

Criminal Code

had changed her mind and from then on wanted to bring her child into the world.

Mr. Speaker, those are psychiatric reasons for which a woman wants to be aborted or not. How are those psychiatric reasons to be judged if there is no psychiatrist on the committee?

Dr. Soddy, another expert in the field of psychiatry, has this to say:

Soddy distinguishes two forms of non-wish, in the face of pregnancy: "the absence of a positive desire for the child for his own sake, as an individual with his own rights; a negative attitude towards the child or even his rejection". Depending on the category, the character of the mother-to-be, the social possibilities and numerous other factors, four alternatives can be considered:

He goes on to explain, for instance, why a woman may finally accept her child, even though she may in the first instance have rejected it and wanted to be aborted, because the psychiatrist convinced her to have the child.

I continue:

Even when the discovery of pregnancy has caused the future mother to be slightly dismayed, it can happen, particularly when she receives adequate help, that the child who was first regarded as undesirable becomes fully accepted. In Yugoslavia, where abortion is legal if approved by a committee created to study the requests, this intervention is refused to 10 to 20 per cent of the women who request it. In 1960-61, an inquiry revealed that out of 762 women who had not been granted an abortion, 52.5 per cent in 1960 and 42 per cent in 1961 carried their pregnancy to its term. Out of that number, 92 per cent accepted their child normally—

And women who had first asked for an abortion, were convinced with advice and help from the psychiatrist on the abortion committee, to carry their pregnancy to its term. However, how can the doctors on the abortion committee judge the psychiatric reasons a woman may invoke for having an abortion, if they are not psychiatrists themselves? Therein lies the illogical and non-sensical attitude of the minister regarding the scientists, medical authorities in Canada who have submitted briefs, who have given us everything we need to draw up legislation which will meet fully the needs of the public, of the pregnant women, and of those desiring abortion.

We believe, he goes on to say, that it is necessary to try everything to motivate women to want maternity and through effective help, to make maternity acceptable to them as soon as possible. Social workers play an increasingly successful role in the special centres established for that kind of work.

[Mr. Rondeau.]

But how can we convince the women who want an abortion for psychiatric reasons if there are no psychiatrists on the abortion committee? How can doctors who know nothing about psychiatry say: Madam, for such and such a reason, you should continue your pregnancy to term. That shows that our legislation is absolutely senseless and unsuitable for the Canadian people.

I would like to give another reason, a psychiatric one, put forward by a woman who wants an abortion. What can a doctor who is not a psychiatrist decide about that? Here is the case:

I am pregnant. I want an abortion but I can find nobody to do it; the only one who would be ready to do it charges \$600, but I do not have that money. I cannot wait any longer; I will do it myself. My mind is made up.

That is a woman who could surely be psychiatrically treated.

—I will use a knitting needle. It is dangerous, I know; I risk a lot, I know; but I cannot do otherwise. Why do doctors let a person destroy herself? You help those who want to commit suicide, but you incite people to kill themselves perhaps. Is that human?

Isabelle, 20 years old.

Here is another psychiatric case which shows another reason why someone wants an abortion.

I think that in any case, if a woman wants an abortion, she finds the means to get it. And in what conditions?

Having myself had that experience, I can assure you that the steps you have to take, the refusals you have to suffer, fear and everything, are causing as much traumatism as the abortion itself. If abortion was allowed, with some restrictions, of course, there might be fewer serious consequences, physical as well as mental.

A single woman, 27 years old, Montreal

That is a riding represented by a Liberal member in this house, and not a single Liberal member has spoken for or against this proposed legislation. And the article goes on to say:

● (8:30 p.m.)

I have known two "professional" abortionists. The first one: two girls died after abortions; he was acquitted for the first one but for the second one he got eight months in Bordeaux, plus \$11,000 costs.

The second one: a girl died and her nude body was found in the alley of Drolet Street about 10 years ago. He was indicted; he got away without a prison sentence, thanks to his money... He told me that about 50 per cent of the girls who think they are pregnant—