

Criminal Code

An hon. Member: Why avoid it?

Mr. Rynard: The proposals here will destroy life in utero, completely ignoring the fact that a human being has been started in the uterus with a long life ahead in most cases. Why not destroy older people? The live foetus in the uterus may have a long and successful life ahead. This is what disturbs me. We in the medical profession are doing everything we can to see that every woman is able to carry her baby through to full term. Millions of dollars are being spent on research to prevent deformities and illnesses which may cause trouble for the baby after it has been born. Again, it seems to me that in a country such as ours, with a population of 21 million people living in an affluent society, we should be working to preserve every Canadian baby in utero.

It was not very long ago that a Liberal minister of immigration who later became minister of transport and who, while in that office, created a job he was able to step into after resigning, placed a high value on Canadian babies. If the minister would like the reference in *Hansard* I think I could supply it to him. It is disturbing to note that in Sweden, for instance, in 1939—and at that time they were already on the road we may be embarking on now—there were 439 legal abortions. In 1965 the number was 6,245. I was told not long ago by a doctor from Stockholm that businesswomen were now becoming pregnant and raising children as a result of the creative imbalance between males and females. This is a story we do not want to see repeated in Canada. Canada was not founded on those principles. Doctors work to protect human life from the embryo to the end of the road. This proposition upsets their efforts.

I ask the minister again what he proposes to do in cases of abortion when the woman concerned has alleged rape. He tells us that five days is not enough time in which to set up an abortion committee. How is the law to deal with such a situation?

Mr. Speaker: I have to remind hon. members that the rules do not allow the minister to speak a second or a third time.

Mr. Rynard: I wonder whether I could ask the question so as to clarify the position.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member might have asked the question while the minister had the floor. However, with the consent of the house he may be allowed to put his question to the minister and have it answered, but certainly we shall get ourselves into difficulty if we

disregard the rules. As I pointed out at the beginning, we are not in committee and we should as far as possible keep this in mind. As I say, there may be a disposition on the part of the house to allow the hon. member for Simcoe North to ask a question of the minister and to allow the minister to reply to it if he wishes.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Because of my respect for the hon. member for Simcoe North, who is a medical doctor, may I say that my opposition to this particular amendment which would restrict the performance of a therapeutic abortion in the sense that it would have to be performed before the period of implantation, which, as I understand it, is about five days after conception, derives from the fact that it would render the clause inoperable. In most cases a woman does not know she is pregnant so early, and even if she did it would be impossible for the therapeutic abortion committee to meet and judge the case. This is a very technical amendment and I am replying to it on these specific grounds. When we are discussing clause 18 as a whole perhaps I shall be able to deal with the general question the hon. member has raised, and I may do so at that time.

Mr. Rynard: I ask the minister whether he would not make some statement on a later occasion covering the case I mentioned a few moments ago, that the woman concerned must lay a charge alleging she was raped, before the expiration of the five days, or file a legal complaint.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): If I may continue the liberty which was extended to me before Mr. Speaker's alter ego took the chair, let me say that when we are dealing with amendment 19 covering the whole aspect of clause 18 I shall certainly include that question in my statement.

• (3:30 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the statement of the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Williams) who moved the amendment No. 24 on behalf of the hon. member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade).

I was very much amazed by that statement, and what strikes me most is to see how the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner), who is alone to defend his bill, is losing no time in refusing all the measures proposed by the opposition.