

Criminal Code

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, in this case I shall keep on quoting accurately the representations I get regarding abortion. I will go further than that. Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for the Chair, but if I am pushed too far, I shall get myself named and expelled from the house, in the name of human dignity. It seems to me the rules should be the same for everyone and applied in the same way.

I am quoting evidences concerning abortion. We moved a clear and precise amendment, in order to remove abortion issues from the bill. I am quoting excerpts which are not of a political nature but which express a feeling of human dignity.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I understand very well the hon. member, but the rules of the house apply to all, including the hon. member for Témiscamingue. A specific amendment has been moved by his colleague, the hon. member for Shefford, which reads as follows:

That Bill C-150, An Act 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, be amended by deleting therefrom clause 18.

I see that the hon. member understands very clearly what it is all about and I should like to remind him to keep to the amendment under consideration.

● (8:50 p.m.)

[*English*]

Mr. Woolliams: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, and with the greatest respect, this amendment to clause 18 gives any member, the opportunity to discuss any phase of the matter before us, which is abortion. There is nothing in the rules of which I am aware which prohibits an hon. member from reading a letter from someone saying the government is making the right choice or the wrong choice, taking the right course or the wrong course. I think the hon. member is in order.

This is an open debate. It is being held under the new rules. We are debating an amendment to delete clause 18, dealing with abortion, and with the greatest respect to your ruling, sir, I feel that the hon. member is on solid ground and can make his speech accordingly.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. Perhaps it is the opinion of the hon. member

[*The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard).*]

that he is on solid ground, but I would remind him that there is somebody who is responsible for the application of the rules of this house. There is a specific amendment before the house and I ask the hon. member to direct his remarks to the specific amendment, not to third reading of the bill.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I am not at all at the third reading stage of this bill, I am dealing with the amendment and I quote:

—be amended by deleting clause 18 from the bill.

I am giving the reasons why I approve this amendment that clause 18 be entirely deleted, as far as abortion is concerned. I am using evidence coming to me to explain the reasons why I approve this amendment and also to establish the unreasonable attitude of those who are against it, those who want to maintain in the bill clause 18 which we want to see eliminated, deleted. That is why I am stating here the congratulations we have received for our stand on abortion—not with regard to customs tariffs or even to homosexuality or to bingos—but abortion.

I am unaware of any standing order that forbids me to quote evidence in support of my assertions about abortion, which we would like to see deleted from the bill.

Here we are encouraged and commended for the energy with which we defend the rights of the human being and the unerring teachings of the Vatican II council in this matter of abortion.

Yours truly,
The Capuchin Fathers of the Sacred Heart
Sanctuary
Pointe-aux-Trembles, Montreal

Mr. Speaker, we have a great deal of evidence. I could go on quoting for 20 minutes tonight, all the time at my disposal. I would have enough to last two or three hours on third reading, because we intend to deal with the bill as a whole at that time. But tonight we are discussing the amendment of the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) to delete from the bill the clause on abortion.

Besides representations from parish priests and mayors, I have the letters of two priests who congratulate us for our stand on the matter of abortion and our efforts to remove it from Canadian statutes.

We take examples in England where the system was established a year ago. Today they are sorry they have done so. In Canada, the Minister of Justice himself deep down is against the measure on abortion. I am convinced of that.