

been given; I shall mention that of associations such as the Canadian Medical Association.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): How many provinces?

Mr. Isabelle: Ten. There will be another one soon: the federal district.

I follow the idea of the member for Gatineau (Mr. Clermont); there must have been some confusion, some error in the translation or interpretation. That is why we insist so much, when requiring a document, on the original copy being produced.

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The hon. member for Shefford on a point of order.

Mr. Rondeau: I should like to point out to the hon. member that he may not impute motives to the hon. member for Gatineau.

Mr. Isabelle: The member for Gatineau always has good intentions. That is why the wording of an act—and we discussed this with my colleague, Mr. Clermont—seems to have been poorly translated—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I should like to remind the hon. member that he must identify members by the name of their ridings and address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Isabelle: He is such a good friend of mine that I often slip up on that: I apologize. If the member for Gatineau belonged to the medical profession, I am sure he would have removed the word "Certainment" and left the word "probablement" for the reasons I have just given.

Medicine will always be an art, Mr. Speaker, regardless of any new scientific discoveries; for it will always involve that undefinable element that is life. It is almost as difficult to define life as it is to detect cancer, in spite of all our modern scientific methods, precisely because we are dealing with the phenomenon of the multiplication of cells.

So, Mr. Speaker, if it is possible to find a solution, I would suggest that the word "certainment" be deleted with a view to perhaps enabling the medical profession to do its work properly.

Criminal Code

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I have been listening for the past few minutes to a French lesson, to the meaning to be given to the words *certainement* or *probablement*. I know very well that if the government maintains its position, the word *probablement* will probably be replaced by the word *certainement* and in the next election, the government will certainly be defeated.

There is a difference, Mr. Speaker, between *probablement* and *certainement*.

Naturally, one is always sure that his cause is just and one is surprised by the position adopted by others, namely that of the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle). I understand what he means. I agree with him when he says that medicine is an art of probabilities, that is that one can never state categorically that something will happen or that a certain treatment will surely cure the patient.

• (5:40 p.m.)

We object to abortion for the same reason that the member for Hull has just given. Therefore, the doctor never can say whether the woman's life or health is endangered. It is exactly the argument he put forward. Medicine is an art of probabilities. The doctor never can say positively in connection with a pregnant woman whether the pregnancy will affect the mother's health or life.

That is the main reason why we are discussing this bill. Feelings or politics are not involved, it is only a matter of life and death. The point is to pass an act or not. Our arguments are serious and well-founded.

In this connection the hon. member for Hull gave us a chance and I thank him for it. If we take up his own words, we must acknowledge that medicine is an art of probabilities. As abortion is part of medicine, we cannot see why we should now be legislating on that matter. That is the very reason why we are discussing so much.

Mr. Speaker, in a letter that the *Alliance pour la vie* sent to members on November 20, 1968, one could read, and I quote:

Dear Hon. Member:

It seems that you will soon be called upon to vote amendments to the Criminal Code involving radical changes in the clauses concerning abortion. Anyone who considers carefully the proposed amendments realize that they involve major changes, regardless of any assurance given to the contrary.