

Business of the House

know, again I ask this house, by means of a free vote that should take place tomorrow, to refer all those amendments, to refer this bill on abortion and on homosexuality—as at the present time only 1 per cent of the people are in favour of the amendment—to a royal commission of inquiry, so that the Canadian people may know the truth.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**MOTION TO EXTEND HOURS OF SITTING**

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, in order to give hon. members a full opportunity to express their views on this matter, I should like to recommend to the house that it might be a useful idea to extend the sitting another couple of hours. Therefore, pursuant to section (5) (a) of Standing Order 6 I move:

That this sitting be continued until midnight this day for the purpose of considering all aspects of the "Report Stage" of Bill C-150, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatory Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, including any or all proposed amendments and the motion to concur in the said bill, as amended.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: It is the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those who object please rise.

And more than ten members having risen:

Mr. Speaker: As more than ten members have risen to oppose the motion, it may not be put before the house.

● (9:30 p.m.)

[English]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**CRIMINAL CODE****REPORT STAGE**

The house resumed consideration of Bill C-150, to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons

[Mr. Dumont.]

and Reformatory Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, and motion No. 33 (Mr. Laprise).

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak to the amendment of the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce because I do not agree fully with it.

For once I agree, partly, with the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner). But as one of my colleagues has an amendment with which I am in total agreement, and which will be discussed later on, probably tomorrow, I cannot accept the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, because I feel it does not go far enough.

It would still leave room for doubt in the bill, which might lead to far more complications. Therefore, if we are to amend clause 18, I feel it should be amended properly to avoid any ambiguity.

Having said this, Mr. Speaker, I want to mention again that although if I speak at this stage it is not to say that I am for or against the bill. In principle I am against the liberalization of the legislation on abortion and I shall have the opportunity during the debate on third reading to object once more to this bill.

At this time, I do not want to stretch the debate too much; I think that it might be possible to have done with the amendment of the member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce tonight.

But before I resume my seat, I want to emphasize the objection I have against the term it is proposed to add to Bill C-150 in section 18, and which would allow abortion not only when the life of the mother would be endangered but also when her health would be endangered they are not quite sure about it, but they are ready to accept it, even in doubt.

As the minister said in his statement, he is ready to accept doubts in regard of the health of the woman. So the minister, as a lawyer, might not have as much sensitivity and knowledge as the doctors or specialists in this field.

And, tonight, I want to emphasize the evidence given by Dr. Marcel Boisvert, a Montreal psychiatrist who spoke readily and very clearly, on February 6, 1968, before a seminar