

THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, it is the desire of the Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General that this Honourable House attend him immediately in the chamber of the Honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate Chamber.

● (5:50 p.m.)

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the house that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following Bills:

An Act to amend the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation Act.

An Act to incorporate Transcoastal Life Assurance Company.

An Act respecting The Quebec Savings Bank.

An Act to amend the Co-operative Credit Associations Act.

An Act to amend the Farm Machinery Syndicates Credit Act.

An Act to prevent the introduction or spreading of pests injurious to plants.

An Act to provide compensation to farmers whose agricultural products are contaminated by pesticide residue, and to provide for appeals from compensation awards.

An Act to amend the Income Tax Act and the Estate Tax Act.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the wish of the house that we now call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

CRIMINAL CODE

REPORT STAGE

The house resumed consideration of Bill C-150, to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act and to make certain

Criminal Code

consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, and motion No. 37, Mr. Rodrigue.

[Translation]

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I still have five or six minutes left. I was discussing the amendment requiring that the certificate be signed by three members of the committee, when in its opinion, the life of the mother cannot be kept safe from danger with the continuation of her pregnancy.

In order to avoid any mistake or medical error, it is important to get the formal guarantee duly signed by the committee and permitting the abortion so that should one or even two of the three members of the committee be too permissive there would still be a safeguard, since all three members have to sign. It seems to us that this is a point which should be considered very seriously because should abortion ever be accepted, although we are still against it, we are trying to sensitize members and public opinion to that problem.

We realize more and more that the problem is far from being settled and that thanks to our comments, a good number of people have been aware for a while now, that the legislation which is being crammed down their throats—and I did say crammed—is not all it should be.

If people consider all the amendments which we have introduced, particularly the amendment which we are discussing now, they will easily detect the direction we want to give this legislation, so that even the most prudish, the most scrupulous people could say: "At least we know that they will not go beyond just and reasonable limits, and that all those people who would have liked to use this legislation to achieve more or less legitimate purposes, will find themselves foiled."

Mr. Speaker, our efforts to see the Minister of Justice take this into consideration are not prompted by our desire to win a battle and prove that we were right. It is not that at all. We simply want to better protect society. It is this protection that we have set our hearts on.

And if we did not have so many examples or experiences based on facts, we could perhaps be less informed on the subject and our remarks would be more or less useful.

But when we rely on the experience of all those who accepted abortion, when we consider the evidence given last year on Bill