

Criminal Code

Portelance	Thomas (Maisonneuve)
Prud'homme	Thomas (Moncton)
Reid	Thomson
Ritchie	Tolmie
Rock	Trudeau
Roy (Timmins)	Trudel
Roy (Laval)	Turner (London East)
Ryan	Turner (Ottawa- Carleton)
Saltsman	Wahn
Serré	Watson
Skoberg	Weatherhead
Smith (Saint-Jean)	Whelan
Stafford	Whicher
Stewart (Okanagan- Kootenay)	Whiting
St. Pierre	Winch—110.

• (9:40 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion lost.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I was paired with the hon. member for Terrebonne (Mr. Comtois). Had I voted, I would have voted in favour of it.

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi) moved motion No. 33:

That Bill C-150, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, be amended by deleting in clause 18 the word "female" on lines 28 and 29 on page 42 and the word "female" on lines 3 and 23 on page 43 and the word "female" on line 39 on page 44.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I should like, at the outset, to express my appreciation for the way in which you announced the recent vote, by asking for the "oui" and the "non" in good French. This pleased us very much. It was a very interesting, very intelligent move, but comparable qualities are not to be found in the bill before us.

We are now considering amendment No. 33, moved by the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise), asking among other things to delete from the bill, the word "female" wherever it appears.

It goes without saying that such a useless expression bears out our opinion: section 18 is ridiculous, and I see that the members of NDP are laughing with me. I am happy to see that for once, they support us.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment of the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise) proposes to amend paragraphs a), b) and c) of a subclause 4 by deleting the word "female". to find out why we want to delete the expression

[Mr. Speaker.]

"female" from this bill, let us see what it is doing there. I quote paragraph a):

(a) a qualified medical practitioner, other than a member of the therapeutic abortion committee for any hospital, who in good faith uses in an accredited or approved hospital any means for the purpose of carrying out his intentions to produce the miscarriage of a female person—

Here then, for the first time in this bill, we find the famous, ridiculous and useless expression "female". I cannot possibly imagine how a person of the male sex could be aborted. Nor can I possibly imagine how a person of the third sex, a member of the club Gimini 1st in Montreal, for instance, could be aborted.

It seems to me that when we speak of abortion it goes without saying, it is simply normal, that a female is involved. The least that could be done perhaps is to mention it once at the beginning of the clause then delete it further on. It strikes me as ridiculous. As the whole bill does, to my mind. I resume my quotation, paragraph b)

(b) a female person who, being pregnant,—

How interesting for a male person to be pregnant. You see how ridiculous this bill is. It seems to me it goes without saying that the expression is pointless. To come back to paragraph b), further on one reads:

—and at a meeting of the committee at which the case of such female person has been reviewed,

Every third line, this redundant word "female" crops up again.

In paragraph (c), we read:

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

Any pregnancy is necessarily the pregnancy of a female person. I do not understand the wording, but I can venture a guess. Maybe if we search for a reason for the inclusion by the federal government of those words in the bill we will discover that the majority of Liberals in the house do not understand that a male person cannot be pregnant. That may be why it is necessary to dot the i's, especially for the benefit of the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain), and why the expression "female" must be used.

If that is the explanation, we are ready to withdraw the amendment, because we all agree to help enlighten the hon. member for Trois-Rivières, lest his feeble glimmer of understanding flickers out again.

Under Subsection 5(b), it is said, and I quote: