

*Criminal Code*

I have in hand a very interesting table on this subject, Mr. Speaker. Who knows today, in the world as elsewhere, what are the main reasons why abortions are requested? It is for the same reasons that we, of the Cr ditiste party, say that to want to allow abortion in Canada for health reasons is a false pretext. Such reasons do not exist.

Here are some figures:

In Yugoslavia, for instance, in 1965, here are the reasons why abortions were requested: 23 per cent of the women who secured an abortion have done so, not for reasons of health but of housing.

The Canadian government is not solving anything now and the minister responsible for housing has been compelled to resign because the government would not accept his views nor his proposals.

In Yugoslavia, Mr. Speaker, 23 per cent of the women who have asked for an abortion have done so because of lack of housing; 30 per cent, for economical and social reasons, because they did not have enough money to live. Moreover, 16 per cent of them have invoked family relationships; 6 per cent, illness in the family, but not their own; 3 per cent, marital relationships; 4 per cent, alcoholism; 9 per cent, various reasons, of a personal nature, and 2 per cent, various other reasons.

Well, this means that in Yugoslavia, 95 per cent of the women have secured an abortion for reasons completely different than those invoked in Canada to legalize abortion.

• (8:40 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired. The hon. member can only proceed if he has the unanimous consent of the house. Is there unanimous agreement to allowing the hon. member to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry, but there is no unanimous consent. Is the house ready for the question?

[Translation]

**Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac):** Mr. Speaker, following the very sensible statements we have just heard from the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) I feel that the house and the people across Canada should read the page of Canadian history that the Ralliement cr ditiste is

[Mr. Rondeau.]

writing just now, showing, with the help of concrete examples, that the experience of some Communist countries among others did not bring the results expected when the legislation or amendments were passed.

Therefore, the page of history now in the process of being written in Canada should be read by the whole population.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) who has moved an amendment to the effect that the bill on abortion

—be amended by deleting paragraph (f) of subsection 6 in clause 18 on page 44 and substituting therefor:

“(f) “therapeutic abortion committee” for any hospital means a committee comprised of not less than four members, two of whom shall be qualified medical practitioners and one a psychiatrist appointed by the board of that hospital, as well as a clergyman, or spiritual advisor where this is requested by the patient for the purpose of considering and determining questions relating to terminations of pregnancy within that hospital.”

Now, in support of such a logical amendment, I cannot imagine we could not secure a majority in the house, which should not defeat the government, but could at least prove to the entire population that dictatorship does not exist in this parliament and that government members are ready to vote according to their conscience, if they have one.

Some Conservatives, and we see it now by this amendment, are free to bring in amendments which undoubtedly would relax the omnibus bill, especially if that amendment were accepted since it asks that a clergyman be appointed on a patient's request.

As for myself, being a Catholic, if members of my family with the upbringing they had, either my wife or even my daughters, if they want to have, in addition to a psychiatrist, a clergyman of any religion whatever, I believe that in a Christian Canada first of all, and then because we are Catholics in Quebec and because others belong to other denominations, we must have at least the right to consult a minister in order to enjoy through such an amendment a certain freedom in our country.

Then Catholics in Quebec, especially government members, will have, as of today, to take into account one thing, namely that the amendment which is brought in by the Conservative member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) is also backed up by all the Knights of Columbus of the province of Quebec.