

*Criminal Code*

words, those are the words of the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto). I have a copy of his letter. Someone sent it to me but I do not think it was sent by him.

In concluding my remarks, let me say that I appreciate the attention of hon. members in the house and I hope that I have made my point in connection with the bill before us.

• (9:20 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, it would be difficult for me not to speak on this bill before it is referred to the committee, if it ever is. However, I want to spare the house the obligation to listen to my comments on every clause of Bill C-150, as well as on the clauses that are not in it.

Most members of my party have spoken on almost all of these clauses in order to bring them to the attention of the committee.

I personally have had the opportunity to speak on Bill C-195 sponsored by the then Minister of Justice, now the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), which is a true copy of Bill C-150. That is why, today, my remarks will be restricted to the clauses dealing with abortion and homosexuality, after having agreed in principle to all the other clauses of the bill.

Even on those two scores, I shall limit myself to a short review of the present debate and dwell mainly on the positions of the various parties pointing out afterwards some statements that were made in the house. I thought that in so doing we could reach conclusions beneficial to hon. members and instructive for all the committee members.

In order to dispel any possible ambiguity concerning statements that all my colleagues tried to make clear, I shall summarize our positions.

First of all, with the exception of the clauses covering abortion and homosexuality, we shall support the amendments contained in Bill C-150, perhaps with some minor changes.

Secondly, as homosexuality and abortion involve religious and social responsibilities, we shall require that those subjects be treated separately, in order to allow separate and free votes on each of them.

Thirdly, I dare hope that the committee will grant us what the house has always refused us, namely that the right-thinking members of the committee will vote in favour of deleting the words "mental illness of the mother" from the section on abortion.

[Mr. Flemming.]

And lastly, we require that the amendment concerning homosexuality be simply deleted from the bill.

I have noted that most of the English-speaking Liberals, for very few French-speaking members dared talk openly before their constituents, tried mainly to defend and support the bill. The hardest task was to find worthwhile arguments to make people swallow the pill. I believe that they have not succeeded. The medicine is by far too bitter, especially for Roman Catholics. Nevertheless, I wish to congratulate those hon. members who had the courage to stand up for their religious and social convictions. Anyway, we feel comforted when we realize that even though there are among our Liberal friends some elastic consciences that I might compare to balloons, we have reason to thank those who still know how and are anxious to preserve their identity. And thank God this is the great majority, both among Liberals and members of the other parties.

I shall make no secret of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that I have talked to many of them and that they do not all agree since some will object or will abstain from voting if the amendments proposed are not accepted in committee.

I was most interested by the reaction of the Liberals to certain petitions asking them to oppose the bill as it now stands. I understand how hard it is for them to find a valuable excuse in the face of the growing increase of objectors. Here is what they most often reply. It was imposed upon them on the order of the great chief who so ruled it. Abortion is not so serious since the bill tends only to save the mother's life. It is an over-simple and childish answer which does not reveal all that is hidden in the substance of the amendment to the act.

They reply also that the amendment on homosexuality only aims at preventing police agents from breaking into private bedrooms so that adult couples of the same sex be not disturbed or still that the amendment relating to homosexuality does not tend to legalize homosexuality. A law is probably introduced to "delegalize", something of which I would have never thought, Mr. Speaker.

Are they not conscious of the fact that this bill will legalize cohabitation and all sexual relations between two men or two women. they should stop laughing at people with this matter of relations between men and women.