

Criminal Code

C-195 and this year on Bill C-150, we believe that government members should set aside their pride and admit once and for all that this bill C-150 includes clauses that must definitely be reexamined, clauses the effects of which are so serious that we cannot allow ourselves to pass them without sounding a note of warning.

When we are accused of being a mere handful to maintain that certain clauses should be opposed, it is somewhat false considering the stand taken in this house, for if we applied the solution advocated by the leader of the Ralliement créditiste, the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette), we would ask the people themselves, by means of a referendum, what they think about it.

And if we could say that 90 per cent of the members in this house are in favour, and 10 per cent against, we would still maintain that the people as a whole are against. This is no surprise to us, considering the many empty seats in the house.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I would ask the hon. member to limit his remarks to the amendment, which reads as follows:

—"has by certificate in writing signed by the three members of the committee, stated that in its opinion, the life of the mother cannot be kept safe from danger with the continuation of her pregnancy".

I wonder what these empty chairs have to do with this amendment.

Mr. Matte: The empty chairs are in perfect harmony with the empty heads which one sees on the Treasury benches—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I would like to remind the hon. member of the warning that was given to one of his colleagues this afternoon asking him to weigh his words carefully.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, the whole thing boils down to this: if the house were ever to accept section 18 of the bill concerning abortion, and if the amendment presented by the hon. member for Beauce were added to it, the minister and ourselves would have an opportunity to have section 18 adopted without offending the particular principles of the majority of the people, simply because we believe, as an important part if not an immense majority of the people, that one could think: "The guarantee is really fool-proof, seeing that this certificate must be

[Mr. Matte.]

signed by the three members of the committee, when all three are fully convinced that there is no other way to preserve the life of the mother." This guarantee would make it possible to accept the legislation under certain conditions.

This is why such an amendment would enable us to agree with the minister, and to stop, once and for all, this debate which has lasted far too long.

• (8:10 p.m.)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is the house ready for the question? All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): In my opinion, the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 75 (11), the recorded division on the motion stands deferred.

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford) moved motion No. 19:

That Bill C-150, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, be amended by deleting therefrom clause 18.

Mr. Speaker, we are to study tonight the amendment which I have the honour of sponsoring, that is motion No. 19. This is the last of the amendments our party will have presented with a view to improving this famous bill.

I believe 44 amendments were introduced at the start which later on were reduced in number. Now, of those 44 amendments, some were sponsored by government members, others by Progressive Conservative members and several by Creditiste members.

The object of those amendments, Mr. Speaker, was to improve the bill now before us, although it was studied by the committee on justice and legal affairs and in this house in order to make it less nefarious and less odious to the people. After a few days of discussion in the house, we realize that the government party and more specifically the