

Criminal Code

on certain legislative amendments which have been introduced into the law of the United Kingdom where this subject is treated in a manner suggesting that anybody can carry out any form of conduct? But show me a country that is sicker at heart and sicker at soul than is Britain today. I have known the Britain of many years ago and my heart bleeds at the moves and attitudes of so many people of that country today. If you go back in history you will see that the same line of conduct has brought down nations.

We must accept degrees of morality and adhere to them. We are not entering an area of permissiveness, Mr. Speaker. No, this is licentiousness. This is not merely a permissive morality that is being introduced. This is open licence.

Mr. Woolliams: It is licentiousness.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Yes, licentiousness. I should like to return again to this proposal to set up some sort of age qualification with regard to certain conduct. Do we say we are not concerned about morals and that we are going to remove legal sanctions against immoral conduct? Will anyone tell me that breaking and entering is not immoral or that any number of other acts are not immoral? Yet we are told in this legislation that while certain acts may be immoral they will not be illegal. In this day and age it seems that if you say certain conduct is not illegal, the concept of immorality goes through the window.

In the light of this, can the minister tell me how he can justify retaining the provisions in the Code against attempted suicide—not that I am an advocate of not punishing a person who attempts to commit suicide. I think it is an immoral act. Oh yes, it is immoral for a person who, shall we say, is in charge of his faculties to attempt suicide. I do not think that you, Mr. Speaker, as an individual have the moral right to take your life. You have no right to cast aside your life. You, as a sane and rational individual, may feel you have that right, yet there is a legal sanction against attempted suicide. So, I heartily approve of the amendment which would delete clause 7 of the bill and restore and maintain the law with regard to bestiality and homosexuality.

[Translation]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I must confess I am a little ashamed to talk about that problem in this house, in such dignified surroundings. When I say this, I

express the opinion of the great majority of my constituents.

It is almost scandalous to see that the representatives of the people must presently discuss those matters. There is a tremendous difference between the proposed legislation and public opinion, at least as far as Quebec is concerned. The difference is so big, Mr. Speaker, that I even asked myself the following question: How can it be explained? What representations prompted the inclusion of clause 7 in the bill? Who wanted it?

I think our function is to make laws that are justified and justifiable, that the majority of the population really needs, and for which there are numerous representations. It is then the moment to legislate.

We did not legislate about satellites in 1900 because it was out of the question. I believe that at the present time most people are not in favour of legalizing homosexuality. That is why many representations are made to legalize it.

I can prove my point, Mr. Speaker. In question No. 789 that I put on the order paper, I asked—because I am opposed to such things—what prompted such a move. I am personally against it. Most people in my riding agree with me. But elsewhere in Canada, some are perhaps in favour of it. I was wondering about that and I put the following question on the order paper:

1. Are any organizations exerting pressure upon the government to promote adoption of the omnibus bill?
2. If so, what are the names of these organizations?
3. On which of the three points, homosexuality ... abortion—

What did the minister reply? The reply to the first part of the question was to the effect that no organization was pushing on for the passing of this bill. Then, why such a bill?

I am wondering whether in all the literature we have been receiving since September, homosexuality and abortion were not the targets of most representations. Save for a few exceptions, nobody was in favour of passing this bill. It may also be asked whether such pressure was not exerted behind closed doors.

We have noticed with some pleasure this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, that members of the Conservative party shared our viewpoint, and I wish to congratulate in particular the two previous speakers. If they were voicing the opinion of the majority in their party, and I think that all Quebec M.P.'s, including those