

*Criminal Code*

possible, yet as fairly as possible, to administer the rules of relevancy. They, of course, apply to both sides of the house and I would invite him at this stage to restrict his remarks to the amendment.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. De Bané:** I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The point I wanted to make was of course that, since it would be ridiculous and untimely to take part in the discussion on every amendment, I wished to express my views on the whole of them, and, in particular, at the end of my remarks, if I am permitted, I wish to comment on this specific health issue.

I was trying to say, Mr. Speaker, that, for one of the few times in the history of our country, we are studying a bill which went through the test of an election and which, because of the Ralliement créditiste in particular, has become a controversial issue in the province of Quebec.

● (4:30 p.m.)

Abortion was the main topic in my constituency during the whole election campaign. It was the same thing elsewhere.

Some people voted for the Créditistes, others voted for the Conservatives, some voted for N.D.P., and the majority voted for the government.

[*English*]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, you and I seem to be rising together a few times. I wonder if the hon. member should not be asked to relate his remarks to the amendment before the house.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I would point out to the hon. member that the rules of relevancy restrict debate at this point to the specific amendment which is before the house which deals with the deletion from clause 18 of the words "or health". At this point, speeches must be confined to this specific amendment. I would suggest to the hon. member that possibly some of the remarks he is anxious to make now—I do not want to interfere with his right to make these remarks—might be made on third reading. If the Chair is to apply the rules of relevancy, they have to be applied to each hon. member. I think it is in the interest of our procedure that we should restrict our remarks as much as possible to the amendment.

**Mr. De Bané:** I would respectfully submit, Mr. Speaker, that in my remarks I might deal  
[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

not only with the amendment but with the speeches which have been made by members of the Ralliement Créditiste on that amendment. They have supported the amendment with arguments which I would like to rebut, if that is in order.

[*Translation*]

What I mean, Mr. Speaker, is this: I am of course unable to speak on each of the 38 amendments. We are now dealing with health, on which I spoke specifically earlier in the day—and I say this for the member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) who was not in the house when the hon. members of the Ralliement créditiste spoke and who did not hear the arguments they used to justify their own amendment. I would like, at this point, to speak on this sensitive matter.

As I was saying, our debates here have become irrelevant, because, as the Speech from the Throne indicated at the beginning of the year, the people have nearly lost confidence in an institution paralyzed by a minority. A minority is tyrannizing us.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Hold a referendum, then.

**Mr. De Bané:** With regard to the referendum, that is precisely what you had in the province of Quebec at the time of the last elections. What did you talk about if not of homosexuality and abortion?

With regard to health, Mr. Speaker, let us put things back in their right perspective. To do so, with regard to abortions for reasons of health, those who would speak in the name of their conscience should be reminded that never in the history of Canada has a doctor ever been prosecuted for having performed a therapeutic abortion. If the members of the Ralliement créditiste had been well informed before turning to demagoguery, they would have known that if a topic is that important, it is high time it should be regulated. Go around the hospitals in the province of Quebec and you will see that therapeutic abortions are performed there. But no, you are not interested in that; what you want is demagoguery, you want to paralyze a democratic institution.

I say, therefore, Mr. Speaker, to those who do not have the time to study comparative law and to see what goes on in the Western world, that we are one of the last countries in that world to adopt an act on abortion. Contrary to the recommendations made to Parliament by the Canadian Medical and Bar Association to the effect that the government