

Criminal Code

on those who believe otherwise to demonstrate to me that it does not, if that is their belief.

Philosophers and theologians have recognized for many years the sanctity of life. Hippocrates, a philosopher and physician who lived from 460 to 367 B.C. wrote what is now referred to as the Hippocratic Oath. It says:

I will give no deadly medicine to anyone even upon request, nor suggest any such counsel, and in like manner I will not give to a woman a pessary to produce an abortion.

That was right 2,400 years ago, it is still right today.

Ms. Mitchell: In your view.

Mr. Boudria: I know some will disagree and that is their prerogative.

We as a nation have to face this issue and it is difficult. This Bill obviously will not be able to proceed because of the fact that the Criminal Code section it deals with has been overturned. Therefore, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson):

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substitute the following therefor:

That Bill C-261, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (abortion) be not now read a second time, but that the order be discharged, the Bill withdrawn and the subject matter be therefore referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General.

I move that motion with the full co-operation of the Hon. Member for York South—Weston who proposed this Bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McKinnon): The debate is now on the amendment.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to deal with Bill C-261. I think that in this House and throughout the world including Canada, many individuals do not understand the very difficult problem of abortion. The problem is very difficult from a moral point of view and to my knowledge, no woman wants to be aborted but the problem lies with our society and not with women and men.

Abortion has always existed and, before 1969 in Canada, abortions were performed in unhygienic premises resulting in the death of many women and children. Those are not very pleasant conditions.

However, Mr. Speaker, if we want to reduce the number of abortions, our society will have to be fairer and more honest than at present. Our society must love children, provide daycare services and also services for women. Moreover it should uphold values which do not consider women as sexual objects. It strikes me as really ironic that I am the only woman speaking this evening on this issue and the only one, I think, which is against the bill under consideration.

[*English*]

It is not because I think that anyone at any time ever wants to have an abortion. I know people who have made that

decision but they did not want to. I hear constantly in this Chamber that we have to protect the unborn. I agree, but I think we have to protect the born. The same people who talk about those conditions laugh about making women sexual objects. Yesterday I raised in this House the fact that advertising such as with Diet 7-Up makes a sexual object of women for the amusement of their male partners who impregnate them and then leave them in their anxiety and tension and frustration. To suggest that we are talking about using abortion as a form of birth control is a scandal. We must ask ourselves why this is happening. We must ask ourselves why the country of Brazil has millions of abortions. It has laws like this and is not reducing them.

• (1730)

The Province of Quebec, which has refused to implement the Criminal Code on this, is the only province in Canada which has been able to reduce the number of abortions. However, we have not been able to increase the birth rate in Québec. In Sweden, however, where services are given, they have reduced the number of abortions and increased the birth rate.

The real question is whether we are willing to build a society which loves children. Will we sacrifice ourselves to show that children are the ones we really love? Will we give services to those children? Will we ensure that there are not children getting their meals in soup kitchens before they go to school? Everyone who is talking about this should go down to the soup kitchens and guarantee that these children have a life of dignity.

I am not even asking them to look after the women who have been so badly treated over the years. I am asking them to look after the children who are sexually abused today in our society. They are not sexually abused by women. Women have not declared war. Women are not the ones who have killed other human beings throughout history. And women will not have abortions if they have true choices because they will be able to build a society that loves.

I suggest to everyone who says that our society has no law that that is not true. We have laws, we have medical practitioner laws and medical ethics. It is in that area that we must deliver the necessary services to women. We do not want to go back to the back streets.

I am a public health nurse. I trained in a Catholic hospital and worked in a Catholic hospital. In the emergency room we saw some of the carnage which the butchers perpetrated on these youngsters, and sometimes on older women. When you see what that does to your society and values you ask yourself whether you treasure life or not. I treasure life very deeply. I treasure life so deeply that I believe we must look at the continuum of what is happening.

We are not doing that by implementing this kind of legislation. By implementing such legislation we are making the black market rich again. We are not putting in place