

of other proposed amendments, but since the bill has been introduced as a whole, I have to vote against it on account of some reservations I have with regard to those amendments.

[English]

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, although I intended to speak on the third reading stage of the bill, I shall keep my remarks brief since there is general agreement for the vote to be taken. I deplore the introduction of the various amendments to the Code in the form of an omnibus bill. I find it difficult to see how one can relate amendments such as those to do with the liberalization of abortion with penal reform. How can one relate laws covering the use of firearms with laws to do with homosexuality? The government has seen fit to present these measures in an omnibus bill. I am in this position: Although there are many aspects of the bill I should like to support, I cannot support the bill as a whole because it has three major aspects that I cannot support. As a result, I must vote against all provisions of the bill.

Much of the time consumed during the debate could have been saved if the various issues the bill deals with had been grouped into separate measures. In this way each of the matters raised in the bill could have been voted on separately in a free vote. We have a responsibility as legislators, to uphold morality and those attributes which make our communities and our Canadian way of life strong. In this day and age this responsibility indeed is awesome. We, as legislators, have the responsibility to promote justice, liberty, good will, prosperity, and the highest standards of personal and public behaviour. In this country we send men to parliament with the hope they will produce first class legislation and not be mere followers of some questionable consensus of a vocal minority or majority.

If this is true, Mr. Speaker, and I believe it is, then the spirit of good legislation will be sensed not only in the marketplaces and production lines of Canada, but in the privacy of our families and homes as well. Any government worthy of the name will want to help to forward a national crusade for purity and integrity. In the amendments that seek to legalize homosexuality, lotteries, and liberalization of abortion, it cannot be said that this Parliament will be introducing laws that will encourage morality. Nevertheless, I believe that any government offering less than that

type of legislation which strengthens the moral fibre of this nation will be weighed in the balance and found wanting. While I believe that it is impossible to legislate personal morals, yet I am convinced that the nation's bedrooms should cradle righteousness, with the backing of the state. It is, therefore, with regret that I must vote against the entire bill, while agreeing with many of its desirable aspects. Nevertheless, because I disagree overwhelmingly with those aspects of it that will work against the attainment of desirable moral standards and desirable objectives in family and human life, I am placed in the position of having to vote against it. That is the quandary in which many of us find ourselves. I will say no more, Mr. Speaker, because I believe there is general agreement for the vote to be held at this time.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

[Translation]

**Mr. J. A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières):** Mr. Speaker, I will not delay the vote by making a speech. A while ago, the member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade) challenged me, when he invited me to go and discuss the bill among the general public and I think it is my duty to accept the challenge. I accept it and I shall go and defend the bill anywhere in Canada.

I explained the bill to my constituents and they understood it, Mr. Speaker. There were no problems.

Therefore I accept the challenge of the hon. member for Sainte-Marie.

[English]

• (3:30 p.m.)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Is the house ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** All those in favour will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** In my opinion the nays have it.

*And more than five members having risen:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Call in the members.