

Criminal Code

It is therefore time for the government members to find a specialist who like the famous Dr. Barnard will graft on them what they need following the vote on the abortion legislation.

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take part in the debate once again, first to congratulate the mover of this amendment. He has proved that we are not fighting alone and that at least many people are beginning to wonder, as this amendment clearly shows.

I cannot say that I agree entirely with the motion. The fact remains that the hon. member deals with the real problems when he asks for a more precise definition and evaluation of the health factor, so as to leave no room for abuses.

● (4:30 p.m.)

Such are my first reactions to this amendment which clearly shows that many people are thinking things over and wondering how far it is permissible to go in order to save the life and especially the health of the mother by resorting to abortion?

That is why I congratulate and praise the hon. member who moved this amendment. I perceive here his desire to protect the people against the possible abuses which will certainly occur.

I say "certainly", for there is abundant proof in all the countries which as a first step, passed legislation similar to the one we are discussing. It started in a very low key: Merely a measure to legalize abortion when the mother's life is endangered.

It seems quite reasonable, at least in theory. But then applications are so numerous that the meaning has to be broadened to "life and health". And thus, scores of people resort to abortion, even when unjustified.

And so, down the slippery path, for soon new amendments are brought in to make abortion still easier to get. Today, in Japan, an abortion upon request costs \$4.85, while British hospitals practise mass abortions and a British physician has procured up to 62 abortions in a single day, for \$288 each.

Legislative measures on abortion passed in different countries irrevocably lead to fantastic abuses. It is on account of that, I believe, that the hon. member who moved this amendment was prompted to restrict the meaning of the word "health".

When we say "—endanger her life", if we stop there, what happens? I have said it [Mr. Beaudoin.]

again and again, and I am going to repeat it once more, for I think it is worth saying it again, since it is an extremely important detail: the mother's life may be endangered three times out of 10,000 deliveries, and yet they want to extend the permission to procure miscarriages to all the hospitals in the country. It is awful when you think of it seriously. Three times out of 10,000, and nobody denies those figures. They are official figures.

And even in those three cases out of 10,000, the physician cannot positively state that abortion will save the mother's life. When her life is really in danger, the mother is as likely to die from the abortion as she would be due to her normal pregnancy.

And very often nature can correct things far better than the best physician.

What do experience and facts prove? That there are fewer risks for a woman to die if her pregnancy is continued to the end.

Very definite cases have been explained. We took the trouble to consult serious and competent people; we were even shown slides, films, which prove beyond doubt that nowadays, with the tremendous progress made by the medical science, no doctor can be absolutely sure that abortion will save the mother's life. And that is only for the first part.

Being aware of such facts, how could we not object to abortion? How could we go against what is so natural, so logical? In the final analysis, we wonder why we are discussing such things when the facts are so obvious.

We, of the Ralliement Cr ditiste, have not undertaken this debate lightly, for it is only after spending week-ends with doctors, gynaecologists and psychiatrists that we have come to the conclusion that an alarm had to be sounded across the country so that people would realize that they were going to be fooled with a bill introduced quietly and without warning.

If the facts are not as we describe them, we would be pleased to stand corrected. We would like nothing better. Will all the acts be turned upside down to promote the pernicious consequences of the countless abuses which are possible? Will essential principles, that are not necessarily and basically moral principles, but simply human ones, be upset to that end?

And since we specialize, so to speak, in promoting the liberty of the human being, its