

*Criminal Code*

That is why I ask the minister concerned to divide the bill so that every hon. member may cast a free vote.

I ask for a free vote for all hon. members, because I know very well that some members of the government are not too favourable to the adoption of this bill and would like to vote according to their own conscience. We are asking it also in the interest of the people of Canada.

The bill now before us is of the utmost importance. Some of the subjects it deals with are very important because they are related to the very substance of the nation and because human rights are at stake.

When one wants to speak about a subject as complex and serious as divorce, one must be fully aware of the facts.

● (5:50 p.m.)

If we want to get a wholesome society, its components must be wholesome too.

In my opinion, on introducing a bill such as this one, unless we take into account the very essence of life or the technical or moral sense of the bill, we cannot take an outright and sincere decision.

Once more, the society that we advocate must be wholesome, and those who legislate must be well aware of it. However, the legislation that is being considered has a very great importance whatever some hon. members may say.

It seems as if some people think that this is not important, but the survival or the disappearance of society in general is at stake.

This is what our discussion is about and we have to come to a decision. We must speak our minds, according to our conscience in the light of our Christian moral principles.

Man needs a number of specific and concrete liberties which will give him the means of controlling his destiny. These are the freedom of action, freedom to go wherever he wants, not only within his country but abroad as well to live with his fellow human beings.

It is also the freedom of thought, of expression, of writing, of publishing, of assembly, of discussion with this fellow-men, of choice of school, occupation, place of abode, work and even of mate.

Anything that is imposed in these fields affects adversely human respect and brings into society a factor of disorder. The use of

[Mr. Latulippe.]

these freedoms is limited not in the use of freedom by somebody else, but by the obedience of all to a common rule: respect for man.

Among the nations, some are small, others are old, weak, powerful, wise or unruly. However, each one is entitled to respect, for in its own way, it is necessary to humanity.

As in the case of individuals, Mr. Speaker, each nation aspires to a comfortable life and to expansion according to its own vocation and characteristics. To govern is to provide, to think and to act. For the government of a nation, the necessary uniformity of thought and action cannot be realized by one mind. Under certain circumstances, the government of a nation could be the responsibility of one individual. On the other hand, the right to legislate is the responsibility of several individuals.

We are, at the present time, in the process of legislating and enacting legislation which will result in serious consequences for the future of society. Legislation is the result of a considerable number of actions and reactions between the requirements of the nation and those of its citizens. It involves lengthy studies, confrontations and syntheses which must be weighed and compared. Consequences of legislation must be foreseen and this necessitates team work. Our parliamentary team must adopt legislation, look forward to the future, take decisions and stimulate the development of the entire nation.

Enacting legislation is the responsibility of experts indeed, provided they are legal experts and professionals. Evidently, the legislative body is guided by those in professional and technical fields.

Legislation must be enacted according to characteristics of environment and must reflect the image of society. In fact, society is not only a consensus of lawyers; it represents all types of organizations. In short, it represents all the fields of activities or the whole of the concentrated bodies of the country.

In modern society, the state tends to regulate and govern everything. As a tidal wave, it is invading every field of public and private activities. It goes so far as to penetrate the minds in order to influence, to compel and to destroy them. It leads the way to paralyzing and stifling legislation.

May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.