

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has just suggested that nothing in the legislation affects this country's sovereignty. It is obvious he has not read the legislation, or the agreement, that I would like to remind him there are things in this Bill, Madam Speaker, things—

Mr. Bernier: Your comments are silly.

Mr. Rossi: The Hon. Member for Beauce did not even rise. He is the silly one.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order, please.

Mr. Rossi: Stop saying we are silly, because you did not even rise to speak.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier knows very well—

Mr. Rossi: Do not call others silly, you are the silly one.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi).

Mr. Rossi: Madam Speaker, those are unparliamentary terms.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order, please. Dealing first with the point of order raised by the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier, I say it was not a point of order, but a point of debate in my view. The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier.

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member for Beauce has used language I submit is unparliamentary, and I want him to withdraw his unpleasant comment. Rise in your place, if you have the guts.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I admit and I will admit to all Hon. Members that, what with the noise and exchanges, conversations in the House, at this point I did not hear the comments made by the Hon. Member for Beauce. He will decide whether he should withdraw.

The Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) on a point of order.

Mr. Prud'homme: Madam Speaker, it is true that there was a lot of noise, but I think everyone heard the comments made by the Hon. Member for Beauce (Mr. Bernier). It could be that, in a spirit of co-operation, since we readily accepted that the matter be closed concerning his colleague's unfavourable comments about Quebecers, he might do the same and say that the matter is closed and he did not mean to say those things about us.

I for one, when my colleagues are not here, if it is not meant for me, I just ignore it, but if they look at me when saying those things, I presume they are directed to me. I suppose this was not the case. If it was not the case, I would appreciate—

Mr. Bernier: Madam Speaker, I said half of the comments made by Hon. Members opposite were silly. Let us say that half of them are not silly.

Right of Life

Mr. Prud'homme: Madam Speaker, may I call it 5 o'clock? This could make the proceedings easier.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order, please. It being 5 p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS— MOTIONS

[*Translation*]

THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1982

RIGHT TO LIFE OF UNBORN HUMAN PERSONS

The House resumed, from November 21, 1986, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mitges (Grey—Simcoe):

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider the advisability of amending the *Constitution Act, 1982*, to include unborn human persons, and that the Governor General issue a Proclamation under the Great Seal of Canada to amend section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights so that it reads as follows:

"7. Everyone including a human foetus or unborn being has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice."

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The last time this motion was before the House the Hon. Member for Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead (Mr. Gérin) had the floor. He has four minutes left. The Hon. Member for Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead.

Mr. François Gérin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Indeed, Madam Speaker, last November 21 I pointed out that this motion moved by the Hon. Member for Grey—Simcoe (Mr. Mitges), the topic of a major debate in Canada these days, has certain basic flaws.

First of all, for the benefit of my colleagues in the House and all our viewers, allow me to repeat the Hon. Member's motion:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider the advisability of amending the *Constitution Act, 1982*—

—which means amending the Constitution of Canada

to include unborn human persons, and that the Governor General issue a Proclamation under the Great Seal of Canada to amend section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights so that it reads as follow:

"7. Everyone including a human foetus or unborn being has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice."

First, Madam Speaker, I must point out that abortion is not now allowed in Canada, except in very special cases which are examined by hospital therapeutic abortion committees, doctors and people who normally have the expertise required to evaluate these cases. The general principle in Canada is