

Criminal Code

I have had the honour to work with him on some committees and even then I had great regard for him. He is not the only one who found fault with the omnibus bill. However, Mr. Speaker, he is the only member of the Liberal party who had the guts to move an amendment.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Clermont: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

I think the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) also moved an amendment to the omnibus bill.

Mr. Godin: Mr. Speaker, I am glad there are two of them.

That means we are gaining ground.

The amendment moved by the hon. member for Gatineau on April 14, 1969, reads as follows:

That bill C-150, an Act to amend the Criminal Code... be amended by deleting in clause 18 the words "or would be likely to" on line 4 on page 43.

The hon. member for Gatineau told us this afternoon that he could hardly grasp the meaning of clause 18(4)(c), page 43 of the bill, which reads as follows:

(c) has by certificate in writing stated that in its opinion the continuation of the pregnancy of such female person would or would be likely to endanger her life or health,

Mr. Speaker, when reading the words: "pregnancy of such female person", we realize the significance of this amendment.

If the bill dealt with a male person, it is obvious that the amendment would not be justified since the dangers of a pregnancy would certainly be non-existent.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Godin: When we read in the bill, and I quote:

—endanger her life or health—

—the problem is as the hon. member for Gatineau pointed out this afternoon.

We know when life begins, but as far as health is concerned, this is another matter. The word "health" has many meanings. On the occasion of a birth, for instance, one can drink to the infant's health. On the occasion of an anniversary, a graduation, an engagement, a wedding, one can drink to the health

of the people concerned. On election night, one can drink to the new member's health.

When an hon. member becomes a minister, we extend to him our best wishes and drink to his health. Good luck, good health, do we repeat more often than necessary.

"Good health" are meaningless words, when we know that the persons to whom those wishes are extended are suffering from a deadly illness.

How do you do, how is your health? We know that we will not say the truth, because most of the times, we have to feel sharp pains to make up our minds to disclose publicly our condition.

Personally, Mr. Speaker, I may be mentally ill and it is probably due to their civility that my colleagues refrain from telling you so. I am not at all in a position to speak about it.

On the other hand, when we see those lovely ladies with a hair piece or a man with a well curled wig, we must think that all those persons enjoy a very good health, when probably it is not the case.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate once again the hon. member for Gatineau who is thoroughly conscious that section 18(4)(c) is ridiculous. If the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) would consider that clause a few minutes, he would understand the importance of that amendment.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice is probably aware of that. However, I take this opportunity to quote another article published in *Le Soleil* and which shows that in the medical or legal fields, it can be difficult to ascertain the truth.

Let me quote you an article published in *Le Soleil* of Quebec City on Saturday, January 25, 1969. I quote:

When removing a tumour, the physician discovers a nice baby of 9 lbs. 2 oz.

Mrs. Evelyn Crawford, 47 years of age, to whom physicians had told she had an abdominal tumor, had it removed yesterday and at the same time she gave birth unexpectedly to her first child.

The mother, who was unaware that she was pregnant, and the baby girl, Kitty Roslyn, were both well, but the father, Irving, 53 years old, was shaken up.

Crawford, who was working at his snack bar in Houston when the doctors phoned him the news that he was a father, was so shaken that he ruined three cars on his way to the hospital and was given a ticket for causing an accident through careless driving.

The doctors said they did not know about the baby until the birth because the tumor prevented from hearing the heartbeats. The tumor weighed