

Criminal Code

convinced, with all due deference to the press, that the majority of Canadians share our feelings, because we receive letters of congratulations every day. It is impossible to read them all in the house. We would like the bill to be set aside for six months, in order to give hon. members time to think before voting.

• (9:50 p.m.)

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) moved an amendment this afternoon which would delay the coming into force or the enactment of this legislation or omnibus bill, Bill No. C-150. In other words, its passage would be delayed for six months from the date the house will have passed the amendment moved by the hon. member for Champlain.

If we move an amendment, I for one am in favour of it without any reservation, and I feel it is my duty to do so. The amendment moved by the hon. member for Champlain, which would delay the coming into force of this legislation, is based on serious reasons on our part for such a delay.

Mr. Speaker, we do not believe that the Canadian people have been consulted in any way, directly or indirectly, in this regard. Many hon. members on the government side, especially the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané) and a few others, have tried to have the house believe that the population had been consulted during the last election campaign, and that the result of that campaign had proven beyond any doubt that by supporting the party in power, the electors supported the omnibus bill.

Mr. Speaker, those members who hurl such wanton statements on the floor of the house, do not reflect public opinion.

To elect a government is one thing, but to pass a law legalizing abortion and allowing abortion on demand, is something entirely different. And it is rather irresponsible to assert that both things are necessarily linked and that the people who voted for the Liberal party also voted for the omnibus bill. I do not think it is honest to throw about such untrue statements.

According to some government members, such as the hon. members for Matane, Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) and many others, the house is wasting its time. They said it as eloquently as they could, that is they flung abuses at others. They wanted to make us say and they wanted to say to the Canadian people that the house was wasting its time.

[Mr. Rondeau.]

If this were true, Mr. Speaker, and at the beginning of these remarks I really intended to call attention to these unfounded statements, this parliament would not mean anything and we would all be wasting our time here since who would vote legislation? We would only need to make a decision, elect four or five men, appoint them if need be, let them decide, and close parliament down. A lot of money could then be saved to the Canadian people.

Now the house of commons is exactly the place where we must legislate, study legislations section by section, line by line, scrutinize them earnestly and in depth in order to detect their various implications. Parliament is the best place to analyze bills and state our views.

In that respect, I believe that the Ralliement créditiste up to now has not unduly taken up the time of the house, but on the contrary, it has saved time for the Canadian population, while trying to ward off the misfortunes that this omnibus bill might bring about. And it is precisely in order to save more time that we want to postpone for six months the enactment of that legislation.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being ten o'clock, it is my duty to put the questions to be debated at this time.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

AIR CANADA—STRIKE OF MECHANICS— AVAILABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRAVEL

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I asked the acting Minister of Transport, the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Richardson), if he would cause to have re-examined the government policy which now prevents our second national air line from being truly national. In other words, I was asking for a change in policy so that Canadian Pacific Air Lines would be allowed to operate in Canada east of Montreal. Then a few days later, after the present Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) was ensconced in that position, I asked the