

is not responsible for his or her action and is not required to justify it . . ."

However, the amendment made in the act in 1969 admits that medical reasons may justify abortion. These amending provisions stipulate that an abortion will not be a legal offense when a committee of three qualified physicians of a certified hospital attests that in its opinion the continuation of the pregnancy of the woman would or might endanger her life or her health. It is important to emphasize that the danger for the pregnant woman's life or health is the only criterion in this matter.

If it is proven medically that financial, social or other circumstances endangered or would probably endanger the mother's life or health, a certificate may be given; but the decision must be based on reasons of real danger to life or health, and not on social or financial factors as such.

What is involved is a medical decision, a conscientious medical assessment of whether there is in fact reason to fear that continued pregnancy would or probably would endanger a pregnant woman's life or health.

Adjournment Debate

Enforcement of these provisions is the responsibility of the attorney general in each province. In other words, he is responsible for investigating any alleged violation, and to initiate proceedings under the law.

As far as we are concerned, it is clear that the justification to practice abortion inserted by Parliament in the act is grounded on life and health, and I believe we should rely on expert judgment in this area. If medical committees accept the responsibility and seriously endeavour to determine whether the criteria established by Parliament are met in a particular case, the objective will be achieved. The government shall continue to monitor the carrying out of the act, in the context of questions raised by the abortion problem, in order to decide whether improvements are in order.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.