

*Criminal Code*

listening to the hon. member. At the conclusion of his speech, however, I want to reserve the right, as I think other members do, to challenge the admissibility of his amendment.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. The hon. member has resumed his seat and does not have the right, according to the Standing Orders, to speak a second time, except on a point of order.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I had not resumed my seat, but simply sat down to hear the reading of the amendment. But once the amendment has been read, I believe I still have 10 to 15 minutes.

You would surely have thought me rude had I remained standing while you read my amendment. And now, I want to know if I have the permission to continue.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** As long as it is not prejudicial to our right to wonder—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order!

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** —whether the amendment is in order.

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** I would ask hon. members to wait a minute until the Chair has taken a decision.

[*Translation*]

Order. When the hon. member resumed his seat, the Chair presumed that he had just completed his speech. Otherwise, the hon. member will be allowed to speak until 8.58, when the Chair will put the question.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I always had the impression that once an amendment is moved and read by the Chair, we were entitled to ten more minutes. But you are only allowing me four minutes.

Now, let me—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** The hon. member has the floor for at least four minutes before the time allotted to him under the rules is up. Then, the remarks of the hon. member are in no way restricted at this time.

**Mr. Caouette:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I also thank the Minister of Justice for coming to my rescue and explaining he was so delighted to hear the members of the Ralliement créditiste. I am convinced, Mr. Speaker,

[*Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).*]

that we have been enlightening the minister for the past two weeks and a half.

However, I shall not take more of the time of the house, but before concluding, I would like to quote the evidence of doctors opposed to abortion without for all that introducing religious matters.

"I believe that the refusal to accept abortion on strictly moral grounds in good medicine"

(Samuel A. Cosgrove, M.D.,  
who is not a Roman Catholic).

"To perform a therapeutic abortion is either to be ignorant of modern methods of treating pregnancy complications or not to take the trouble of using them",

(Roy J. Hefferman, M.D.)

At a symposium held in San Francisco in November 1951, three doctors out of four (Drs. Cosgrove, Hefferman and Bernard J. Hanley) stated that there were no indications for therapeutic abortion; the fourth (John H. Morton) refused to support such an absolute statement, but recognized that there are far too many such abortions.

Now, it was strictly on moral grounds that the members of the Ralliement créditiste objected and carried on such a fierce fight for over two weeks. All Canada will know about the fight we put up right here in parliament. It was not a political fight, but a fight for principles. We did our duty as representatives of the people. I want at this point to congratulate my colleagues of the Ralliement créditiste on the fine work they have done in the house, based on statistics and extensive studies, with the co-operation of medical practitioners. I believe we have also been of some help to all hon. members as a whole, and we are proud of the work we have accomplished.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** I wish to point out to the house that the amendment submitted by the hon. member for Témiscamingue is not relevant to the nature of the bill, since it proposes that a referendum be held.

Secondly, this referendum implies that there will be an expenditure of public funds, which can be proposed only by a minister of the Crown.

For these reasons, I cannot accept—

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I recall that before the hon. member for Témiscamingue was interrupted, you had given the hon. members the right to express their opinions, when you said that we lived in a democratic country. Then, the Minister of Justice tried to show that the amendment was