

*Abortion*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain):** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain):** It is my understanding of the agreement of the House that we are to go through second reading, Committee of the Whole and all of the stages of the bill forthwith and extend private members' hour for the appropriate time so that there will be no deprivation of time for private members' hour. Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

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**FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION**

## ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN LANDS

**Hon. Walter Baker (for the Minister of Public Works)** moved that Bill S-10, to confirm the authority of the Federal District Commission to have acquired certain lands, be read the second time and referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. McCain in the chair.

On clause 1—*Acquisition confirmed*

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Chairman, I should like a minute to indicate what we are doing. It might look somewhat strange on the record to put a bill through without any reference to it at all. We have been thoroughly briefed as to what it is all about. It has to do with a piece of land that the government sold and the purchaser sold it to somebody else, but there was a technicality that was overlooked. We are correcting that technicality so that the sales are legal down the way. We see no reason to take time on this bill. We are prepared to put it through all stages right now.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. member. I just want to make it clear that it was in the days of the old Federal District Commission in 1954 that this occurred.

Clause agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS**

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain):** It being four o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, public bills, notices of motions, and private bills.

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all bills preceding Bill C-206 be stood by unanimous

[Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton).]

consent in order that we might proceed with Bill C-206 in the name of the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert).

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain):** Is it the pleasure of the House that all other bills stand by unanimous consent so that we might proceed with Bill C-206?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

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**CRIMINAL CODE**

## AMENDMENT REGARDING ABORTION

**Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil)** moved that Bill C-206, to amend the Criminal Code (abortion), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

He said: This afternoon I will not be following the usual procedure in that it is not my intention to debate the merits of the bill. I will explain why.

In my province of Quebec we have a situation which is undesirable, and I doubt that any member here this afternoon will dispute that statement. In parts of my province a woman can obtain an abortion by little more action than the making of an appointment. In other parts of Quebec, the other extreme exists, and a woman can find herself in the obviously undesirable position of not having access to a therapeutic abortion committee. In such situations it is almost always the less fortunate who are penalized the most.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill with the express intention of giving all parties of all points of view the opportunity to present their opinions to the legislators of this country. Only in committee study, without the time pressure that exists this afternoon, can there be free discussion of the legislation as it exists, its application, and the desirability or not of making changes.

Bill C-206 is my personal opinion of the way that the Criminal Code could be amended in order to fulfil the intent, as I see it, of the then minister of justice when the present provisions were introduced in 1969. This objective is explained in the explanatory note printed in the bill.

Approval of second reading is now, by our present rules, approval in principle, however, even now there is the opportunity to express disapproval by calling "on division".

May I reiterate my point that my objective is not to use this bill as the tool to change legislation but as the means to afford all members of Parliament, and particularly the public, the opportunity to present their points of view in committee. Many persons from all parts of the country have written to me or called me. A very large number of members of Parliament have spoken or written to me. They cannot all speak in less than one hour this afternoon.

May I also remind the members who are here that, should this bill come back into this House on third reading, it would then be allotted only one hour of time before disappearing to