

Mr. KNOWLES: She was not here then.

Mr. PRITTE: I know, but that is an important distinction to make and in fact Mr. Wahn and I proposed the same thing concerning the part about contraception in the Criminal Code. We were the same there.

I want to make one comment on the Georgetown case, Mr. Chairman, which has been mentioned. This is a very common problem, women trying to bring on abortions themselves because they lack contraceptive information. Now, in April 1964, I attended a conference on this subject in Puerto Rico where all countries from Latin America and the West Indies were represented and the complaint of the doctors present was the fact that they were spending so much time in the hospitals, and this was particularly true in the West Indies and certain parts of Latin America, dealing with women who had tried to abort themselves, and they were taking up so much time and so many hospital beds with this that the doctors felt that if the proper contraceptive information was available they would not be dealing with this problem of abortion.

I should like to mention, too, that on Monday night at 10 o'clock there will be a program on this subject on the CBC English network dealing with Jamaica, where this problem is one of the worst, when one of the leading doctors in the country will be speaking on this subject. But the main point here is that if there is adequate contraceptive information available in many places there is no need for abortions.

Mr. ALLMAND: Mr. Wahn, in your remarks you have referred continuously to the right of families to limit the number of their children, and many people would agree with that; but you have not discussed the effect of unlimited advertising on those that are not married, especially minors, and I know some of the other bills referred to restrictions with respect to minors. Have you given any thought to the effect of unlimited advertising or the supplying of contraceptive materials to younger people, especially minors? Do you not think that if this was unlimited it might undermine Canadian family life? You talked about the right of families and it seems you believe in the role of the family as a basic unit of society. Do you think if we have unlimited advertising, through all media, to the younger element of our population it might undermine the family life of Canada?

Mr. WAHN: I am glad you raised that particular question because it does perhaps answer better than I did earlier the question raised by Mr. Knowles, namely, the right of families to plan the number of children they are going to have. It is basic it seems to me. That is one reason why it is desirable to repeal this particular section but, as you have pointed out, if that were the only reason, then you might very well leave in a prohibition against selling to minors or people who are unmarried, for example. That is where the second argument really comes in, that, as a practical matter, this type of legislation just is not consistent with the wishes of the great majority of the Canadian people and, as a result, the law is being violated in practice. And if we try to legalize the sale to married people and restrict it to unmarried people or even to younger people it would just be impossible to enforce the law even if it were considered desirable. But again, we then have to consider the third argument. It is usually undesirable to legislate to create a crime of a matter which, basically, and primarily, should be for the individual conscience and a matter of the moral or ecclesiastical law and that is what we are trying to do here. Unless it can be established that there will be a real danger to society from selling contracep-