

Criminal Code

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I have here a copy of a letter addressed to the Minister of Justice by Mrs. Claire Campbell, of Montreal. The minister has read the following part of her letter:

[English]

A vote for the Liberals last June was not a vote for the liberalization of abortion. The Campbell family... voted for your party but it did not vote for the liberalization of abortion.

[Translation]

The Minister of Justice has that letter. Mr. Speaker, there are, of course, some people who are not pleased with the position we have adopted. But it is not the people of Canada who have asked the government for the bill on abortion. Who was it that urged the government to introduce this legislative proposal? Who is interested in having abortion legalized in Canada? The Minister of Justice is unable to tell us. Yet, he must know who is pushing the government to adopt such a measure. Others attack us by saying that we are trying to make political capital out of this. That is not our intention. The Liberals could say the same.

I am deeply convinced that the great majority of the Liberal members think exactly as we do, but partisanship prevents them from rising and saying so straight out.

One can detect a certain support on the government side as regards this bill. The Créditiste members are blamed, for instance, for delaying the work of the house on account of abortion. It is said that they are wasting the time of the house which is valuable.

This bill on abortion will not be with us for two days only once it is passed by the House of Commons. Once the principle underlying the legalization of abortion is established, future generations, in 50 or 100 years from now, will have to put up with its consequences.

The danger will not be felt tomorrow, but in 5 or 10 years from now. The impending downfall of a people through abortion will soon be legalized.

I have in my hand an article published in the Monday May 5 edition of the newspaper *Le Droit*, and written by Mr. Marcel Gingras: The Omnibus Bill and the Créditistes.

Mr. Gingras said a while ago that this has nothing to do with morals. Mr. Gingras takes it upon himself to lecture us by saying that we are delaying the work of the house, that

we are repeating the same things with respect to abortion, that we are fighting in vain, that we should allow the whole thing to be passed at full speed and enable the government to introduce other measures.

Mr. Speaker, we would see no objection to the government postponing consideration of Bill C-150 to six months from now and introducing a new piece of legislation tomorrow in order to help the unemployed and the unfortunate families in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gingras accuses us of wasting the time of the house and we hear commentators on the C.B.C. who blame us. However, they do not think of the future generations. They look at the tip of their noses and they can hardly see as far as that.

Fellows like Marcel Gingras and others like him will not prevent us, Mr. Speaker, from taking a stand, whether they like it or not. We have a duty to perform, as federal members, and we do perform it conscientiously, with conviction and with determination, and nobody will prevent us from doing our duty.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle) said: You object to abortion because you are not doctors. We know we are not doctors, but we are intelligent enough to use documents supplied to us by doctors to appeal to the Minister of Justice and we have not only, as I said before, testimonies from religious organizations. I have here a text from the "Centre de liaison des Équipes Serena" written by two doctors, Mr. and Mrs. Serge and Suzanne Carreau, where it is said, and I quote:

Abortion is a direct aggression against the life of a human being which is developing—

The problem of abortion has not been studied with the seriousness it deserves by the government of Canada—

This was said by doctors and we have the right to repeat it in the house, to fight against the provisions of clause 18 in Bill C-150. I continue the quotation:

—that the members are placed in an unacceptable situation since they are refused a free vote on this question.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that members are not free to vote according to their conscience. To hell with the country as long as the party is safe, that is their guiding principle.

We will again be called demagogues. But they are the demagogues, Mr. Speaker, those who want to impose abortion upon the Canadian people, even if Canadians do not want it and have never asked for it from any government.