

struggle mightily because it deals with fundamental concepts. I understand this, and the Prime Minister and members of the government understand it. I hope nothing I say today or in the later stages of this bill will give any member any impression other than that I deeply respect the consciences and private convictions of all hon. members.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, it means quite simply that the government members are compelled to vote unanimously for any government proposal, especially in the case of Bill C-150.

On the following page, in the first column, the minister made it quite clear, and I quote:

I want to say, too, that the government fully endorses this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this means that the members are compelled to vote as the cabinet says. This is a government bill and the back-benchers know that they must comply with the instructions of the cabinet.

The quotation continues as follows:

It bears the government stamp and will be supported by the government.

This is the third statement in the same paragraph which clearly proves that the government does not give any choice to the members of its party. And the quotation goes on:

We feel bound to the bill as the principal item of social reform in this session of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder how clauses 7 or 18 can improve our social legislation.

As my colleagues from Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) and Portneuf (Mr. Godin) pointed out yesterday, there are many other bills to be passed and many other reforms to be made to our social system so that our fellow-citizens may have better living conditions thanks to the opportunities Canada can offer them.

Canada is going through a sexual crisis the causes of which should be looked into. In some cases, for instance, young people must live in abnormal conditions due to inadequate housing. Our recreational associations should be improved in a way to insure the intellectual and physical training of the young. Children and teenagers have no other place to play than the street and the bars we find there.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, the government should, if necessary, get busy in conjunction with other provincial governments to reform our social laws.

The minister continues and I quote:

It is identified with our Prime Minister and party.

### *Criminal Code*

Here is another indication that these members must follow party policy.

Most ironically, he says in the same paragraph:

We believe it has been tested favourably with the people of Canada and has met the approval of the people in a general election.

• (12 noon)

Mr. Speaker, that is the height of irony. Never, as far as I know, during the last election campaign, has the present government or the Liberal party requested a free hand from the Canadian people to legalize homosexuality or abortion.

If the Liberal party had, through a referendum, consulted the Canadian people who in turn had expressed their views on as clear a subject as the bill under consideration, then we could know exactly what the Canadian people think of the government's reform proposals.

Before going too far in that respect, the government should have held a referendum, and in so doing allow the Canadian people to have their say on the matter if it will not permit hon. members on the government side to decide according to their conscience when that bill is voted on.

Mr. Speaker, if such a referendum were held, I think the government would be in a bad situation and would have trouble getting some clauses of Bill C-150 adopted. It is willing to examine everything the English do in Great Britain, and as Mr. Roger Bruneau wrote in an editorial, we try to ape everything they do, perhaps because we think they are more civilized than we are and we hope to improve ourselves by imitating them.

Before concluding, I would like to quote some excerpts from another lead article written by Mr. Raymond Lacoste, a Parisian journalist, at the time homosexuality was legalized in England. Here is what he said:

The debates enlightened us on the seriousness of the evil. 50 to 60 million unnatural acts are committed every year. The number of sexual crimes which amounted to 5,000 a year in 1939, had reached 20,000 in 1964; in the same period, acts of violence increased from 2,900 to 23,470, and the total number of criminal acts, from 303,000 to more than a million a year. But in the case of homosexuals, the legislation was obviously not enforced since only 1,300 actions and less than a hundred convictions were recorded. Judges were rather lenient though policemen did not mind arresting very honourable gentlemen (such as the former leader of the Liberal party caught in a street urinal in Leicester Square, and who had the good idea of dying of apoplexy the day before his trial.)