

Criminal Code

It was then Bill C-195, which has now become Bill C-150.

—We wish to bring to the attention of our elected representatives our position on the matter of abortion.

In keeping with the human rights, based on natural law, we reaffirm the basic principle of the right to live for every individual and of the respect for life.

I. Whereas abortion constitutes an irrevocable act of aggression against an embryo or a foetus,

II. Whereas the embryo or foetus are regarded by almost every scientist as human beings, existing at a given stage of their development,

III. Whereas our present legislators have rightly brought the respect of life to the point of abolishing the death penalty except in some definite cases,

IV. Whereas public morals and the commonweal are seriously jeopardized through the acceptance of a bill in favour of abortion "when continuation of pregnancy endangers or could endanger the life or the health of the mother",

V. Whereas the experience of several countries indicates that the terms of this legislation could very easily be wrongly interpreted by ignoring the sacred principle of the right to live.

For all these reasons, we object to any further extension of the abortion bill.

Moreover, we feel it is our most strict and urgent duty, as well as for our representatives, to urge those who govern our country to pass most urgently, not negative measures nor short cut solutions such as abortion, but rather positive and preventive measures, the only true, efficient in-depth solutions to problems which, unresolved, leave abortion practices as the only means of escape.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what my leader, the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) was recommending earlier in the evening.

I continue my quotation:

In consequence, we recommend the establishment of social and sexual education organisations, including all consultation, guidance, support, and protection services, and at all social levels and in full respect of strictly constitutional jurisdictions, namely: training courses for youth in school and recreation, subsidized premarital courses, consultation centres for couples in trouble, family courts, protection and rehabilitation courses for unwed mothers and abandoned youth, etc.

Mr. Speaker, that is a petition I received; it is signed by over 150 of my constituents, and if anybody wants to check the list, I have it here.

Besides, more than 500 people have written to me personally to let me know they are against this bill. Others, through the Foyers Notre-Dame, a highly respected organization sent me advice in the name of their group which represent the Foyers Notre-Dame from the dioceses of Amos and Timmins. I would like to quote their remarks.

The present legislation only considers a child as a human being when it has completely proceeded from its mother's body.

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On the basis of this restricted definition of a human being, the legislation considers as two different crimes the fact of killing a child when it is out of its mother's womb and the fact of killing an unborn child.

Why the difference?

We submit the legal definition of a human being should be revised in order to consider as human being every fecundated ovule from the moment of the conception.

In effect, from the moment male and female cells unite, the new being thus produced possesses in itself the principle of organization which will allow the initial cell to grow, to multiply and to give birth to all internal functions which will become its organs and later will make a complete human being of it. Life begins as soon as the being makes a whole, bearing in itself the principle of its internal organization and development, which happens at the moment of the conception.

Therefore, bringing about the death of an intra-uterine child should be considered in the legislation as murder and punished as such.

No doubt there will be no question in the course of further debates of allowing all types of abortion. One will only ask whether therapeutic abortion should not be allowed for certain medical, social, psychological, eugenical or other reasons.

The present law allows steps to save the mother's life, even if this accidentally causes the death of the child that she is bearing (9).

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must draw the attention of the hon. member for Abitibi to the fact that it is ten o'clock.

[*English*]

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might make a suggestion. Since we have had quite a discussion at this stage and I think we over here are in accord, I was wondering whether it might be possible within a few minutes to finish the debate tonight and to have the vote so as to determine whether or not this bill should go to a committee?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, we strongly object to the proposal that the hon. member has just put forward as we think that some very important legislation must be passed. Moreover, some members of our party still want to speak on the omnibus bill.

• (10:00 p.m.)

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The time being ten o'clock, the motion to adjourn the house is deemed to have been put and seconded under the provisions of Standing Order 40. The question therefore is that this house do now adjourn.