

*Criminal Code*

And here we come to the psychiatric point.

—50 per cent of the girls who think they are pregnant are not and in those cases he uses some red liquid and chicken liver that, after being dipped in the liquid, looks much like a foetus. When he had a new customer he sent a chauffeur to get her and who would then get him in a hospital lobby, and this patient believed he was a doctor. He aborted 20 girls or women per week. The price varied from \$200 to \$300. He gave \$25 to anybody who brought him a good customer.

That was a long time ago; nowadays it goes much faster.

But, Mr. Speaker, if we look at the statement of this girl and the reason why she wanted an abortion, again we find psychiatric reasons. In the bill introduced by the minister there is no guarantee that a psychiatrist will be appointed. The minister does not want to accept psychiatric indications which would allow a woman, whether she is right or wrong, to decide whether or not she will go to a psychiatrist.

I will add here that there are other reasons, and I have many more:

If I hope that abortion will be allowed, it is because it is an obsolete, hypocritical and unrealistic legislation; it is also for the rich and not for the poor.

Wife of an unemployed worker  
in Mont-Laurier, 36 years old.

Mr. Speaker, further on we are also told that abortions vary according to each hospital. And yet, it is more or less the same people, the same women, the same diseases, the same psychiatry, the same pediatry, the same foetuses that are born.

The proportion of therapeutic abortions varies... according to each hospital.

And in the United States, Mr. Hall, who has made a survey of those problems in various hospitals, says this:

Hall counted in one hospital one abortion out of 20 deliveries and in another none out of 24,417 deliveries.

It is estimated, generally speaking, that there are about 100 illegal abortions for every therapeutic abortion, and that illegal abortions are the cause of great medical risks for the mother's health or life.

And from the point of view of psychiatry too.

Further, when we are told how the committees are formed, we may wonder who the members are. Here is what is said about the committees.

The woman herself must make an application to secure a legal abortion. A special abortion committee within the Royal College of Medicine, a committee composed of a physician usually an obstetrician—

—or a gynaecologist. The law does not mention a gynaecologist. Beside that gynaecologist—

—of an ordinary citizen, preferably a woman—

It would be normal that a woman should decide on the fate of another woman, of a person of the female sex, such as the one who wants an abortion, it would be normal that a woman conversant with that matter should be on the committee.

I carry on:

—and of the head of the Social Psychiatry Board, has to determine the value of the indications to decide for mentally retarded women and to appoint doctors who will be able to decide themselves whether they should perform an abortion. Those doctors, officially appointed, will be able to decide whether an abortion should be performed, if their decision is supported by another doctor, the one who usually performs the abortion.

In the present legislation, we are not told that the doctor who is to perform the abortion will be on the committee. A doctor may decide on the abortion and another doctor, who will have no decision to take on the case, will have to perform the abortion or the murder.

Mr. Speaker, in Denmark, where they like to speak about other countries, they say, and I quote:

—the legislation provides... "that a woman can obtain a miscarriage in special cases where physical or mental troubles—

Further on, they specify who is to be members of the hospital committees in Denmark, and I quote again:

—three members appointed by the Department of Social Affairs. Two of them are doctors and one must be a specialist in psychiatry—

A specialist in psychiatry! Denmark requests only a psychiatrist and a general practitioner. In addition, it is said, and I am still quoting:

—the third member of the committee is always the director of an agency... called "Assistance to the mother".

The minister proposes a legislation on abortion but he does not intend to set up committees of "Assistance to the mothers". He suggests the establishment of abortion committees, but not committees to assist the mother. Nothing is said in this respect. There is no mention of it in the legislation while in a country like Denmark, committees have been established to help the mother. Why? Because a woman is refused an abortion for psychiatric reasons. At the same time, she is referred to a psychiatric committee to help here reach her term.