Criminal Code

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE ' DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment tonight are as follows: the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis)—Combines—drugs—price fixing by B.C. pharmacists; the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Schreyer)—Air Canada—Winnipeg —transfer of base to Northwest Industries Ltd.; the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert)—Air Canada—strike of mechanics—inquiry as to matters in dispute.

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 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 amendment No. 21, Mr. Woolliams (for Mr. McCleave), and the amendment to the amendment (Mr. Burton).

[Translation]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, we are faced with abstract realities.

The bill under consideration should never have been introduced as a logical, human bill that is likely to fit in our human and democratic society.

This bill is illogical and contains provisions that are not only beyond our grasp but go much further than what is permitted to advocate. Consequently, I believe that we are not sufficiently qualified to impose such a bill on the Canadian people, because it has to do with the very essence of life which is something divine and so great that we do not have the right to tamper with it. The procreation act is so sublime, so noble, that we would not be able to find adequate words to describe it.

We have in hand several reports that have been sent to us by the Canadian episcopate.

The bishops are not taking a stand from the Roman Catholic point of view, but from a Christian point of view, and we support wholeheartedly the amendment moved by the hon. member, because this amendment fills—

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

I believe that a count of hon. members present would indicate there is not a quorum, and that the house cannot continue to sit.

[English]

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): On this point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether it is proper for a member on the other side to bring this matter to the attention of Your Honour in such a remarkable way and interrupt so abruptly one of his confrères who is making a particularly conscientious and serious speech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must advise that it is the right of the hon. member to rise and request a count. I shall proceed to ask the Clerk to take a count.

(On the count being made, 21 members were declared to be present.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: A quorum is present; the sitting will proceed.

[Translation]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

When I raised my point of order, there were only 16 members in the house, but the minister's speech prompted others to return.

[English]

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): With the greatest respect, I think that is a slur on the integrity of the Chair. Perhaps the hon. member would like to reflect on that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Possibly we could listen to the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe).

[Translation]

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, here I should like to quote a statement on abortion made by Canadian bishops:

The bishops devoted the second part of their statement to the legal aspects of abortion and more precisely to the proposed amendment to the Criminal Code by the government. First of all, they lay down the principle that to the State, the guardian of the common good falls the "sovereign duty of protecting effectively the human lives and in particular the weaker ones." At the present