

*Criminal Code*

commission of inquiry so that the truth may be made known to the public.

I have in hand a statement printed on page 601 of the minutes of proceedings and evidence of the standing committee on health and welfare. Dr. Patricia Whyte stated, and I quote:

Yes, I believe it should include psychiatric conditions.

Speaking of health matters—

—I realize this is a very difficult area to define and those who have had to work with this definition have had a problem.

● (9:10 p.m.)

In some people's minds it can even include social health. It can be a complete disruption, for instance, of their way of life.

At page 695, Dr. Whyte also states:

That is a very hard word to define, I agree; you can define it as meaning happiness if you like.

Before such statements, where can we find the word health and how can that word provide information in a bill which in our opinion, Mr. Speaker, should not even be agreed to?

Then, at page 716, we have evidence from Dr. Mongeau and I quote:

Because when you qualify it by saying: "seriously", you are at the mercy of the definition given to "serious".

That is why here, yesterday, I stated that I am not an expert. I am not a doctor, nor a lawyer; however, I am a legislator, and our purpose in parliament is to make legislation clearer, so that the public is not mystified that the great Christian world that we have always defended is not destroyed but, on the contrary, strengthened and at last gets the last word, Canadians having joined forces towards that goal.

And Dr. Mongeau adds:

This is where I say there is a danger of interpretation. There will always be a psychiatrist who can say that from a psychological point of view the health of the mother will be affected.

Then we can continue with the evidence of Dr. Beirne. He said:

To define help, if you will allow me that expression, we refer to two definitions: the conservative one and the liberal one. The conservative or negative one is the absence of illness; the positive or liberal one includes well-being, absence of tension and goes as far as nutrition, housing, education and so forth. There lies the danger. What interpretation shall we give?

[Mr. Dumont.]

We could go on to quote a statement from the representatives of the Hôtel-Dieu du Sacré-Cœur de Jésus of Dolbeau:

—We believe that the mother's health is a flexible criterion that might lend itself to a rather broad interpretation of the law especially when psychiatric reasons are taken into account—

Dr. Quigley replied and I quote:

—We maintain that your committee and the government have proposed an amendment to the act so as to include health grounds without being well-informed on this vital question and without having defined the word "health".

For that reason, we cannot accept the amendment because we would then have an abortion bill which the Canadian people do not want.

I was listening to the minister telling us that neither him nor the Prime Minister were gagging anybody. I must say that many Liberal members tell us in the lobbies: You must go on with the battle because we are prevented from speaking the truth.

And that truth is still being expressed on page 487. The public must be told, must be informed, and then the people will rise in protest and we shall know exactly where the truth lies. On page 487, it is stated and I quote:

I am not being entirely facetious when I state that somebody could say: "I am—

—"I am so upset; I am so nervous about this pregnancy that you have to abort me." Now her health at this particular moment is interfered with. She is a nervous, upset, anxious, possibly depressed woman. Is this going to be sufficient justification for terminating that pregnancy?—

The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) said and I quote:

—I gather that you are not happy about the inclusion of the words "and health", the health of the pregnant woman, as proposed in the Criminal Code.

Dr. Quigley replied and I quote:

I am very unhappy because I do not know what is meant;—

Now if such authorities ignore what it means, how can we believe that we can impose our views to medical authorities as competent as Drs. Jutras and Légaré who testified before the committee and put forward such sound arguments.

On page 540, Dr. Walters stated and I quote:

—How you are going to change this law is something that disturbs many of us.

I think the omnibus Bill, which has already been submitted, extends it into a field which is going to be very difficult to interpret, and I would