out how ludicrous this bill is. Apparently it is an offence to commit any act outside Canada which would be an indictable offence if committed in Canada. The bill deals with forged passports, firearms, buggery, bestiality, gross indecency, gambling, horse racing, lotteries, abortion, homosexuality, drunken driving, breathalyzer tests, unlawfully possessing instruments for breaking into a coin operated device, unlawful possession of an automatic master key, theft from a post office, false advertising, harassment by telephone.

Then to round it off, the bill deals with cruelty to animals and provides that any person who is found guilty of cruelty to animals will not be permitted to own another pet for a period of years. That provision is in a bill that deals with the snuffing out of human life at the early stages of conception. This is the essence of irony. The bill also goes on to deal with counterfeit money, attempted rape, attempted murder—

An hon. Member: Athlete's foot.

Mr. Peddle: Everything else except athlete's foot.

As I said, I am not a lawyer, I am not a doctor or a professional man, and perhaps I cannot see the meat of all the clauses. But one thing I can see clearly and which I cannot understand is that this government is obsessed and preoccupied with including in this potpourri, this bag of tricks, matters that affect so deeply the consciences and inner beings of the Canadian people. If the government is hell bent on assaulting our sensibilities, then why does it not say so? That is what worries me, and I do not have the answer yet.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) spoke this afternoon and I was disappointed to hear him say that we should not speak too often about dividing this bill. He is not here tonight and I hope he will not be offended that I have spoken if he reads my remarks in *Hansard* tomorrow. But having made this comment, the hon. member proceeded to launch himself into a 20 or 30 minute speech about how he felt about this bill. If he felt that time should not be wasted on the aspect I am dealing with, then why in the name of heaven did he go on to waste another 20 minutes of parliament's time—his

[Mr. Peddle.]

own words—to make his views known when they could just as well be presented at a later stage? It is ridiculous. I cannot accept that statement, least of all from a man who has been in parliament for 30, 40, 50 or 60 years.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

• (8:50 p.m.)

Mr. Peddle: I referred, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) as being sharp. I say this because normally when he is speaking I am asleep, but today I happened to listen.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Apparently the hon. member didn't listen today, either.

Mr. Peddle: The hon. member has suggested that abortion be removed from the Criminal Code and recognized as a social problem.

An hon. Member: The public voted for it.

Mr. Peddle: The public did not vote for it. This is a contention of the government, Mr. Speaker, that they have a mandate for the changes in this bill. The government knows that Newfoundland has been a bulwark of Liberalism for the past 20 years but only one Liberal was elected in that province in the last election. These Criminal Code amendments were a major factor in the failure of the Liberals to elect more members.

An hon. Member: Go and ask Sullivan.

Mr. Peddle: I admire the courage of the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Sullivan). Hon. members opposite are not all Protestants; they are not all Liberals and they are not all one sex.

An hon. Member: Oh, yes we are!

Mr. Peddle: There are four distinct categories of members in this house. They are cabinet ministers; parliamentary secretaries; those who want to be parliamentary secretaries and those who want to be cabinet ministers. Thank God our party does not have that problem at the moment. Those are commendable political ambitions, Mr. Speaker, but if they are jeopardized by a Prime Minister or government forcing members to vote en bloc on a matter that affects their individual conscience, then I feel that is wrong. This is exactly what will happen on this vote.

When the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre suggests that abortion be removed from the Criminal Code, does he also suggest