

have congratulated me on my stand that this has been the stand of the Upper Chamber on one of the most important pieces of legislation ever to come before Parliament.

Hon. Josie D. Quart: Honourable senators, as one who had decided not to say a word on this bill, it seems to me that having read again this press release which I said I would hate even to have to read—

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is it agreed that the honourable Senator Quart should speak again?

Some Hon. Senators: No.

Hon. Mrs. Quart: Then may I correct what I have already said? I think it is absolutely necessary to do so.

Hon. Mr. Hollett: Let us have a vote on it!

Hon. Mrs. Quart: I understood it was perhaps usual to allow an honourable senator to make a correction in this way.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I should like it to be well understood that we are now discussing an amendment to a motion for third reading of the bill. The honourable Senator Quart had the opportunity to speak once and, unless there is unanimous consent, she cannot speak twice on the amendment. I understand that the honourable Senator Quart would like to correct a statement that she made a few minutes ago. Is it agreed that she has leave to do so?

Hon. Mr. Langlois: On a question of privilege.

Hon. Mrs. Quart: On a question of privilege.

The Hon. the Speaker: The honourable Senator Quart speaks now on a question of privilege.

Hon. Mr. White: On a point of order, I would suggest that Your Honour also point out to the honourable senator that while she is not allowed to speak a second time on the amendment, once the amendment is disposed of the honourable senator would be perfectly free to make a speech on third reading.

Hon. Mrs. Quart: If I may be permitted, I should like to read these few paragraphs from the NC News Service (Foreign) by the reporter John A. Greaves, in which he writes:

Norman St. John-Stevas, the member of Parliament who led the well organized but eventually unsuccessful campaign

against the 1967 Abortions Act, said he intends to introduce a private (non-party) bill in Parliament to make it compulsory for one of the two doctors required to approve an abortion to be a consultant specialist.

This follows a new case of abortion at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland, widely publicized in the press. The aborted baby of a 20-year-old student about 26 weeks pregnant was found to be still alive eight hours after being sent in a bag from the operating theatre to the hospital incinerator. It was put in an incubator and everything was done then to keep it alive, but it died.

At the subsequent inquiry on the incident the jury unanimously recommended a ban on all abortions if the foetus is approaching or at a "viable" age. The jury also recommended that when an infant near or at a viable age—between 28 and 34 weeks, according to evidence at the inquiry—is delivered by abortion, all possible resuscitation facilities should be used.

They had found that the baby in this case had died due to absence of resuscitation immediately after birth, subsequent exposure to cold and the baby's natural prematurity. They did not blame anyone, but details of the case have been sent to the Crown Office (public prosecutor) to investigate possible charges.

The Times, London daily newspaper, said that if the jury's recommendations were implemented, they would drastically change the 1967 Abortions Act.

This obviously suggests that among the more than 30,000 legalized abortions carried out in this country since the Abortions Act was adopted, there must have been many perfectly formed living—or medically "viable"—babies who were dumped in bags and sent off to hospital incinerators.

How do we know, honourable senators, that that could not happen in Canada?

Earlier St. John-Stevas had asked the British government in the House of Commons to amend the Abortions Act to prevent a minority of doctors from "operating a legalized racket" in abortions in private practice outside the national health service. He asked the government "to prevent these harpies from making fortunes by battening on human weakness."