

Criminal Code

seven pounds. The little girl, born by Caesarean section weighed nine pounds and two ounces.

The Crawfords, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last December 27, have two adopted children and they take care of three others, all teen-agers.

"Naturally, I was flabbergasted, said Crawford. I expected to hear about the tumor operation. The doctor phoned and said he had a surprise for me. I could never have imagined!"

Mr. Speaker, in No. 13 of Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, on March 25, Dr. Benoît Légaré, gynecologist at St. François d'Assise Hospital, in Quebec City, told us and I quote:

We do admit that certain mitral stenoses that cannot be operated on give rise to certain reservations. What does that leave? A handful of cases that will become fewer and fewer as medicine benefits from modern techniques.

Is it worthwhile risking to upset through an Act a state of equilibrium brought about under the status quo? Is it worthwhile setting up a mechanism that would risk going beyond the intentions of the legislator? Would it not be better to have broader consultations, accessible to all the strata of the medical profession, to medical associations, specialists and so on? Would it not be better to find out what we can at that particular level, all the distinctions that may improve the legislation before it is adopted?

Mr. Speaker, in view of those statements and those of many other competent persons, the proposed amendment is clear and stands to reason. If the hon. member for Gatineau had not introduced it, the opposition would have taken this opportunity to move it.

I am therefore happy to give it my wholehearted support and I would be more happy still if I were sure that the Liberal members would do the same.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the house ready for the question?

● (8:30 p.m.)

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, concerning the amendment that I have just read, submitted by the hon. member for Gatineau (Mr. Clermont), I wish to congratulate, at last, a government member who has spoken up. Let us hope, as an hon. member said a moment ago, that others will also speak up, so that the truth be heard across the country.

The object of the amendment is to delete from sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 4 of clause 18, the words "or would be likely."

[Mr. Godin.]

All members have heard last week, the people of Western Canada protest strongly, saying that Parliament is always discussing legislation on homosexuality or amendments to legislation of this type.

When this bill was submitted, we ourselves asked that the provisions relating to homosexuality and abortion be withdrawn. If that had been done, we would not have to spend days on such matters. We could perhaps discuss urgent problems arising in the West and in the whole of Canada.

As the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) was compelled by an uncompromising Prime Minister to introduce the omnibus bill as it is written, the debate goes on and because of this, newspapermen say that we in the opposition do not have much success.

Canadians were truly aware of the night of June 25 that, with an authoritative government, the amendments proposed—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must interrupt the hon. member to remind him that he must not speak on all the provisions in the bill, but simply on the amendment that was moved by the hon. member for Gatineau.

The hon. member has been talking for a few minutes already and he has not even come close to the matter under consideration.

Of course, he is allowed by the rules to make a 20-minute speech. However, he is also required, pursuant to the standing orders, to relate his remarks in one way or the other to the amendment being considered.

Mr. Dumont: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I shall probably come to the amendment that has been moved, and to...

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think an hon. member has a question.

The hon. member for Frontenac has the floor, and it is up to him to permit a question.

Mr. Dumont: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but in view of the interpretation, I would rather ask him to send me his inquiry in writing. I shall supply him with any information he wishes in my office where interpretation is easier.

I was saying, Mr. Speaker, that the phrase "or would be likely to" should be deleted from the omnibus bill; this would clarify the