

Criminal Code

so since we came into the house, because we are not backed by an election fund. We therefore want to speak up in this parliament for those who are afraid to do so.

The hon. member for Matane has been interfering in several occasions during your absence, Mr. Speaker, and he tried to ridicule the Ralliement créditiste which represents the voice of truth.

I shall say it over and over again. We would have passed the omnibus bill in three days, if the government, that is to say the Prime Minister, through the dictatorship he is exerting on his ministers and on the government members, had accepted to delete the provisions of the bill regarding abortion and homosexuality. For this reason, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the hon. member will agree that since he took the floor, he has been completely out of order, since he has not dealt with the amendment under consideration, and I should like to remind him that the Chair has been informed that the hon. member for Matane had also been called to order.

Mr. Dumont: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was only normal that in my opening statement, I should explain why I would have spoken of the word "health" in the bill before us.

Then, we have here an amendment moved by the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Rodrigue) which reads as follows:

That Bill C-150—

We find the quotation somewhat long, whenever we have to refer to it, and some people have even called that legislation the "autobus". The amendment ends as follows:

—be amended by deleting in clause 18 the words "or health" on line 5 on page 43.

We have to admit that the word "health" has been interpreted by many people in many ways. Few problems compare with "health", for, in that case, the lives or deaths of thousands of human beings are at stake. Few problems are more important since, on that question, Parliament will be called upon to reject or to maintain ways of thinking on which our legislation and our social values have been based so far.

Has the problem been really thought out? Whenever an important and complex question confronts our nation, we spare nothing, indeed, whether in money or personnel, to

achieve a complete study and reach proper decisions.

It is a serious problem to define the word "health"; has it been studied with all due care? What funds were devoted to such a study? What experts were hired and what subjects were they experts in? What amount of time would have been devoted to debate on that point, if the Ralliement créditiste had kept its peace? What amounts of money have been spent to inform the people properly?

In accordance with his own representations, why did not the hon. member for Matane visit his constituency, tour Canada all over to explain the meaning of the word "health", so that the people, by means of a referendum, as requested by us, might decide on the amendments we have moved and on the one just introduced by the hon. member for Beauce. We might then have a chance to get to the truth once and for all, for, at the present time, we receive too many protests from everywhere and we would not want to witness in Canada a re-enactment of the century-old Riel affair.

People have said, and the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle) has repeated some time ago, that the French Canadians had adequately represented the province of Quebec in Ottawa. For once there are free members who can rise and speak according to their conscience. This is the favour that we are asking, to be in a position to resort to every authorized democratic procedure, because on the government side, we know that closure has been imposed by one of the most intransigent prime minister we have ever known in the last 100 years and who was called Macdonald.

Therefore, coming back to the clause on "health", I will say that no solution is proposed to the problems of illegal abortions, the causes of which are not well known unless the word "health" could be given a rather broad interpretation to include the grounds put forward by women who want to be aborted.

Would it not be better for the common good if before enforcing a legislation which would endanger human life, our leaders would devote five to ten years to study thoroughly the problem and to find out if such a legislation is necessary?

In some cases, we need ten years to realize what is being asked, but why when Christian life is jeopardized in Canada, would we not accept to discuss the word "health" in order to find a good definition of it so that the legislators will be recognized as responsible