

believe it has been applied elsewhere in Canada. It does not mean to save her from violent death, but it means to preserve her life, in a case where she might otherwise be left impaired physically or emotionally. Then, of course the doctor in good faith who performs such a therapeutic abortion would fall into the saving and exception clause of Section 209.

Speaking of the saving and exception clause of section 209, there is no indication as to whether it applies to miscarriages and abortions. That is, there is no indication that it does not apply to miscarriages and abortions. At any rate, that is my understanding of the matter. I continued to ask:

—with the strength of section 237, if the word “unlawfully” were put in you would be obtaining the same result basically—

I said in so many words that the law would remain the same, with the added proviso that you would have some protection under it. And what did the professor say to that? He agreed. That is why we have moved this amendment. It is basically relevant to what we are talking about.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It being ten o'clock, the house will proceed, pursuant to the provisions of standing order No. 40, to debate certain questions to be raised.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

COMBINES—DRUGS—PRICE FIXING BY B.C. PHARMACISTS

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, on April 16 I drew to the attention of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford) a situation in which, as from April 15, the British Columbia Professional Pharmacists' Society was charging each welfare patient \$1 for a prescription. I asked what action the minister proposed to deal with this matter and, specifically, if such apparent price fixing would be referred to the investigation branch for combines investigation.

It seems to me that the Minister's answer contradicted itself. On the one hand, he said that the practice of pharmacy comes under provincial jurisdiction, inferring he could do nothing about the situation; then, he added that such apparent price fixing in respect of professional fees has for some time

been before the Combines Investigation Branch.

Since then quite a lot of water has gone under the bridge. On April 24 my colleague, the hon. member for Surrey (Mr. Mather) asked the minister whether the Combines Investigation Act was being used in this instance. The minister replied that he had no knowledge of any request from the government of British Columbia for an investigation but that he might have received it without knowing about it. Since the provincial Minister of Welfare on April 21 wrote to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, asking for an inquiry under the Combines Investigation Act and since he called a press conference two days later, on April 23, to talk about it, there is only one possible explanation about this state of affairs. The explanation lies with our new mail service. The letter sent on the 21st did not manage to arrive on the 24th.

An hon. Member: That is a disservice.

Mrs. MacInnis: Yes, as a colleague has said, that is a disservice. In British Columbia, Mr. Speaker, 65,000 people are on welfare who are classed as unemployable. This means that 65,000 breadwinners are now classified as being medically unfit to work and dependent for their living on welfare. These are the people who get optical and dental care under welfare as well as drugs. The people are unable to pay for those services. In 1967-68, the latest year for which such figures are available, there were 820,000 prescriptions filled for these patients. These are the people who are now being told they must pay a \$1 surcharge if they want a prescription filled. How can they pay this \$1?

● (10:00 p.m.)

A single person on welfare in British Columbia receives \$75 a month, from which \$30 is deducted for rent. This leaves a balance of \$45 for food, clothing, bus fare, etc. A couple receives \$125 of which \$45 is paid out in rent, leaving \$40 for each of them to live on for a month. Of course, they do not live, they only exist. A couple with two children receives \$191, minus \$55 for rent, leaving the magnificent sum of \$136 a month for four people to exist on, \$34 each.

These are the people who will be affected by this \$1 prescription surcharge. They are the helpless hostages in a war the pharmacists society is waging against the government of British Columbia. The pharmacists want more money from the government with respect to welfare patients. The government