

Criminal Code

that I support clause 18. I wish to mention it again quite clearly. I am against any liberalization of the legislation concerning abortion and I know that there is another amendment for deleting clause 18 of Bill C-150 and I will fully support it.

But since other amendments must be considered before that one, we must necessarily vote on them.

Then, the hon. member for Gatineau as well as my colleague for Beauce (Mr. Rodrigue), who introduced similar amendments, were right when they asked the members of the house to strike out the words "or would be likely." Otherwise, it could cause trouble to those who are compelled to comply with those rules and to apply them.

As I said, I wonder if the hon. member went far enough with his amendment.

This afternoon, one of my colleagues said something that upset me. According to him, physicians are liable to make mistakes and none of them can come to a categorical conclusion as to any health condition.

It reminded me, Mr. Speaker, of a situation I heard of four or five years ago, about a woman who had come to an Abitibi hospital where she was going to have a child. The doctor who examined her just before the delivery foresaw some difficulties. Thinking that he would have to make a Caesarean section and anxious to make a good job, before he quite made up his mind, the doctor consulted two of his colleagues. While they were talking, the woman was giving birth to her child in the delivery room without undue trouble.

This goes to show that people may often make mistakes, even if they are the greatest physicians, scientists or experts in the world. Then, Mr. Speaker, in view of this irrepressible doubt, we have cause for concern and doctors responsible for the life of human beings are concerned too whenever they have to run this risk. That accounts for the determination of the members of the Ralliement créditiste to take all available means to convince the government of the need to be very careful in connection with the amendment to the Criminal Code dealing with abortion.

Mr. Speaker, this determination results from the requests of persons who are interested in the well-being of patients and of mothers who are to give birth to children.

The question came up: Is the government truly concerned with protecting the life and

the health of women? The proposed amendment seeks also to add that when a doctor

—has by certificate in writing stated that in its opinion the continuation of the pregnancy of such female person—

Yes, a female person.

—would or would be likely—

"Probably" means "perhaps".

—to endanger her life or health.

Then was added to the amendment the word "health", for the bill already contained the expression "to endanger the life of a female person".

● (9:30 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, if the government wants to make health a reason for justifying abortion, one wonders what it will do next. Bill C-150 includes provisions on homosexuality and abortion. Who knows, perhaps next year a bill will be introduced on artificial insemination for human beings? A stop must be put immediately to this excessive liberalizing of the Criminal Code.

Mr. Speaker, when I heard this afternoon—

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I presume the hon. member wants to put a question. The hon. member for Abitibi has the floor and a question may be put to him only if he agrees to it.

[*English*]

Mr. Broadbent: Would the hon. member permit a question? Would he agree that if his party were not so illiberal in its attitude toward homosexuals it would not have to be so illiberal on the question of abortion?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I shall reply to my hon. friend, that as a Cr ditiste and a Catholic, I consider myself one of the most liberal members of this house. I recognize freedom for everybody, but I do not admit abuse of liberty.

I shall have the opportunity, later on in the debate, of putting one of his colleagues straight.

This afternoon, when I heard the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle) question the wisdom of the amendment proposed by the government—if I understood him correctly, he was in favour of the amendment of his