

*Food and Drugs Act—Narcotic Control Act* other bills. Birth control legislation has had some very strange bedfellows.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** In the last parliament it appeared in a measure to deal with hazardous substances, Bill S-22. Barbara Cadbury, a pioneer in planned parenthood in Canada, referred in an article in *Canadian Welfare* to the debate on the bill which took place in the other place. She told how one of the legislators there described the need for that legislation to deal with the following:

Toy chickens with poison-contaminated feathers, blankets contaminated with dieldrin, poisonous beads and poisonous canape picks and ice-balls that might leak poisons into cocktails, about the hazards of silver polish and of "that family of commodities commonly used for cleaning pipes and drains". At the very end (of the bill) came a proposal to move contraceptives, both drugs and appliances, out of the Criminal Code and into the hazardous substances section of the Food and Drugs Act.

Mrs. Cadbury commented that supporters of birth control had never imagined that their cause would be dealt with in a composite bill along with the hazards of silver polish, but they were nonetheless thankful that with the passage of that bill birth control would be removed from the Criminal Code. Bill S-22 was set aside, as the minister said, at the end of the last parliament. Now we have birth control back in Bill S-15, teamed up with narcotics control. As I say, birth control has had strange bedfellows, but I hope the strange bedfellows are at an end and that birth control is now being made into an honest woman or an honest man, or probably both.

I shall now deal with some of the amendments contained in the bill. I intend to confine my remarks to those clauses which deal with the birth control issue. In general, we are tremendously concerned about the narcotics issue, but I hope someone else from my party will deal with that question. The amendments in this bill concerning birth control will make it possible for Canadians, for the first time in history, to plan and space their families legally. We hear a great deal about the need for a bill of rights. This bill defines and protects some of the most basic and fundamental rights the people of any country can have, the right of parents to decide how many and at what intervals they will have children, and the right of children to be loved and wanted once they arrive.

While talking about pioneers I would like to mention our colleague in this group, the former member for Burnaby-Richmond, now

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

the mayor of Burnaby, who from 1963 onward in almost every session introduced a bill to legalize birth control. So did the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford). He did not start quite as early, but his acceleration was very good once he got going on it. The minister introduced a very fine bill in the 1966 session.

This has not been an easy matter. Certain members of this house took a great deal of converting. Quite a while ago one hon. member in an earlier session—I am quoting from *Hansard*—said:

In my opinion this is a diabolical scheme straight from hell itself—

Another member said:

—such a measure would pave the way for the most damaging abuse and the most awful immorality.

But things have moved in this respect and today I believe this matter is seen in the light in which it is now regarded all over the world, that is, one of enlightened planning of our human resources.

I want to say something about our experience on the Health and Welfare Committee, on which this party was represented by my colleague the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and myself. From February, 1966, to November of that year we studied briefs on this subject from representatives of many types of organizations, medical, legal, social work professions, all the major churches, women's organizations, and many others across Canada. Almost all the evidence favoured removing birth control from the Criminal Code, so much so that one of our members made the following remark:

Maybe we could find a way to get briefs from people who are against birth control.

The result was a report that was favoured by all but one body which came before us. Every body that came before us, except one, which was one of the smaller churches, favoured our report. All but one committee member favoured the report. I refer to that very colourful member from Toronto who is no longer with us and who was referred to at one time as "the implacable foe of the 20th century". That hon. member registered his vote against the report but the rest of us voted in favour of it. I shall be as brief as I can, Mr. Speaker, but I think this is a pretty historic occasion for a great many people in this country who have worked for many